

2010 Long-Line Release



LIBBY CAMP

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Matt & Ellen Libby Matt J. & Jessica Libby

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ENDORSED FLY-FISHING
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Castings from Maine '10

ORVIS®
2006-2007
**FISHING LODGE
OF THE YEAR**

We made it! Libby Camps is now 120 years old and still in the same family! We have been blessed now for 5 generations to have great customers, experienced guides and most importantly unspoiled hunting and fishing. Many come just to watch the wildlife, hear the loons and take in the scenic vistas that we all take for granted. We are proud of our sporting heritage and will continue to preach the wonders and joys of hunting and fishing. Unlike many we are not big fans of change, we like the North Maine Woods just the way it is.

Our newsletter has changed this year to green up our business and allow us to ship 1st class. Trip rates have stayed the same for 2010 and are on the Libby web site. We will also be adding specials to our Specials Page on our website. Guides returning include full timers Rick, Chuck, Steve and Matt J as well as part timers: Jeff, Mike, Toby, Terry, Bob, Don, George and Jay, saving us from training new ones. These men bring over 275 years of guiding experience!

Extensive upgrades to the seaplanes in 2009 made life a lot easier. Matt J's new air taxi and souped up C-172 really took the pressure off Matt P to do all of the daily flights. The C-185 also got a new engine and runs like a clock. Now with the other seaplane services to the south we can handle larger groups out of Presque Isle or Bangor and also be a lot less expensive for singles.

2009 showed Libbys earning some Kudos from Yankee Magazine as "Best Nature Vacation". We are also in the new book "Greatest Fishing Lodges of North America" by Paul Ferson (Random House). National Geographic Adventure magazine featured us in an article as a favored destination as well. The Boston Globe gave us a great article "Standing the test of time", about our 5 generation success. We also have new videos on our home page of the Libby website.

Read all about the fishing, wingshooting, big game hunting, relaxing and the new outpost camp within this newsletter. Hoping to see you all this year and meet the newest Libby, Kayla's brother, Parker James, generation 6.

Matt Sr.

Thanks for the Support

This year we sold raffle tickets to raise money for the Maine Professional Guides Association, and we want to thank everyone who supported the cause and bought tickets. Libby Camps alone raised \$4500 in ticket sales, and total money raised by all was over \$38,000. The prizes that were being offered were trips to different lodges or guides services for hunting, fishing, and vacationing in Maine. By supporting the MPGA, it helps to ensure that fishing and hunting as a way of life that we know continues for generations to come.



Two of the eight winners come from tickets sold by Libby Camps. Tom Hazen from New Jersey won the bonus trip to Idaho for an elk hunt, and Frances Alexander from Texas won the upland game hunt. Thank you everyone for the help in keeping Maine the way it should be.

Jess

2009 Pups

This summer we had another litter of Brittany pups to share with the dog loving world. Bandit (our tri colored little female) had a litter of 7 pups on August 2nd. Bullet, our best hunting dog ever, was the stud dog in this litter. The litter had both orange and white and liver and white males and females. They all went to loving homes, some to long time guests. One of the liver and white males stayed with us at camp. He will be hunting like his parents this fall in grouse and woodcock land. As many of you know we love our hunting Brittanys. They work hard the month of October, and continue to be members of our family the other eleven months of the year. All eight Brittanys at camp will welcome you the minute you drive in the yard. Many people come back year after year just to play with the dogs. Come visit us soon so you can fall in love with our Brittanys and our little piece of heaven.



From the Breadboard



Kayla & Nana hard at work

Good-bye 2009 and hello 2010, everyone! You'll probably expect me to go on and on about my grandchildren, so okay, here goes. We've been blessed with two healthy new grandbabies this winter, which has kept us busy, criss-crossing the state to help out when we can. Cuddling newborns or reading to a 2-year-old, you just can't beat that! We couldn't be happier, or more thankful.

I spent lots of quality time with our oldest granddaughter Kayla during our 2009 season. One of my favorite memories is of Kayla running through the lines of freshly-laundered sheets, laughing and giggling, as we played peek-a-boo. She has a precious smile and an infectious laugh, which can change your attitude in an instant. She is a wonderful big sister to Parker; she loves dressing up her dolls

in her old baby clothes, feeding them and taking them for stroller rides.

We are excited to know that the Libby Camps tradition will continue on to the next generation. Matt and Jess are now officially partners with us. I think you'll find it's been a smooth transition, as it's been an ongoing process for a few years. Having them to operate camp let Matt and I go on the trip of a lifetime to Alaska. We enjoyed every minute of it, but the best part of our trip was on our arrival back at camp when Kayla came running across the yard arms outstretched, with a tremendous grin on her face, yelling 'Papa', 'Nana'.

In late July Libby's proudly hosted the Casting For Recovery (CFR) women's fly-fishing retreat for breast cancer survivors. In 2002 we hosted the week-end and were impressed with the complete program offered. Studies have found that the actions in fly-fishing are good physical therapy; nurses and psychologists are also along for counseling. There is no cost to the attendees, check it out at www.castingforrecovery.org.

We sadly said good-bye for now to several longtime customer/friends - Ray Kimball, Regina Davis, Bill Steele, Tom Baynes, Ed Lanciani and Jim Gaucher. You might not have known Jim, but you've seen his creative moose antler carvings and other artwork in the dining room at camp. In spite of being confined to a wheelchair and in chronic pain due to spina bifida, that man kept a positive outlook and used his God-given talents right up until he died. We could all learn a lesson from him.

2010 - it's going to be a great year! Looking forward to seeing you again, or to meeting you for the first time. We treasure the friendships we make, and we hope you feel like you're visiting friends/family when you take a vacation with us!

God bless you all! Nana Ellen



Bear Biologist & Bear Denning, checking the dens in January

Bear Hunt 101

I thought I would change around my newsletter article this year and tell you a little bit about how our baited bear hunt works. It all starts with the hunting area. The North Maine Woods company acts as an agent for the landowners in Northern Maine and designates certain areas for commercial use permit holders. Our area is located in WMD 5 and consists of about 125,000 acres. The North Maine Woods regulates this so that we are the only ones allowed to bait bears in this area.

We then choose our individual bait sites. We will normally run 55 bait sites for the year for about 25 hunters, so it is not necessary to hunt the same site twice. Sites are chosen by looking for bear sign and cover. Bears tend to stick to thick cover and stay out of open areas. This makes it a bit difficult to find an area that is thick enough for the bear to be comfortable and open enough for the hunter to have a good shot. Once we find a shooting lane with thick cover around it we look for sign, such as a torn up log from bears looking for bugs, tracks, or scat. A bear will tend to make about a mile loop searching for food, so chances are if they were there once, they will be back and find the bait.

Most of the site prep work is done either a year prior to hunting the site or in June or July of the year we plan to hunt the site, so as not to disturb too much right before the hunt. Once the sites are ready, we can start baiting a month before the season. We bait 2-3 times per week until the week before the hunt, when we start baiting every other day.

Most people think that since the bears are coming into the bait every night that it should be a guaranteed hunt. This is definitely not the case. These bears are extremely wily and cautious when coming into an unnatural food source. While about 95% of our hunters have bear sightings, success rate stays between 50 and 65%. The unsuccessful hunters either pass up a shot on a small bear, the bear doesn't give them a clean shot, or the bear comes in past dark. The big bears especially can tend to be nocturnal. This can get frustrating when the bait gets hit every night after you get off the stand. A little patience goes a long way, and you can only hope he makes a mistake one night.

I hope this gives a little insight to what this hunt is all about, and maybe some of you may want to give it a try. In 2009 only one hunter did not see a bear. Single rate \$2500 and \$1850 each for doubles. *Matt J.*



The Jon Hall Family Reunion

More than Fishing

Many of you may think that Libby Camps is only a place to go fishing or hunting, but you are wrong. It's also a great place to vacation and relax. Lots of people come to sit on the porch, read a book, eat the great food, and watch the beautiful sunsets. Many families come to enjoy the hiking, swimming, canoeing, kayaking, and wildlife. Last summer we had a great family join us, the Hall family. There were 20 of them total, ranging in age from 18 months to 72 years, consisting of 10 adults and 10 kids. It was a great family reunion for them, and we enjoyed having them at camp and laughing with them, making memories for a lifetime. They did everything from fishing and swimming, to going on seaplane rides, and playing games. We think it's great to get children to start liking the outdoors at a young age, and to have them continue the tradition as they grow.

Another event that may not come to your mind is a wedding. This spring we will be holding a wedding at camp for about 25 people. Some of you may remember Jolene who worked for us two years ago. Jolene and Andy (who has guided for us) are tying the knot at camp with Matt Sr. as the officiator. It will be a special time, and we expect lots of fun for all of us. They plan on going on a canoe trip down Millinocket Stream the morning of the wedding. Over the years there have been a half dozen weddings here.



The Libby Family

So whether you want to fish, hunt, relax, have a reunion, learn to do something new, have a special event, or business meeting, we can accommodate you in many ways. Special rates and group quotes are available upon request and also on our specials page on the web site. Tell us what you want to do, and we'll work with you to make it a special time at camp.

Jess Libby



The Outposts

#1 Camps

Libby Outpost camps have been an integral part of our business since we began in 1890. In the beginning we required these camps for overnight stays along the trail or river on the way to the home camps on Millinocket Lake or a fishing destination often days away. The seaplane and logging roads changed the need for these camps, but the demand for their use has actually increased. Now do- it- yourself parties can take advantage of these remote cabins for days and weeks at a time and the lodge can also use them for overnight fishing trips.

We sold the Cliff Lake cabin this summer and purchased an historic set of camps on Munsungan Stream, known as the #1 Camp. We will be doing a face lift on these “new” cabins this summer and they should be in great shape for this fall. #1 Camp is actually 3 small cabins which includes a cook camp and two sleeping camps. The log cabins sit on a high bank with a tremendous view of Libby Pinnacle and Munsungan Stream. It is a great spot for fishing and hunting, but just relaxing will be the greatest temptation at this beautiful location.



Brown Pond Trio

Our other camps on Lower Hudson Pond, Brown Pond, Clear Lake, Echo Lake, Aroostook River, Mooseleuk Stream, Mooseleuk Lake and two on Chandler Pond East and West are of course still popular. Our Big Caribou Pond camp has however seen very little use and we may have to sell that one this year. Contact us if interested in this remote cabin.

Rates remain the same this year, unchanged for 4 years. Rates start at \$31/man/night on a weekly trip with 4 men. We have made upgrades to canoes, added kayaks and purchased new outboards at most of these camps. Satellite phones available for rent. Seaplane rates in to camp have remained the same as well.

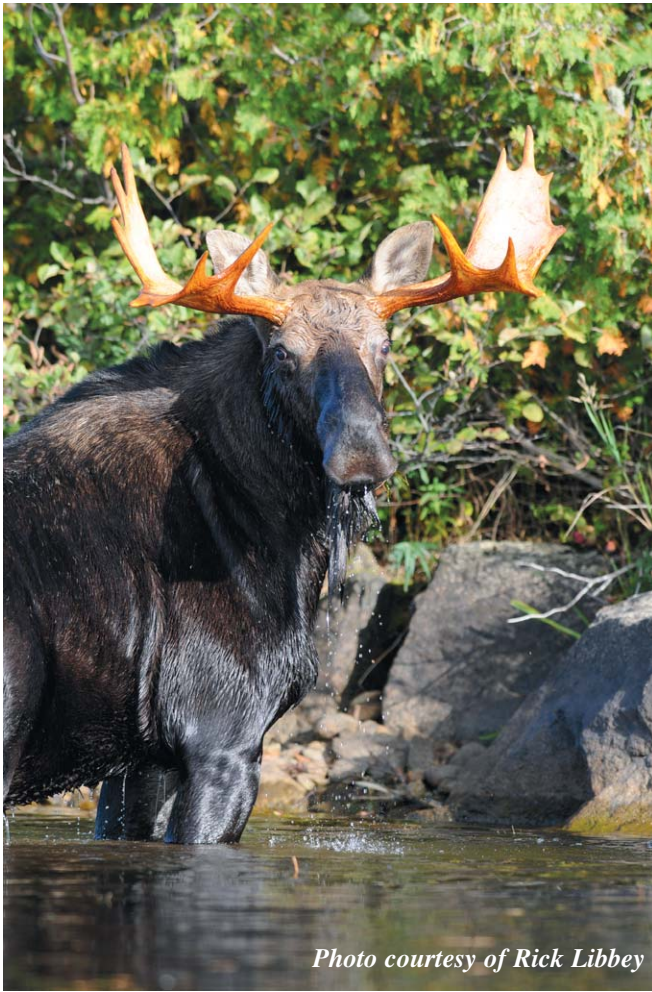


Photo courtesy of Rick Libbey

The 2010 Moose Hunts

September Hunt: As always, moose season was one of the highlights of the year. I had the pleasure of guiding Scott D'Entremont and his father Art. The first morning we headed out early and were in our clearcut in the rain before sun-up. There was not a lot of activity, so we decided to try calling a big bull out that we had scouted the week before. We got no response right off, but after a few calls, the big bull answered us. We could tell it was coming towards us, but it wouldn't show itself in the opening.

All of a sudden a cow started making the loudest, craziest noises I have ever heard come out of a moose. She was bawling and carrying on and running away from us towards the road. We came to the conclusion that the cow had claimed

her bull (the big one we were chasing) and was taking him away from the fight we were bringing to him. We decided to make a run for the road to head them off and got there just before the cow stepped out onto it, about 300 yards away from us. We stalked her when she went back into the woods to see if we could see the big bull. When we got close enough, we found that the cow was with a tiny bull that we were not interested in. We then heard the big guy talking right back where we had left him. We tried to get back in to get a look at him, but could not find him.

The next few days the bulls were not responding to calls at all and we were starting to get a little panicky. We stuck with it and, with a little help from Dad and Mike we were able to find a nice bull on Thursday. Like they say, the hard part begins once the Moose is down. Steve and Dad made the trip to help us get it out of the woods, so it only took us about four hours to get it loaded onto the truck. It was a good hunt with a lot of hard work put in by all.

Matt J

October Hunt: I had the privilege to guide Mark and daughter Elizabeth [Beth] Moyna on a bull moose hunt in zone two. It all started Sunday the day before the hunt when the three of us scouted and had a beautiful bull standing only a few yards away giving us very high hopes for Monday. We decided that at least a 50 inch spread was our goal.

Zone two is over an hour away so up at 3 A.M. for breakfast started each day. Opening

day was filled with lots of confidence and excitement, but no big bulls. We hunted hard all day with lots of moose sighted. The next day we had a very large bull in the road 30 minutes before legal shooting time but no moose at legal time. Again lots of moose sighted with several smaller bulls and two close calls on larger bulls. Day three started with a long stalk on a very large bull three hundred yards away but again no shot was offered. After lunch another stalk was planned with only one long shot through lots of woods offered. We elected to pass on this nice bull.

Thursday had lots of enthusiasm and my "brother", Mike Langley joining us. Again lots of small bulls and cows but no shooters. After receiving a new scouting report that three shooters were visible a new stalk was executed. After a slow and quiet approach again no moose were seen. Calling a moose this late in the season can be difficult, but we spotted a couple after a long wait. A 50 plus bull stepped into range of Beth's 30-06. With great determination she dropped the bull; a large 57 inch bull was hers. High fives all around and a few tears of joy. What an accomplishment for a 14 year old Jersey girl! Dad was so proud and Mike and I were on cloud nine.

Chuck Dionne

Moose hunts for 2010 start at \$3000 for a single guided hunt and \$5000 for a single VIP hunt. Our moose hunt occurs every fall in late September, mid October and early November and is one of our most exciting hunts. The biggest challenge is getting the permits, but there are 10 auctioned off in February as well. You should apply at www.mefish-wildlife.com for a permit in the lottery and list your hunting priorities as the first season in Zone 5, 2, 4, 1 in that order. You have until late April to apply. Hope to see some of you lucky ones in 2010.



Elizabeth's Moose



Those Huge Whitetails

Lowell's Trophy

For years deer hunting has been what has made the hunting headlines in Maine. Locals always boast on how heavy the bucks were and you couldn't get bragging rights unless yours dressed out over 200 pounds. Horns were often found on the dump or tacked to the barn. When I was young it was not unusual to see 3 bucks chasing one doe. Not a lot has changed over the years except those huge racks are seemingly getting bigger and more desired. The 90's blessed us with a lot more deer, however with the bucks only law that decade was a legacy of seeing deer but not always bucks.

Well as many of you know most of the North got hit by a severe winter in 2007 which really knocked the numbers of whitetails down. The snow depths did what they have done for generations, they killed the young, the weak and the malnourished. The result was a huge correction in deer numbers. Actual deer sign (tracks) dropped, but buck sign in many pockets actually increased. The hunt as I experienced this fall was more typical of the 70's with bucks competing again for the does that were left. The actual ratio of bucks to does now is closer to what we as hunters like to experience.

2009 results were good except the economy drastically cut deer hunter numbers down in the North Maine Woods. Our NMW gates saw a huge decrease in hunters coming into the 3 1/2 million acres to hunt this fall. Many of our outpost camps were vacant even for the prime weeks. Our largest buck taken was by Lowell Mason and it weighed in at 246 pounds dressed and had a 12 point rack. Lowell will win a free trip for November of 2010.

We will continue to enhance our deer habitat on our 500 acres and landowners are helping us seed down roadways for deer feed as well. The winter of 2010 is the warmest on record as of March 1st and predictions look favorable for a good buck kill for this fall. If you are coming for deer meat only go to the south, but if you are looking for a trophy of a life time join us this fall.

2010 rates still range from \$895/week unguided to \$1535 guided. We also will be making more trails this year and doing more pre season scouting to find those pockets of huge bucks.

Matt Libby Sr.

Wicked Good Wingshooting

Grouse and woodcock numbers in the far North seem to vary over the years more than health care bills. Two years ago we were in a decline with wet springs and not a lot to encourage us. Luckily being in prime habitat we have always been able to find suitable numbers even on “skinny” years. Again 2009 was a wet spring, but noticeably warmer. Predictions said another off year. Predictions were wrong! Whether hens nested on higher ground or the warm weather actually made the difference our grouse numbers were way up, to the point of being at or above average.

This winter has been warm and I believe many adult birds will go into the nesting season in great shape. Severe cold can kill birds when there is no powder snow for birds to burrow into. This winter has had soft snow coupled



Ike's First Woodcock

with little if any severe cold. The woodcock fly back in April and with an early green up and good nesting conditions we will have high numbers again this fall. 2009 was good for both local birds and flight birds until the end of October.

2010 Rates again range from \$185/day for unguided hunts to \$1700/man for our 4 day guided flyout package. We have two planes doing the flyouts and they book up fast, so plan early on these and other guided Wingshooting trips. Complete information and prices can be found online, as well as our new online Wingshooting video.

Matt Libby Sr.



Grouse in 2009



Brook Trout, My Best Advice

If you're coming to Maine to fish for brook trout you've come to the right place. From the main camps to the outpost camps, from the float planes to the four wheel drives, we here at Libby's can put you onto some of the best brook trout fishing the state has to offer.

If you come prepared and the weather cooperates you could be one of the many people who can't wait to come back. If it's your first trip here be sure to ask plenty of questions before and during your trip. As far as weather is concerned, nobody can control that, but again, if you're prepared to fish in all different kinds of weather, with different styles of fishing, you will catch fish. From nymphing to streamers to the use of dries, they should all be in your arsenal. Don't forget those sinking lines!

I've been fishing in the North Maine Woods now for over 40 years and I can honestly say that the fishing is as good in most places as it was "way back when." Through the laws they have put in place, the state of Maine has managed to preserve and protect the wild and native brookies. From wild rivers and streams to remote wilderness ponds, it just doesn't get any better anywhere in the good ole USA than right here in Maine, and especially here at Libby's.

A prediction: Based on what I've seen at a couple of ponds in the last few years, they should be producing more fish around 4 lbs. this year. So, see ya soon, and get ready for those big beautiful brookies.

Matt tells me the rates are again the same as last year starting at \$175/day for the basic unguided trip to \$385/day for the guided flyout package.

Rick Young



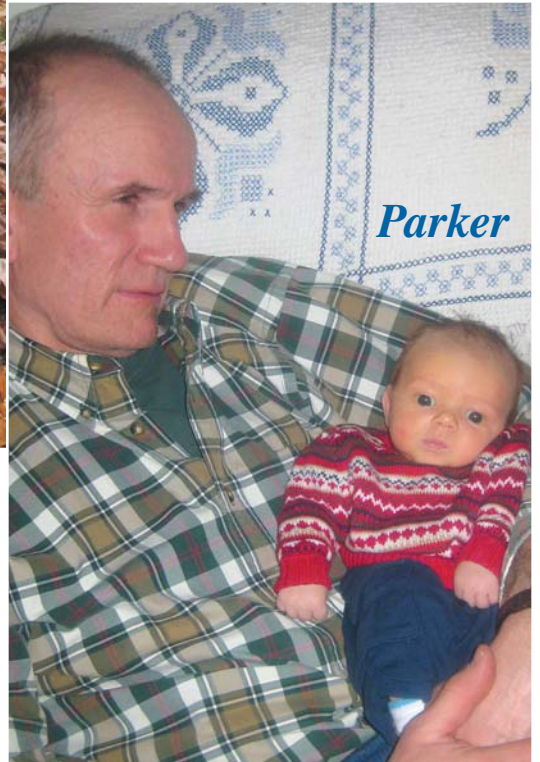
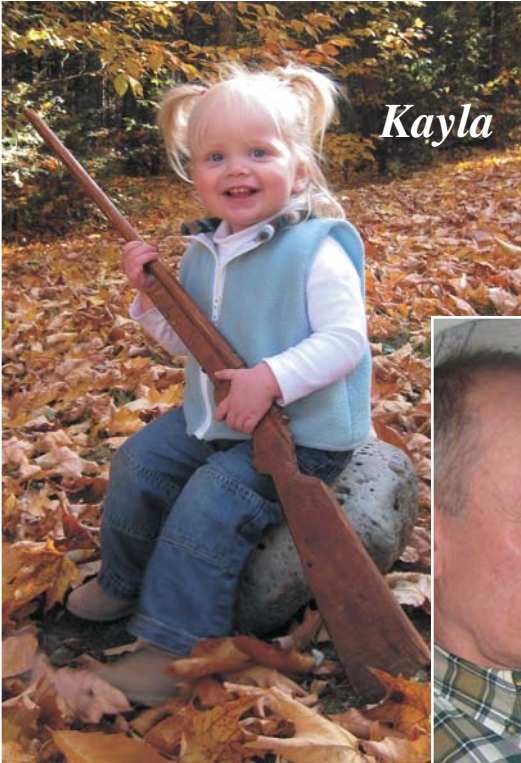
The next generation

The Libby tradition keeps growing. We are thrilled to announce the arrival of two new Libby family members. Parker James Libby was born on January 17th 2010 to Matt and Jess, weighing in at just under 7 pounds and measuring 20 3/4 inches long. Two weeks and two days later, on February



Kayla

Laurelai



Parker

2nd, Laurelai Margaret Winslow was born to Tim and Alison, weighing in at just over 7 pounds and measuring 19 1/4 inches long. Both babies, Parker's sister Kayla, parents, grandparents and great grandparents are doing well.

Labrador News:

Many of you have been with us in Labrador and are wondering when we might open for business again. Well this year we will be opening in late July for about 4 weeks. Wilson will once again head up the guiding. We will only be operating on a short season for the foreseeable future.

We have been closed at our Kepimets Lake camp for 4 years, but have taken advantage of that time to upgrade the camps, boats, motors and of course our fishing skills.

Rick, Matt J, Chuck, Steve and I made sure the fish remembered who the predators were last summer and as always we caught some great fish with the largest being landlock salmon. The photo below is Chuck with one which was wounded and kept, about 8 pounds.

The trip is not a typical Labrador excursion; you will need to chip in with the chores, cooking, cleaning or whatever needs to be done. The only people in camp are you and your guides. In Maine we call it an outpost camp experience. We provide food, guides and flights in from Labrador City. Cost is \$3100/man + tax for 7 nights.

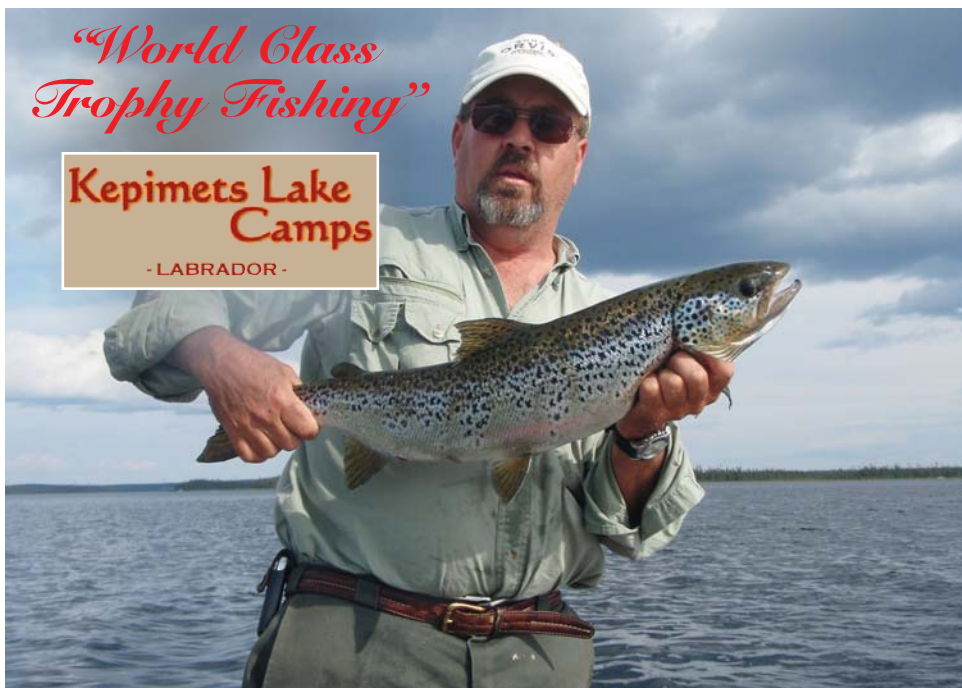
Matt Sr.



*“World Class
Trophy Fishing”*

**Kepimets Lake
Camps**

- LABRADOR -



Chuck's 8# salmon

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