

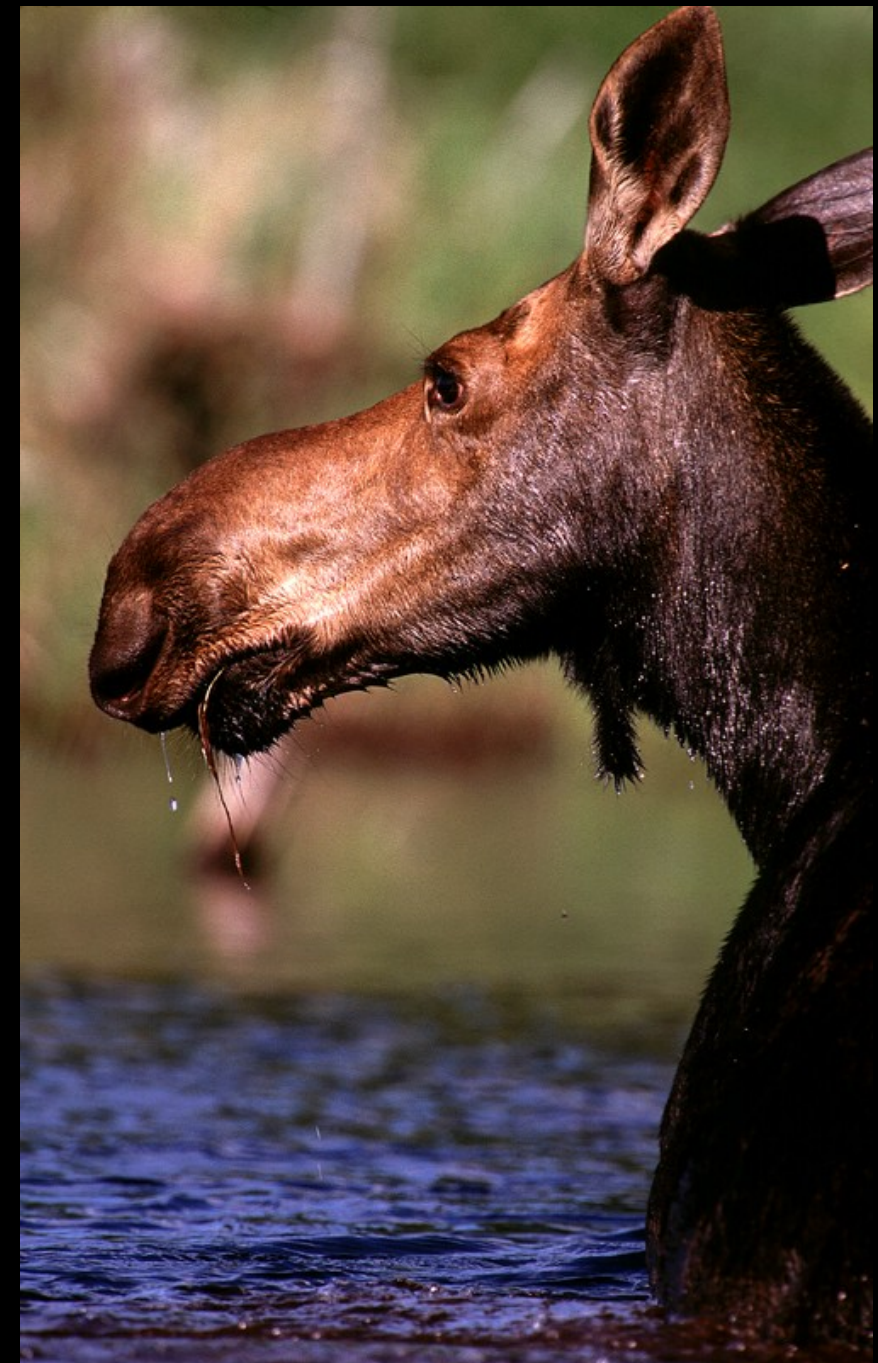
Cow Moose Feeding in Beaver Pond

An adult cow moose captivates me as she approaches the shoreline of an unnamed beaver pond located east of the West Outlet of the Kennebec River in Sapling Township. The hungry moose wades into the shallow water, plunging its elongated muzzle into the pond to retrieve mouthfuls of plant life. Several large flies, biting her just below the eyes, disperse when the moose immerses its head. She approaches several flowering blue flag irises, but shows no interest in eating them.

The sure-footed cow gradually marches alongside the pond's grassy border towards where I sit in my blind. I am downwind and she cannot detect my scent. I embrace the opportunity for a close encounter, remaining mindful that this is her home and I must respect her space in a peaceful manner. When she comes near, her long-legged body stands only eight feet from me.

Today's exploration of this small beaver pond had me encountering two black bears, a cow moose, and a doe white-tail deer with a newborn fawn, among other wild creatures. Mother Nature displays her grand bounty. I am indebted to her.

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