

## Skowhegan's Gilpatrick presented with guide's award

The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife presented its first legendary Maine



Gil Gilpatrick  
Photo by Regis Tremblay, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

'Wiggie' Robinson Legendary Maine Guide Award" on Saturday. Gilpatrick is a life

Guide awards at the Maine Professional Guides Association annual banquet on April 10, in Brewer.

Gilpatrick, of Skowhegan, received the 2010 "Wilmot

member of the Maine Professional Guides Association. For many years, Gilpatrick, a former high school teacher, has taught hundreds of young people how to build and paddle canoes, and each class culminated in a trip down the Allagash River in the spring.

Gilpatrick has written books on building strip canoes and snowshoes and leading canoe trips, which are being used as references today. Gilpatrick has served on the Maine Guides advisory board since being nominated to that group over 15 years ago by the MPGA. He also served on the MPGA Board of Directors for many years. In 1993, Gilpatrick carved a sign that is displayed at the podium at the MPGA annual banquet each year.



### SOLON & BEYOND

by Marilyn Rogers & Percy  
643-2471  
grams@tdstelme.net  
P.O. Box 244, Solon, ME 04979

Good morning, dear friends. Don't worry, be happy!

Spring is truly here, trapping season is upon me! A red squirrel is literally eating me out of house and home! Last week, three mornings in a row, when I got home from Griswold's, there would be another whole in my house. Each morning I would hunt up a piece of wood to patch the hole. On Thursday morning after I had patched the third hole I went to the Extension meeting and when I got home the squirrel had been inside when I patched the hole and had managed to push his way out. I renailed the patch (and added an extra nail for good measure!) BAD MIS-TAKE!!

He must have been inside again, because when I was getting ready to go to church and as I went to put my shoes on he had devoured the soles of both shoes!

itch or the emergency of not being able to breathe, then you can understand the importance of such a device. Sadly, Ms. Perkins-Blackwell passed away in January, but the planned purchase of the Eyemax continues in her memory.

Through the generosity of the American Legion and auctioneer, Rob Strout, all of the proceeds of the auction will go toward the Eyemax. There will be quilt raffles, baked goods table, food concession by the American Legion Auxiliary, and other opportunities to assist this fundraiser. For more information, contact Alberta Philpot, at 643-2434.

These weren't old shoes, I had just worn them a few times! Had finally bought two Hav-A-Heart traps, but now I am out for blood, and where was my mighty hunter, Percy, while all this was going on?! Anyway, thinking maybe I had the varmint corralled inside my walls, I have now taken off one of the patches so he can get into one of my traps.

The first meeting of 2010 was held at the Solon History House with president Lois Starbird presiding. Lois reported that Jeff McAllister will be repairing the ramp into the barn at the History House and Mike Foster has been hired to fix the post at the back of the barn.

Barbara Lord, of Bingham, who volunteers at the History House, has made a list of the books in the box that Jeff found in the loft. Lois will send a copy of the list to Jane to see if it contains any of the books belonging to her father that she wanted.

Lois has had several contacts at the History House, one from Dr. Barto in Skowhegan who is doing biographies of doctors in the area. She has also been asked to speak about Dr. Leon Williams for a knitting club.

Cheryl Patton has requested a photo of the History House taken during the bicentennial. We don't have one.

Since the historical society was not included in this year's annual report, they will do a spread of photos submitted by us in next year's report, if we wish. It was discussed that photos of the displays in the house would be interesting and it was mentioned that such a group of photos would be good to have as a means of keeping track of the inventory as well.

Joan Steward presented the program about her families' visit to Springfield, Illinois, and the national park there. They went during the year of the bicentennial of Lincoln's birth. They toured

his home there, the museum and presidential library. They saw many places of interest and visited Lincoln's tomb. She showed photos of these places and all found it very interesting.

The next meeting will be on Monday, April 26, at the History House at 7pm.

The Solon Congregational Church will hold a "Junktique Extravaganza" Sale on Saturday, April 17, at the Solon Elementary School. Doors will open to the public at 8 a.m. and will remain open until 2 p.m. There will be tables inside and out, with "Flashing Light" specials on the hour at every table and door prizes every half hour of the day. Tons of homemade crafts, household items, wooden items, clothes, furniture, candy, jewelry, baked goods, and as always the church white elephant table. Anyone interested in renting a space or donating items for the Church table should call Sheree at (207) 672-5586 after 6 p.m. or e-mail her at sabrown\_scc@yahoo.com. Come join the excitement, your treasure awaits!

Percy's wise words are, "Follow your hopes and dreams while you can. While the desire is burning. When the chance comes your way. Don't be a ship that stays in the harbor, never straying from its safety. Don't get tangled up with 'maybe... maybe someday.' Too many folks will tell you that if you spend your whole life waiting, 'someday' arrives too little, too late. Maybe it's already a little later than it seems. If you really want to do it, do it while you can. Be brave...and sail away on your dreams." (Douglas Pagels)

P.S. Just a couple of hours after I removed the patch on my house yesterday, I had a little red squirrel in the trap. Couldn't bear to shed his blood, so he went to a nice new home!

## Extension Homemakers to hold live auction to purchase Eyemax machine for ALS patients

The Somerset County Extension Homemakers are holding a benefit auction on Saturday, April 17, at 6 p.m. with preview at 3 p.m., at the American Legion

### April school vacation fun at L.C. Bates Museum

April school vacation is right around the corner! The L.C. Bates Museum will have a week of family nature programs from Saturday, April 17 until Sunday, April 25. Each day will have different hands-on activities and focus on different aspects of nature.

The museum will offer, at 10 - 11 a.m. Tuesday - Friday, "Dinosaur and Friends" a program with a look up-close at a life-size model of a Tyrannosaurus Rex skull and other dinosaur fossils.

Hall, Route 201, in Skowhegan. When the state president of their organization, Cheryl Perkins-Blackwell, was diagnosed with ALS, also known as Lou Gehrig's disease, the group decided to do something in her honor to help those in the state who are dealing with the impact of this devastating neuromuscular and universally fatal illness.

When they contacted the ALS Association, it was suggested that the group might like to purchase a piece of adaptive equipment for the loan closet in Maine. There was a need for an Eyemax machine which is a computer-assisted device that allows individuals to use the motion of the eyes to access a voice synthesizer to communicate with family, friends and caregivers. It would be available to patients without resources to access this equipment through other means. If you can imagine not being able to communicate even the simplest of needs such as scratching an



Max Bowden examining a shark's jaw at L.C. Bates Museum. Contributed photo

On Tuesday, April 20, at 1 p.m., is "Predator and Prey - who eats who?"

Wednesday, April 21, at 1 p.m., is "Incredible Reptiles," will have an up-close look at the reptiles of Maine plus a glimpse of gliding lizards and even alligators.

On Earth Day, Thursday, April 22, at 1 p.m., the museum program is called "Special Animals on Our Earth - Threatened, Endangered, and Extinct Animals."

Lastly, the Friday, April 23, programs at 10 a.m., and 1 p.m., will focus on the ever popular dinosaurs and fossils on display at the museum.

Programs at the museum always include a craft to take home as well as opportunities to touch and feel real objects from nature. Admission is only a dollar for kids and \$2.50 for adults. To schedule a larger group, please call the museum at 238-4250.

**Think Your Whoopies are the Best?**

**Wanted Home and Professional Bakers**

**Let's see What You Can Do!**

Your Whoopie Pies will be judged in three categories

Best Original  
Best Flavor  
Most Unique

**Whoopies for Kids!**

to benefit **Children's Miracle Network**  
Hospitals Helping Local Kids  
Healthcare Charities

**Saturday May 1, 2010**  
**11 am - 3 pm**  
**Fairfield Community Center**  
**\$10 entry fee**

For More Information Please Ask a Manager

Your Donation Stays Local and Helps Local Children at an EMHS Hospital in Bangor, Blue Hill, Greenville, Pittsfield, Presque Isle, and Waterville!

**YOUTH SAVINGS WEEK**

Visit any **Maine State Credit Union** branch **April 20th - 23rd**, open a Youth Account and receive a piggy bank and fun giveaways for the kids!

207.623.1851 [www.MaineStateCU.org](http://www.MaineStateCU.org)

**Hamlin's Marine**

2 Locations!  
Financing Available

[www.hamlinsmarine.com](http://www.hamlinsmarine.com)

100 Marina Rd.,  
Hampden  
207-941-8619

290 West River Rd.,  
Waterville  
207-872-5660