

DAVID A. FOOTER *Fall – Winter Newsletter*
2012 Wilderness & Wildlife Artist – Artistic Fish Mounting



*Hello and Thank you from Dave and Annette,
 To everyone for the beautiful gift and Evening down to
 L.L. Bean's in Freeport, Maine this past September!*

On September Twenty-first, 2012, David Footer had a special surprise at L.L. Bean's in Freeport. His wife, Annette, was with him. His daughter Julie and his sons, John Footer and Jim Footer were there, as well.



Left: Ed Gauvin Assistant Store Manager L.L. Bean Hunt Fish Store, Don Bastian, center; watching and listening to David explain the principles behind his design of the Footer Special and give a recap of his first experience fishing it.



Very Special Surprise!

Don Bastian, a well known fly-tyer from Pennsylvania had spent time

contacting fly tyers from many states and from several other countries requesting that they return to Don a Footer Special that they had tied. All the Flies were nicely framed and included the



Charlie Mann seated on the right is in on the surprise and is looking a bit like the cat who ate the canary. John, Dave's oldest son is standing on the left of Dave.

names and addresses of all those who had taken part in Bastian's project. This was done in order to honor Dave because 2012 was the fiftieth Anniversary of the year when Dave had first designed the Footer Special Fly.



DAVE GIVING IT THE THUMBS UP. WOW!

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Dave had a great time that night talking with some old friends who attended. It was a good celebration, indeed!



Charlie Mann showing us *The Maine State Trooper* & *The Maine Game Warden Flies*: two of his creations. His work as always simply beautiful!



Annette wore a skirt that featured a colorful Footer Special Fly that was painted on the skirt by Joan Frost.

David and Annette enjoyed a Spring trip to Southern France. They stayed in Lambesc with Annette's daughter, Danielle. They visited places where Van Gogh had painted in Arles, including the Caf'e Van Gogh which looks much like it did in his original painting.



Dave painted this Chateau in Acrylics while traveling in France.

David completed a painting of Annette's family at a Kennebunkport beach where they celebrated her birthday in 2011. He gave it to her on her birthday in 2012.



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Each year we look forward to making at least a couple of trips up to the Rangeley, Oquossoc area, first in June to the Rangeley Lakes Region Historical Society Potluck (this is such a fun evening, I would love to get a bus load of folks to bring them up to that. I think what RLRHS is doing to get people involved at every age level is so inspiring. Really, hope to see you all there next year!

Dave and Annette went up to The Moose Lottery Festival Weekend and stayed with Don and Stephanie Palmer for a delightful and relaxing trip. They visited with old friends and made new ones at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Museum; attended a bean supper at the Guides Association on Saturday night and had a heck of a good time.

They were barely back in town before receiving another invite to the Rangeley area by former fish customers, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Betz. You may have read about Barbara and her trout on our page about: Restorations of Herb Welch Mounts. Photo: The Betzs, Annette and Dave, Jane Footer-Cole http://davidfooter.com/?page_id=239

They wanted David, Annette and family to join them for lunch up to Bald Mountain Camps in mid July to mark the installation of Barbara's trout to the BMC dining room wall where Stephen Philbrick, the owner of Bald Mountain Camps will give it a cozy spot to reside hence forth for all to enjoy, as Joe puts it "to bring David's work full

circle." Since it was at Bald Mountain Camps in 1946, when Dave first saw a Herb Welch mount; and he hoped his work would look as good as that someday.

It was such a pleasure to visit with all of them again, and the Betzs had another surprise in store for David. They presented him with Joe's freshly caught Brook Trout to mount if he would. That morning when the Betzs were out with their guide, Joe had landed a very nice fish. How about that! David though he is only taking in a few fresh skin mounts to do, did agree to Mr. Betz request and so the story continues on.

Photo courtesy of Elaine Holcombe

In August, Elaine Holcombe made arrangements for Julie to present David's Painted plaque to Sally Church, the grandmother of Lucia Gonzalez from Madrid, Spain, at the Rangeley Region Guides Association Club house in Oquossoc to last year's winner at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day; since little Lucia wasn't able to make the trip this year.

It was such a pleasure to meet and speak with Sally. She shared a special fishing story of her own and has given us permission to pass it along to you. Sally



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started fly fishing at an early age and by the time she was fourteen she had developed quite a skill. That year the Chamber of Commerce in the Rangeley area held a Fishing Contest to promote the area, and the winning fish was to be presented to Margaret Chase Smith. Well, young Sally caught the winning fish; a nice seven pound Landlocked salmon on a fly rod out of Gull Pond, in Rangeley. Her recollections are that she caught the fish using a Gray Ghost that was most probably tied by Carrie Stevens, herself. Sally received a nice thank you note from Senator Smith along with information about how it was prepared for dinner guests that the Senator was having over. I contacted the Margaret Chase Smith Library to request permission to add their link to the newsletter so those of you history buffs that may be interested could easily go check it out and they said yes. So here it is; <http://www.mainememory.net/artifact/9575/>

How exciting for fourteen year old Sally Howe, now Sally Church. A Real fishing Heritage and she's passing it on. Way to Go Sally!



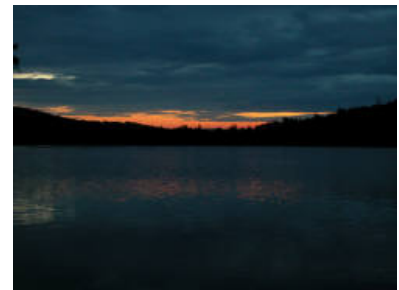
Here's another nice photo from Elaine's camera from the event on August 14th: "Here the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife people help children with the stock out. We put in I believe 100 trout that day." E. Holcombe.

A Very special Thanks to the Rangeley Region Guides and Sportsmen's Association and to All who contribute in some way to help keep the tradition of our Outdoor Sporting Heritage alive and well - to put it simply; a wonderful time at the Outdoor Sporting Heritage Day - food, activities and seeing old friends and opportunities to meet and make new ones.

My special thank you to Don and Stephanie Palmer, they have been so kind and generous to us- they welcomed me to stay over and I caught a beautiful sunset at Camp Ideal and by doing so I was also allowed the opportunity to attend the nine a.m. mass at Our Lady of the Lakes on the Feast of The Assumption of Mary. Rev. Paul Plant celebrated



mass, a true gift to be present and remember mother there in the Catholic Church August 15, 2012; only one day since the second anniversary of (Polly's Footer's) funeral mass. Photo lower left: Dot Welch with Polly Footer on the right with one of David's Cluster mounts May 1960 at the Welch residence in Oquossoc. OSHM website: <http://www.rangeleyoutdoormuseum.org/fly-rod-crosby.asp> says that Fly Rod Crosby "was responsible for



raising \$5,000 dollars to build Our Lady of the Lakes Church located two blocks from the museum..." We then went to the Ginger Bread house for Breakfast, and opened the Outdoor Sporting Museum to welcome visitors; the place is more and more fascinating each time I go, with new exhibits of current and past artists – this year they had Ashley Gray's *Timeless Pursuit* on display; winner of the 2012 Master World Chamionship. The museum had a tour bus come through while I was there and that was exciting; also Harry Carey



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who restored the machine that winds the fishing line was there and we got to talk about fishing. Check out the museum website and photos <http://www.rangeleyoutdoormuseum.org/index.asp>. When the doors closed for the day, we headed down to Steep Bank Pool. The water was low and Harry gave me directions so I could drive down the road a piece, a distance of 20 or so miles and find the Magalloway River. My first time there and what a beautiful place, parked the car, walked down the trail through the woods just as Harry had told me and ahh! Oh, put the rod together and started making those casts. It felt so good! The smell of the fir trees, the sight of the green mossy rocks, the sound of the river rushing by, just a great way to top off another



fantastic day but wait it's not over yet, so back to town, stop in at the Rangeley Region Sports Shop pick up some new flies with Brett's guidance and over to have a bite to eat at one of the Restaurants lakeside, tasty! And perfect timing for the clouds moved in and gave a good drenching to the area which will help bring the fish in. Then I headed off to locate the Rangeley Lakes Region School where the RLR Historical Society was having an evening program with a panel of four speakers sharing their memories of Rangeley with a large audience and time was left after the presentation

for questions from the audience to be answered by the presenters; this was followed up with an Ice Cream Sundae buffet style for all. Sweet! Best of all of course was the opportunity to visit with many friends, and customers we've had the good fortune to meet over the years; whom I missed seeing in June at the Potluck because I was not well enough to attend. So when I saw George Adams, Author-Photographer and asked what's new? He hinted at an upcoming surprise that was in the works. We exchanged e-mails so as soon as "whatever it was, had happened he could let me know" and sure enough shortly there after I received word from George that his third book "The Rangeley Lakes, Twenty Photo essays on Love of Land" was ready and waiting. My parents introduced me to George and Shirley Adams, years ago at my first RLRHS Potluck supper. George has been encouraging me ever since to write more and take more photos and share those special moments with others and he's kind enough to include a few hints here and there on how to make that happen. In each of the books he's published I find a wonderful connect with the spirit of my youth like those moments when the first snowflakes of winter brought delight and excitement and we children would beg mother to let us go into the attic to fetch the box of mittens, wool hats and scarves, thick pants and stockings as before our very eyes, a winter wonderland was in the making. It was a joyful time and that's what I experience as I venture from cover to cover in George's books.

As time to leave the Rangeley-Oquossoc area was fast approaching, I took a drive over to Bald Mountain Camps; it was early morning- before seven a.m. Steve Philbrick was there at the Lobby desk prepping for the day when I walked up onto the porch. He invited me in and we had a chance to talk for a bit about the Herb Welch mount we are restoring for him...then as his quests began to come in for breakfast and needed his attention, I asked if I might sit in the lobby and gather my recollections of the past few days. Of course he said O.k., so I sat in one of his comfortable chairs looking out over Mooselookmeguntic Lake in silent Praise and Thanksgiving to God, Creator of all things, for He has blessed us abundantly! **Best Regards to All, Julie**

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