Late last year, the Carrabassett Valley Trappers were contacted by Christine Parrish of the New England Forestry Foundation (NEFF). She wanted to talk to trappers about Pine Marten.

She attended a monthly meeting in January 2020. As it was a bad weather day, there were only a few attendees. I contacted her later to see if I could help. I sent her several documents I have on martens, and we talked on the phone about martens and other wildlife-related issues.

In February, I visited her in the New England Forestry Foundation’s Western Maine Mountain Projects office in Farmington, ME.

**Natural Partners**

Parrish said she thought trappers were natural partners in her foundation’s efforts because – given our keen focus on the habits and life histories of various wildlife species and their habitats over many years – trappers understand animals in a way that no one else can.

She thought bringing trappers into the equation was also a good opportunity to highlight how knowledgeable trappers are, and how they are connected to the woods in a way that’s rare in our modern society, where 85 percent of Americans live in urban or suburban areas.

She stated that she would also like to find ways to reduce the opposition that is common among different groups that use the forest in different ways. Parrish believes that the birders and trappers, hikers and snowmobilers, hunters and wilderness advocates have more in common than not.

**New Venture for NEFF**

NEFF has worked with private woodlot owners in Maine and across New England on forestry for 75 years, but this is the first time they have focused on using forestry to improve wildlife habitat for marten and other furbearers, grouse, woodcock, woodland songbirds and other wildlife. They chose Western Maine because it offers the best opportunity to do that.

NEFF is involved in the management of private woodlots of 10 acres or greater in size. Their projects are ideal for a landowner’s private property to enhance its wildlife, as well as providing long term production of forest products.

**Vast Area of Interest**

The organization performs its work in the western Maine Mountains, which they call “the Mountains of the Dawn.” I love that terminology, because our North America mountains are the oldest on the continent and they are positioned on the eastern side of the continent where they greet the morning’s sun.

The group’s area of interest is 98 percent forest, and runs from Baxter State Park southwesterly along the Appalachians, the Boundary Mountains, and along portions of the borders of Quebec and New Hampshire, as well as easterly to the Kennebec River Valley’s watershed.

**Using Trappers’ Knowledge**

How does this in-
Sporting Environment
(Continued from page 54)

Dipper which point at the North Star, the last star in Little Dipper’s handle.

One of the best ways to explore the stars is with the Night Sky app on your phone. Just hold it up, and it tells you what stars are in front of you.

Shooting Stars
And who can resist shooting stars or meteor showers? These are rarely visible in urban areas, but fun nighttime entertainment here in the Great Dark North.

The Perseid meteor shower is my favorite. It occurs during much of August when you can lie comfortably on a blanket at midnight and watch up to 100 meteors per hour streak across the sky. This year the moon will be favorable for the August 12 peak.

Other major showers are the Orionid shower in late September and October, and the Leonid shower in November, both at 60 to 70 meteors per hour. The Geminids in December and the Quadrantids in January each entertain us with over 120 meteors per hour.

For more info on meteor showers, go to www.amsmeteors.org

Midcoast
(Continued from page 55)

increase the distance. Work in a semi-circle fashion, beginning on one side and fanning out to the other side. This allows you to methodically cover all the water in the pool.

Listen for splashes and slurping sounds, indications of monster brown trout activity. If you spend time doing this, you may well reap surprising benefits.

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