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### **Hone Fly Fishing Skills at Maine's Little Lyford Pond Camps**

Spring has come to the Maine Woods, and the Appalachian Mountain Club's Little Lyford Pond Camps open for the season May 10, welcoming fly fishermen, hikers and paddlers to explore and enjoy this magical place in Maine's famed 100-Mile Wilderness region.

This season, AMC will offer a new series of guided fly-fishing workshops and trips for anglers of all abilities, from novices to experts.

The unique and diverse fisheries near Little Lyford Pond Camps earn high marks from anglers. The ponds and lakes surrounding the camps and the West Branch of the Pleasant River that borders the property are highly prized fly fishing waters that support a native brook trout fishery. These are wild trout that have not been crossed with hatchery-raised fish. Local waters also hold togue and landlocked salmon. With eight remote ponds in the area that are part of this same fishery, there's no shortage of fly fishing opportunities.

Guests at Little Lyford Pond Camps can set out on their own, or hit the water with the camps' Master Maine Guide. New this season at Little Lyford Pond Camps, anglers will find a variety of fly fishing excursions from which to choose, including lessons for beginners and experienced anglers as well as custom trips designed to help anglers develop their technique on ponds and streams. Fly fishing rods and fishing licenses are available at the camps.

Examples of the programs to offered this year include:

- One-hour and two-hour introductory sessions, emphasizing skill development
- Half-day and full-day excursions to fly fish for native brook trout on any of eight remote ponds close to Little Lyford Pond Camps
- One-hour to full-day sessions focusing on river and stream fishing techniques on the West Branch of the Pleasant River
- Full-day trips casting or trolling for landlocked salmon, togue, and brown trout
- Two-day custom trips fly fishing the ponds and rivers on the 37,000 acres of AMC land surrounding the camps.

More information on the fly fishing programs offered at Little Lyford Pond Camps can be found on the Web at <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/lpc-fly-fishing.cfm>

The camps opened in 1874, and the AMC is carrying on a long tradition of low-impact backcountry recreation in the Maine Woods by managing the camps for such activities as hiking, snowshoeing, backcountry skiing, paddling, and fly fishing. Set amid spectacular scenery provided by the peaks of the Barren/Chairback Range and the south slopes of Baker Mountain, the camps consist of eight rustic cabins that can accommodate from two to six people.

Cabins include beds, sinks, porches, woodstoves, and gas lamps. Hot showers are available in summer, and a cedar sauna operates in winter.

A stay at Little Lyford Pond Camps includes hearty, home-cooked dinners and breakfasts and trail lunches.

The camps are located about 15 miles east of Greenville and 20 miles northwest of Brownville. Access is via gravel logging roads. The camps are open to all, AMC members and non-members alike.

More information on Little Lyford Pond Camps is available at <http://www.outdoors.org/lodging/lyford> or by calling (603) 466-2727.

AMC's operation of Little Lyford Pond Camps is part of its broader Maine Woods Initiative, a land conservation effort that integrates habitat protection, outdoor recreation, education and sustainable forestry in the 100-Mile Wilderness region of Maine.

The initiative seeks to address the ecological and economic needs of the Maine Woods region by supporting local forest products jobs and traditional recreation, and providing new nature-based tourism opportunities and multi-day backcountry experiences for visitors.

Founded in 1876, the Appalachian Mountain Club is the oldest conservation and recreation organization in the United States. The AMC has 3300 members in Maine.

The nonprofit AMC promotes the protection, enjoyment, and wise use of the mountains, rivers, and trails of the Appalachian region. The AMC supports natural resource conservation while encouraging responsible recreation, based on the philosophy that successful, long-term conservation depends upon first-hand enjoyment of the natural environment.

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