



**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

Forever Wild

Newsletter of the Friends of Baxter State Park

Spring 2004

Vol. 3 No. 2

President's Column

*By Holly Dominie
President*

The Friends Board has decided to intensify efforts to formulate positions on specific issues relating to the Park and to record those which our organization has already articulated. As the beleaguered Martha Stewart was fond of saying before her present difficulties, "That's a good thing!"

We have formally requested the Authority to conduct a public process to explore a long-range vision and plan to sustain the wild values of the Park. Though the Authority has not yet had an opportunity to discuss our request, we continue to urge them to do so and to begin such a process in 2004.

And we will actively support the creation of a compatible buffer on the east side of the park among the "East Branch Lands."

But there is much more work to be done. The press frequently inquires about our stands on issues, for instance and most recently, the removal and replacement of the cabins at Daicy Pond. It is important for us to be able to weigh in on such critical matters. And we must take other measures to strengthen Friends; e.g., improve our
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Early Days. Leroy Dudley, guide and Katahdin legend, left, relaxes with a friend on the porch of the Katahdin Game Preserve warden's camp at Chimney Pond. The photo was taken in the late 1920's before the area became Baxter State Park and is available on a post card for new members of the Friends. (See page 4.)
Photo courtesy of the Maine State Library

Bennett Has Something for the Friends

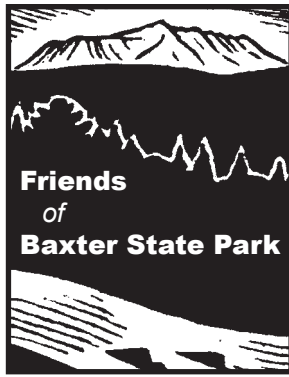
An outstanding program is in store for our Annual Membership Meeting at Best Western, Waterville, on April 10 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Keynote speaker will be Dean Bennett, wilderness champion and author; and his talk not only will cover many aspects of wilderness at the Park but will also offer some valuable guidance for the Friends to consider in carrying out their mission.

As in previous years, there will be an open Board of Directors and Membership business meeting, nominations for the 2004/2005 Board,

and an update on the Park from Director Buzz Caverly.

Bennett is Professor Emeritus, University of Maine, Farmington, and much of his professional life has been devoted to teaching and writing in the fields of science and environmental education, natural history, and human relationships with nature, as well as advocacy work in wilderness preservation. He has received the Percival Baxter Award for Leadership in Wilderness Preservation from the Maine Chapter

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The Friends of Baxter State Park is an independent citizens' group working to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park, in the spirit of its founder, Governor Percival Baxter.

Friends of Baxter State Park
PO Box 1442
Bangor ME 04402-1442

In the Mail

No on National Park

Dear Friends,

I joined Friends of Baxter for two reasons:

One, I love Baxter State Park. In a variety of memorable trips over a span of 14 years, the time I have spent there would total some nine weeks.

Two, due to my love for Baxter, I do not want to see the land around it encroached upon by manmade entities. Whenever I get to the top of Katahdin, I look out at the green of forests, the blue of lakes and river, and I am overwhelmed with emotion. It would be awful to have a National Park anywhere in this part of Maine. One can imagine the RV's, the concession stands, the population explosion of people going to that area, to mention a few of the possibilities.

My purpose in writing is to ask if Friends of Baxter would support a National Park? I don't think so. (The wording in "Forever Wild" articles in the newsletter very cleverly avoids any indication, for or against.) I am interested in knowing before I renew my membership.

Sandy Dunn, Cumberland RI

The Friends mission is centered on the wilderness within the Park, thus we have not taken a stand on any of the many projects surrounding Baxter. Also, the subject of a national park in northern Maine is only in the discussion stage and nothing official is yet in the works, to our knowledge.
Ed.

'Politically Incorrect'

Dear Friends,

I write this letter at the risk of being politically incorrect. The "Wilder Within" concept is ill conceived. The most fit individuals will not be injured by the proposals; it will just add to their challenge and

Two Walks in the Park Scheduled for This Year

Like to meet some Friends for a weekend in the Park? There are two outings planned for 2004.

For the nights of July 9 & 10, we'll be at Chimney Pond. For the nights of August 13 and 14, we'll be at South Branch plus the lean-to on the upper pond. There are spaces for twelve (12) on each outing.

Sign up now with Barb Bentley, tel. 207-763-3014, to reserve yourself a place. We look forward to meeting new Friends!

thus enjoyment. What about the less fit? They will be the big losers.

Just as overnight use is controlled by capacity limits, reservations and permits, so can day use be controlled without closing roads or removing cabins.

One of the major unspoken motivators to these road and cabin closures is the ADA Act. The ADA Act is intended to allow access of individuals with disabilities; however, in the wilderness context the Act's implementation to the letter of the law is impossible.

The Baxter State Park Authority, Baxter State Park Advisory Committee, Baxter State Park as well as Friends of Baxter State Park are willing to limit access to all or most instead of lobbying for a sane and just interpretation and implementation of the ADA Act in the "wilderness" context. This is the direction all of our efforts and resources should be directed, not road closures and cabin removals.

G. Kent Tableman, Veazie ME

For the record, the "Wilder Within" concept has not been endorsed by any of the above named groups. Letters reported in earlier issues of the newsletter were the opinions of members, which were solicited to fuel the discussion of the concept.
Ed.

A Moose Can Make or Break Your Day

By Cindy Swan

This past fall, like every one for the past seven years, my husband Brian and I took a trip to Baxter State Park. It was an "easy" visit in comparison to some of the past trips. We stayed in a cabin at Daicey Pond, which to us was luxurious camping.

The woodstove was a real treat during a windy storm that caused branches and trees to fall as well as sheets of pounding rain. With the woodstove stoked, it was wonderful to be nestled in that cabin with a great view out of the "Lookout's" window. I read almost all day, something I had not done since I was a kid.

The day before the storm, we took a hike and ran into a kindred spirit on the trail. He had his camera in hand and was looking for a moose to photograph. He said he hadn't seen one yet so we chatted a bit on the trail and then went off in different directions. Soon after leaving him, we saw a cow and her calf at Elbow Pond. Too bad he missed this, I thought, as we watched the cow plucking her dinner from the bottom of the pond.



What's that? The Baxter moose in this picture blended so well into the background she was almost missed by the photographer.

Photo by Dave Getchell, Sr.

As Brian and I walked back to Daicey, I felt this sense of completion. I had seen my Baxter moose, just as I have every year. In fact, one year, I almost stepped right on a moose as I was getting up for a visit to the outhouse during the dark of the moon! But that's a whole 'nother story!

Activities of Interest During Spring Months

By John Neff

Baxter State Park is sponsoring an Earth Day (April 22) Litter Patrol for the roads leading into the Park — litter pickup—free lunch—lots of fun—and a way to help the Park. Call Jean Hoekwater, Park Naturalist, at 723 - 9500.

On Saturday, April 24, the Friends of BSP will have a table at the Eastern Mountain Sports store in Augusta. Any member of Friends who visits the store that day will be able to purchase any item in the store at a 20% discount. A very good deal for

everyone. We look forward to seeing you that day. Stop by the table and chat about our mutual commitment to preserving the wilderness values of the Park.

The May meeting of the BSP Authority (always open to the public) will be at Kidney Pond on Friday, May 21. Check with me at 207 - 377 - 2064 for more information.

Visit our website

www.friendsofbaxter.org

We are grateful to GWL.net for their program to support non-profit organizations by hosting our site at absolutely minimum cost.

Great Opportunities for Volunteering in the Park Are Listed

By Charlie Jacobi

For trail enthusiasts with up to a week to contribute, the Park trails program offers four projects where you can pitch in this summer. All tools, safety equipment, training, and supervision are provided. There is no charge for rustic accommodations, but you must bring your own clothing, gear, and food.

1. Doubletop Mountain Trail Erosion Control. July 7-14. Heavy-duty reconstruction rock work. *Strenuous*. Base Camp: Your tent at Nesowadnehunk Field Campground.

2. Kidney Pond Area Trails. July 11-15. Build bog bridges and cut brush to define trail corridors. *Moderate*. Base Camp: Canvas wall tents at Kidney Pond.

3. South Branch Pond Area Trails. July 18-22. Building bog bridges and cairns and clipping brush. *Moderate to strenuous*. Base Camp: Your tent at South Branch Pond.

4. Rum Pond Trail: Treadway grading. August 18-22. Levelling treadway for better XC skiing. *Moderate*. Base Camp: Abol Narrows administrative leantos.

For those with at least three weekends available, there are also a few openings in the Trail Stewards Program. Trail Stewards are responsible for brushing, blazing, and cleaning waterbars on about 4 - 5 miles of trails. From my experience last summer on Howe Brook and North Traveler, I can tell you it was hot, hard, backbreaking, and buggy, but rewarding to see the end product.

Contact: Trails Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at 207-723-9616. For other volunteer opportunities, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at the above number. Availability of housing/camping and supervision limit the Park's ability to accommodate everyone as a volunteer, but keep trying.

Collection of Post Cards Shows Old Days in Region

Postcards using old Katahdin area photos from the Avery Collection at the Maine State Library are now available. Some will be sent to those renewing their membership or joining for the first time. Others will be available at our Annual Meeting for sale.

Our page 1 picture is a 1930s photo of Roy Dudley on the porch of the State Cabin at Chimney Pond. Other cards include an exciting shot of a loggers' bateau on the East Branch.

Annual Meeting

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of the Sierra Club and numerous other awards in wilderness advocacy and environmental education.

He has written four books on natural history and wilderness topics, including his most recent, *The Wilderness from Chamberlain Farm: A Story of Hope for the American Wild*, a history of values toward nature and wild land, published in 2001 by Island Press and winner of *ForeWord Magazine's* award for the best book in the environment category in 2001.

The Best Western is just off Exit 130 (old number 34) of Interstate 95.

President's Column

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website and develop an endowment strategy.

So join us, please. Volunteer to sit on one of our six, newly formed committees, which include policy, finance, development, membership, member activities, and public relations. Your time is one of the best investments you can make, and "That's a good thing."

Friends of Baxter State Park
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We're looking for New Friends!

Do you know someone who might be interested in the Friends of Baxter State Park? Their membership will add another voice supporting Governor Baxter's wilderness.

I'd like to be a Friend. Sign me up!

Name

Street

City, State and Zip Code

_____ \$1,000	Gov. Baxter Society
_____ \$500	Katahdin Club
_____ \$250	Knife Edger
_____ \$100	Hamlin Peaker
_____ \$50	Sponsor
_____ \$30	Family
_____ \$25	Individual

Please make checks payable to
Friends of Baxter State Park

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