



## Friends of Baxter State Park

### President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

Spring is coming on fast, and signs of new beginnings and renewal are everywhere. The goldfinches are turning yellow, brooks are filling up, and the geese are complaining about the ice still in the pond. This makes me think about new vistas I might discover in the Park this year, new projects that are in the making, and new FBSP members I'll greet on the trail. And speaking of renewal, membership renewals are coming in ahead of last year's numbers. Have you sent in yours?

We are delighted to welcome a new member to the BSP Authority as Attorney General Janet Mills joins Alec Giffen, Director of Maine Forest Service, and Danny Martin, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. She has already expressed her enthusiasm for the Park, and we look forward to working with her. The Park is wilder today because of past efforts of the Authority. (See photos of Russell Pond, then and now, on p. 8.)

At our Annual Meeting on April 25th, we'll elect five new members to our Board of fifteen. With them will come new ideas and new energy, I'm sure. BSP Resource Director Carol Redelsheimer will give this year's keynote address on the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA).

*Continued on p. 2*

# Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK  
SPRING 2009 VOL. 8 NO. 2



Brilliant sun, clear skies, and warm temperatures graced the FBSP Warm Winter Weekend '09 at Twin Pines Camps on Millinocket Lake. Participants shown here took a trip to Debsconeag Deadwater and West Branch of the Penobscot for lunch on the beach.

— Photo © Bill Bentley

## Survey Shows Park's Impact on Maine's Economy

An Economic Impact Study conducted during the summer of 2007 concluded that Baxter State Park has a significant impact on Maine's economy. Park staff conducted the survey with assistance from many volunteers, including members of Friends of Baxter State Park. Visitors returned 1,877 surveys, an impressive 50% return rate.

The specific objectives of the survey were to determine the amount of money spent in local communities around the Park and in Maine for specific goods and services and to identify what additional goods visitors would like. The survey report was issued in September 2008.

The report states that analysis of the data led to the conclusion that economic activity within Maine

generated by Park visitors in 2007 was approximately \$7 million, sustaining the equivalent of 87 full-time jobs, generating \$2 million in household earnings. The largest portion of expenditure by visitors occurred en route in Maine, followed closely by local expenditures. The least amount was spent within the Park.

In terms of Park use, 51% of survey participants were day users, and 44% were overnight users. A few reported both day and overnight use. In terms of number of nights, the highest response was for two nights followed by three nights. The most popular activities were hiking 62%, general wildlife watching 55%, photography 53%, hiking over gentle terrain 52%, and moose watching 47%.

As for demographics, families

*Continued on p. 3*



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Bentley, President  
 Ken Spalding, Vice President  
 Sally Daggett, Secretary  
 Al Howlett, Treasurer  
 Chip Ahrens  
 Henry Beeuwkes  
 Don Hudson  
 Anne Huntington  
 Charlie Jacobi  
 Lester Kenway  
 Howard Lake  
 Linda McKee  
 Rex Turner  
 Howard Whitcomb  
 Chaitanya York

## HONORARY DIRECTORS

Eric Baxter  
 Dean Bennett  
 Buzz Caverly  
 Alexandra Conover  
 Donn Fendler  
 David Getchell, Sr.  
 Leon Gorman  
 Jon Lund  
 Libby Mitchell  
 Chellie Pingree  
 Kay Rand  
 Neil Rolde  
 Rupert Baxter White

**Newsletter Editor**  
 Barbara Bentley

**Administrative Manager**  
 Rosemary Hastings

**Volunteer Coordinator**  
 Laurie Rich

**PO Box 1442**  
**Bangor, ME 04402-1442**  
[www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)

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

## President's Column *Continued from p. 1*

The SFMA stands out in aerial view of Maine's north woods, and Carol will help us understand how and why.

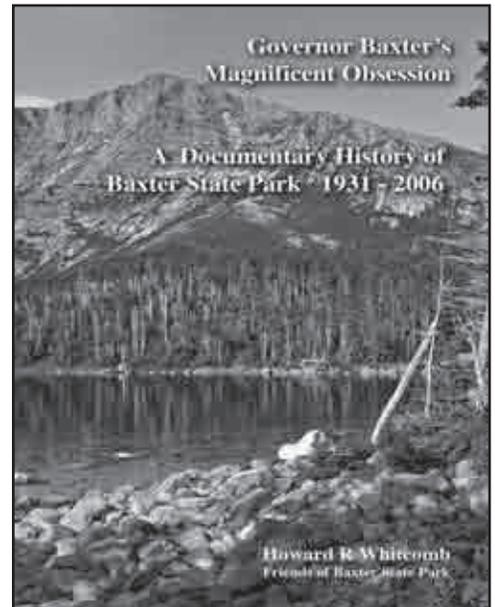
Members are participating in greater numbers in FBSP activities. The many contributors to this issue of the newsletter attest to that. We thank you for your letters, articles, and photos. And FBSP Volunteer and Event Coordinator, Laurie Rich – a volunteer herself – stands ready to match you with a volunteer opportunity in the Park. The Park is having to tighten its belt just as you and I are, but that doesn't keep us from "pitching in and stepping out." (See Laurie's message on p. 5.)

It is on foot that we experience the wilderness areas of the Park. Consider joining other Friends on one of our *Walks in the Park* and see for yourself. Friends' support for trails in the Park includes co-sponsoring Youth Corps trail crews (we've been able to double our financial support this year); sending FBSP chainsaw crews to clear blow-downs (we offered scholarships for training this year); and encouraging members to take the Park's training and serve as BSP Trail Stewards. In my way of thinking, a person who visits the Park becomes an advocate for the Park. To that end, we are pleased to be sending ten high school students into the Park for a week this summer. (See *FBSP Picks Wilderness Leaders of Tomorrow* on p. 9.) We welcome your support of these, and other, FBSP initiatives. Thank you!

## Membership Matters

This is the time of year we look forward to receiving your membership renewals. It is just once a year that we ask for your financial support. Remember that membership contributions fund the majority of FBSP's activities in support of the Park.

This year, many members renewed ahead of schedule! At the beginning of March, we sent out about 500 letters to people whose memberships had expired in March of '07, '08, and '09. By the end of the month, we had already heard back from ¼ of these folks – 9 returning, 1 new, and 109 renewals. Thank you, everyone, for your rapid responses.



## Available for Purchase

*Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931-2006*

by Howard R. Whitcomb - \$19.95

## How to Contact Us

**Rosemary Hastings, Admin. Manager**  
 28 Serenity Lane, Hope, ME 04847  
 207-785-2641

[rosehast@tidewater.net](mailto:rosehast@tidewater.net)

**Barbara Bentley, President**  
 546 Hatchet Mt. Rd, Hope, ME 04847  
 207-763-3014

[barbarabentley@tidewater.net](mailto:barbarabentley@tidewater.net)

**Laurie Rich, Volunteer Coordinator**  
[friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com)

Total revenues at this point are a bit down from last year, but we are way ahead in numbers of members. And numbers are important to us! It is encouraging to us that people would rather decrease the amount of their contribution than drop their membership completely. We look forward to hearing from the rest of you. Please support FBSP to the extent that you are able.

And please remember to let us know if your mailing address, telephone number, or email changes. We don't want to lose contact with you or have our mailing to you go astray. Thank you.

— Rosemary Hastings, Admin. Manager

## Economic Impact *Continued from p. 1*

were by far the largest group type. As for age, the 56-60 age group was the largest, followed by 51-55. In terms of family income, 25% reported \$100,000+. Over 80% were college graduates of which one-half had an advanced degree. Almost 66% had visited the Park's website. Visitors from Maine totaled 57%, outside Maine 40%, with 3% not reported. Of the Maine visitors, only 5% reported local zip codes from 30 surrounding towns including places as far away as Lincoln.

Visitors were asked to list items/services that they were unable to obtain in surrounding communities. Among the more frequent suggestions were more healthy foods, basic food supplies such as milk and bread which were in short supply or sold out, and ice cream. There was a strong desire for more souvenirs such as t-shirts, pins, postcards, stickers, and sweatshirts. They highlighted the need for camping supplies with several suggesting a camping and/or sports store.

Over 1,000 survey respondents provided additional comments about the Park and their visit and suggestions for improvements/changes. The most frequent comments addressed 1) service staff and Park management, 2) hiking, 3) Park facilities including toilets, and 4) operational suggestions. The comments were overwhelmingly positive and covered many topics. These included views— a high priority; the Park website's need for upgrading; Park maps and other information much sought after; comments on trails—some citing good conditions, others seeking improvements; and Park etiquette including support for quiet hours. Park staff members are analyzing the comments to determine what further improvements can be made to the Park.

Indeed, this report has a wealth of data that warrants further analysis. Many ideas/reactions came to mind as I perused the data, finding that little of what visitors spend accrues to the Park. Why do day users spend so much more in the local community than overnight

users? Could it be that day users stay in accommodations outside the park that are more expensive rather than driving directly to the Park?

The analysis should prove useful not only to the Park but also to businesses in the Millinocket region. In any case, this survey leaves little doubt of the positive economic impact that Park visitors have on Maine and the local economy. That fact alone is important as it demonstrates that a park devoted to wilderness can also make an important economic contribution.

— Al Howlett

## Our Readers Write...

### re: **Baxters Legacy**

For a long stretch of years, I was the docent/tour guide of the Baxter House Museum in Gorham. ... I even wrote a small book about James Phinney Baxter. Then recently I read the new publication on Percival and Baxter State Park. I offered to purchase one and donate that wonderful book to the library and am now reading it with such joy. As I perused it, I saw with great surprise, that you are the President of "Friends of the Park." ... Maybe next summer, you could tour the Baxter House. I could, and would like to, be your "guide" for it as I live at the retirement place in Scarborough

that is only 15 miles away. I hope the book sells well and that more people can become acquainted with Percy Baxter, a phenomenal man in so many ways. And the great park is so important to be preserved forever for Maine.

— Jane Nelson, Scarborough, ME

### re: **26th Winter Trip to the Park**

Here is a brief description of my latest trek into Katahdin country. On Thursday, February 5, 2009, our crew of six left the trailhead near Matagamon Gate about noon. The skiing was wonderfully cold and fast. We reached South Branch bunkhouse just after sunset. Friday, the skiing from South Branch to Russell Pond was sunny, brisk and unusually easy. Arriving in the remotest place in New England at the quietest time of year is always a thrill. We skied to Wassataquoik lean-to on Saturday, then down the frozen river to Inscription Rock, and back to Russell Pond over the Grand Falls Trail. Despite our pleas to Pamola, it warmed and rained that night before the temperature suddenly plummeted again.

Sunday afternoon, we skied from Russell to Wassataquoik Lake and back. It was wicked windy but spectacularly scenic. On Turner Deadwater oversized rodents had recently gnawed down a couple trees (sans permit) next

*Continued on p. 6*



Ski Flurry, Turner Deadwater, 2/08/09"

— Photo © Jym St. Pierre

## Looking Back ...

### Toll Dam Anniversary

About a mile south of Daicey Pond along the Appalachian Trail there is a short side trail leading to the remains of the old Sourdnehunk Toll Dam built 130 years ago in 1879. Happy Anniversary! It was built by the newly formed Sourdnehunk Dam and Improvement Company and played an important part in bringing logs down the Nesowadnehunk Stream valley where they joined other floating timber heading for the great Penobscot Boom at Pea Cove near Old Town. All the materials, including two loads of dynamite, had to be brought up the river to the site by batteau - an intensive human effort. When the dam opened in 1880, the charge was 63 cents for every 1,000 feet of logs passing under it, payable within ten days of arrival at Pea Cove. The dam operated for many years, and the Appalachian Trail actually crossed it when the trail was first cut in the early 1930s. All the dams along the Nesowadnehunk were, of course, vulnerable to high water blowouts from time to time, and the Toll Dam finally gave way to those strong natural forces. When you visit the site today, pause to consider the builders of the dam, those who operated it, and those who guided those long logs down the treacherous waters of the great cascades below.

– John Neff, Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*, can be contacted at [jhneff@myfairpoint.net](mailto:jhneff@myfairpoint.net)

## Call for PHOTOS

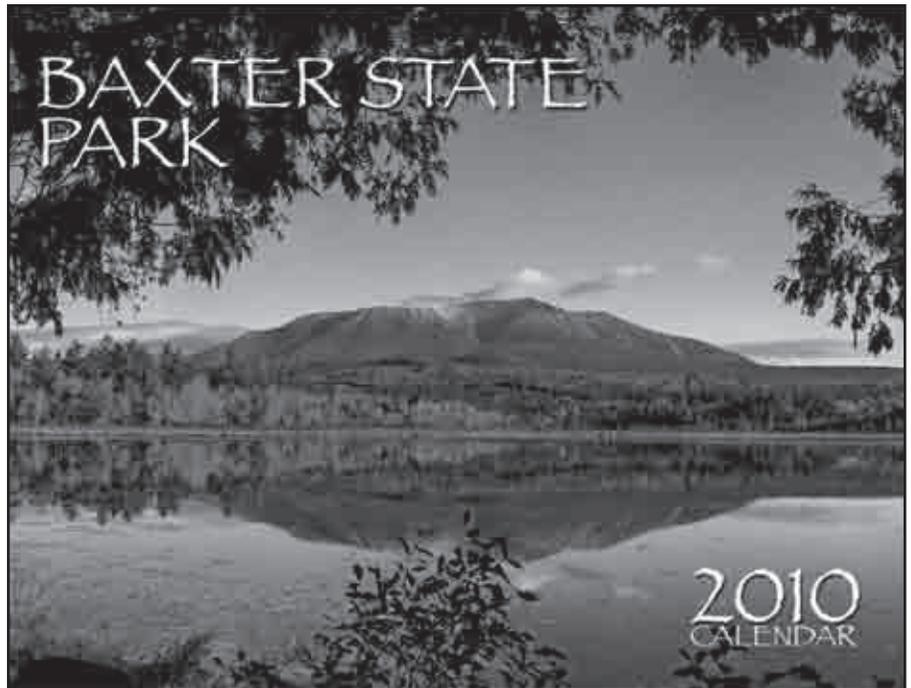
We invite you to submit photos for the 2011 BSP calendar. (Yes, that is 2011! The 2010 calendar will be out shortly. See photo to the right.) Please send photos on CD's to FBSP by October 15, 2009. Label each photo with photographer's name, title of the photo, and approximate month of the year it represents. For photos of wildlife, please indicate distance from subject and size (in mm) of lens used.

## There's Room for YOU in the Campground Recent Changes to Reservations System Facilitate Access

“The rolling reservation system and phone-in reservations have created opportunities to make reservations that have never existed before. People should not assume they can't get into the Park. Simply try, and you will be pleasantly surprised.” That is the advice from Paul Labbe, chair of the BSP Reservations Committee.

Presently, there is a limited, single opening day opportunity for campers to make reservations for the upcoming year; only 20% of each campground's sites is available that day. Some stalwarts still make the annual trek to Park Headquarters each year, braving the cold winter conditions to be first in line, but their numbers are dwindling. The rolling reservation system accommodates mail-in, walk-in, and call-in reservations. Details are available on the Park website at [www.baxterstateparkauthority.com](http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com). While write-in and walk-in reservations are possible four months prior to arrival in the Park, phone-in reservations within 14 days of arrival allow for more spontaneous use. And better yet, Maine residents can reserve a parking place at certain trailheads for day use.

The recently developed computerized reservation system in Park offices has increased efficiency and eliminated many manual processes. It is the enabling foundation technology to allow for consideration of other methods of making reservations. In the future, Park users can look forward to further improvements. Near-real-time view of reservation availability via BSP website is getting closer. The Park is presently working on an electronic reservation process that would likely start with a link from the website to a reservation form. One day, your camping reservation may be a mouse-click away!



### Here are some tips we've learned from this year's effort:

- Adjust your camera to take photos at the highest resolution possible.
- Avoid photos of rare/endangered plants or photos of animals that seem to be in distress or threatened by human presence.
- As the captions are designed to be educational, a “teachable moment” is welcome. Focus on wilderness is preferred over human activity, and photos representing less visited parts of the Park are welcome. There is a limit to the number of shots of Katahdin that will appear in the calendar.

# Volunteer Ops and Walks in the Park 2009

## WALKS in the PARK with FBSP

### • May 16 – Walk in the Park at BSP Harpswell Property

Join other Friends and members of the public for a guided tour of the BSP property in Harpswell. We'll meet our guide, Barrie Brusila, at 9 AM and finish up by noon. Invite your friends and family to get to know another of Baxter's bequests to the people of Maine. See directions at bottom right.

### • July 16, 17, & 18 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park at South Branch Pond – 12 people

Members of FBSP are invited to gather in the Park for a weekend of activities. There is room for 12 in leantos at South Branch Pond, but others can make reservations at this or other sites on their own and join Friends for hikes, walks, volunteer work, and/or the Loon Count.

### • July 19 & 20 (2 nights) – Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond – 4 people

Pack in your gear for a couple of nights at Chimney Pond. It's a great point of departure for a number of day hikes, depending on interest and ability, not to mention the weather.

### • September 17, 18, & 19 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond – 8 people

Days are shorter but the weather can be fabulous. Pack in your gear for three nights at Chimney Pond. It's a great point of departure for a number of day hikes, depending on interest and ability. You'll have many options.

## TRAILS

### Friends of Baxter State Park Trail Projects:

FBSP has 4-person chainsaw teams that clear blowdowns from trails.

The sawyer on each team needs to be a certified chainsaw operator; the other three need strong backs and work gloves.

• **May 23 & 24 (tentative dates) FBSP Chainsaw Crew** - clear blowdowns on trails

• **May 30 & 31 (tentative dates) FBSP Chainsaw Crew** - clear blowdowns on trails

• **October 3 & 4 - Chainsaw Training & Certification in Windham** (tentative date) FBSP has one scholarship left for this year.

### Baxter State Park Projects:

BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro's detailed descriptions of the more technical trail projects are on the FBSP website. To learn to be a BSP Trail Steward, consider signing up for training on National Trails Day. See below.

• **June 6 (rain date June 7) – National Trails Day/ Trail Stewards Training** – Martin Ponds Trail Challenge level = moderate, hike 7 miles with daypack.

## EVENTS and VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

• **May 2 (rain or shine)- Celebrate Earth Day with Baxter State Park** – Please check with us for last minute details and directions.

• **June 23 & 24 – Leave No Trace Trainer Course**

• **July 18 – Annual Loon Count**

## FBSP BOOTHS

Volunteers are needed to staff the FBSP booths at various events.

**September 12 – 13 – Trail's End Festival in Millinocket**

**September 25, 26, & 27 – MOFGA's Common Ground Fair in Unity**

## Pitching in and Stepping Out



**Laurie Rich,**  
**FBSP Volunteer &**  
**Event Coordinator**

Spring is upon us, and we will soon be heading to Baxter State Park. With a lot to do to get the Park ready for this season, there's something for everyone who would like to participate. If you can clear brush, join one of the Chainsaw Crews. If you can push a broom, wield a paintbrush, wash a window, or carry supplies, you can help us get the campgrounds ready.

Sign up now by sending us your **FBSP Volunteer Form** downloaded from [friendsofbaxter.org](http://friendsofbaxter.org) and your **BSP Volunteer Form** available at [baxterstatepark-authority.com](http://baxterstatepark-authority.com) For more information, contact us at [friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com) or see *How to Contact Us* on p. 2 of this newsletter.

## Take a Walk with Friends on BSP's Harpswell Property Saturday, May 16th 9 AM - Noon

*Forester Barrie Brusila of Mid-Maine Forestry will lead a walk in a lesser known part of Baxter State Park on Saturday, May 16th. While snow is still melting up north, members of Friends – as well as the general public – are invited to get to know the BSP Harpswell property. The group will meet at the parking lot on the east edge of the property at 9 AM. Bring water and a snack, good footgear, and raingear if needed. We'll enjoy the walk whatever the weather!*

### Directions:

From Cooks Corner in Brunswick, go about 4½ miles south on Route 24 to a right turn on Long Reach Road. The road is located between a house and a small used car lot. It looks almost like a driveway, but it is really a road. (If you go too far, you will come to the Harpswell Islands School on your right, just beyond the turn for Long Reach Road.) Go about 1/10 mile down the Long Reach Road to the parking lot on the left.

*Continued on p.7*

## Our Readers Write.....

*Continued from p. 3*

to an oversized slide. Some critters were clearly having too much fun. During the weekend, an over-energetic visitor staying at South Branch had zipped to Russell Pond for a 19-mile roundtrip day ski. On Monday, we followed the tracks from Russell back to South Branch. After the rain and return to cold weather, the snow was crusty. Reluctantly, three of us left South Branch bunkhouse at 7:30AM on Tuesday just before sunrise and ski skated on hardpack to our car to get home in time for evening meetings. The others in our group procrastinated for another three hours, then lollygagged all the way to Augusta.

So I survived my 26th winter backpacking trip into Baxter State Park. That's more than 1200 miles, though no two have been the same. As always, the sunsets and moonrises were glorious, the food was bounteous, the company was jovial, and our diligent inspection found that Mother Nature's ongoing restoration in the wilderness of Baxter Park was proceeding just fine.

– *Jym St. Pierre, Readfield, ME*

### re: I could see his eyelashes...

... I use a film camera and am sending you prints of a bull moose we saw at Sandy Stream Pond, September 2008. There were four of us sitting on the big rock watching him in the middle of the pond eating plants on the bottom. I was sitting on the ledge and my husband was on the other side of the rock. The moose started walking to the opposite shore and then made a right turn towards us. ... As he was walking towards us, we could see that he was pushing the water in front of him and he left a small wake behind him. ... I have a small zoom lens on my camera and I kept moving it out to get him in the lens. At one point in the camera lens, I could see his eyelashes.

– *Waynette Shafer, Pottstown, PA*



“Katahdin Marsh,” painting by Marsha Donahue – Photo © Marsha Donahue

### re: Paintings of Katahdin area

The North Light Gallery in Millinocket has four exhibitions planned for 2009. The first, *Spring Awakening*, runs from April 1st – June 30th. Information about subsequent exhibitions is available by calling the gallery at 207-723-4414 or on the website [www.artnorthlight.com](http://www.artnorthlight.com).

– *Marsha Donahue, Millinocket, ME*

### re: BSP Calendar 2009

This is to thank you for the copy of the new 2009 BSP Calendar that you sent to me... I would encourage using aerial photos of different parts of the Park, if available. I am in Massachusetts, just north of Boston, so it is quite a hike to Friends' events, particularly this time of year. Your mailing also reminds me it is time to send in a donation/dues.

– *Jim Julien, Swampscott, MA*



“Sandy Stream Pond Moose,” September 2008 – Photo © Wynette Shafer

## Cooks' Corner

### Backpacking Recipes for the Trail

*Got a good recipe to share? Please send it in and we'll give it a try. – Editor*

#### Red Lentil Stew

I once read that there are three approaches to food when hiking – some people think nothing of relying on Power Bars most of the time, others like to eat simple one-pot meals, while still others consider that hiking appetites should be satisfied with fancier fare. This recipe probably falls into the last category, since it requires two pots and a bit of time-checking, but it is a nice meal for the end of a day when you have a bit of time at camp. The recipe is adapted from one published in a magazine that came with a *Globe and Mail* newspaper in 1998. It is vegetarian, and I believe it would even be acceptable for vegans. This recipe is for two people and could be adjusted for larger groups.

*To pack ingredients at home:*

- 3/4 cup whole wheat semolina (cous-cous) with a pinch of dried thyme, a pinch of salt and 1/4 teaspoon dried lemon peel (ziplock bag)
- 1/2 cup red lentils with 1/4 teaspoon dried lemon peel (ziplock bag)
- a small (about 4-inch) sweet potato (or slices of dried sweet potato)
- olive oil (small leak-proof bottle)
- ¼ tsp. cumin, pinches of coriander, cinnamon, cayenne pepper, and a few threads of saffron (small container)
- 10 almonds and 3 dried apricots (chopped and sliced)
- tiny onion & clove of garlic (or dried)
- pita or flatbread

*To prepare meal at camp:*

- Soak the lentils in about 1 cup of water for a couple of hours
- Peel and coarsely chop the onions and garlic
- Peel and cut the sweet potato into thin slices.
- Pour semolina into ¾ cup of boiling water, stirring once or twice before

covering it, and put it aside and let the grains swell.

- Cook the onions and garlic in the olive oil
- Spoon about half the onion mixture into the semolina
- Stir the spices into the remaining onion mix in the larger pot and add lentils into the onion-spice mix, adding about 1 1/2 cups of water if you haven't soaked them, or 1/2 cup if they are pre-soaked.
- Return the pot to the fire and add the sweet potato slices. Cook on fairly low heat for about 10 minutes (or until lentils are done.) Stir a lot to make sure that the stew doesn't scorch, adding water if it boils away before the lentils are cooked.

*To serve stew:*

- Spoon lentil mixture on top of semolina and sprinkle with sliced apricots and almonds. If you have a source of fresh mint, it really adds a wonderful taste. Pita bread or flat bread makes a good edible "spoon" for the stew.

I have no idea of exactly how long it takes to make this stew or how much fuel it requires. I do know that the combination of spices, lemon, and sweet potato along with the toppings makes rainy evenings less rainy and sunset evenings even pinker.

– Jane Macaulay, Quebec City, PQ

*For the complete version of Jane's helpful instructions and delightful advice on*

*preparation of this red lentil stew, go the FBSP website. You won't regret the effort. And maybe the rangers know where to find fresh mint at Russell Pond. – Editor*

#### Harpwell Walk *Continued from p. 5*

##### Background notes on the property:

Austin Cary was one of Maine's first forest researchers and a Maine Forest Commissioner, and this was his own woodlot of approximately 222 acres. The property was purchased in 1973-74 using money from one of Percival Baxter's trust funds, following the provisions of the trust agreement in his will. The letter outlining the purchase stated the following: "...Additionally, that the area be held for management of game species, particularly waterfowl for reasons of the marshland habitat, and for a model or demonstration forest..." Since it is impractical distance-wise for Baxter State Park staff to manage this property, the Park contracted in 1998 with Mid-Maine Forestry, a FSC green-certified consulting company, to manage the property.

On May 16th, we will see the results of many years of forest management, including recent and older harvests, invasive plant control, and more. We will see the extensive saltwater marshes and talk about the values of this large protected and undeveloped forest in a very built-up part of coastal Maine. Please join us if you can.

– *Barrie Brusila,*

*Mid-Maine Forestry, Warren, ME*



Starting with soup at Russell Pond

– *Photo © Bill Bentley*

# Russell Pond Campground Turns 60 This Year

Turn the clock back to 1950, when you are making your first visit to the newly-established Russell Pond Campground in Baxter State Park. After a lengthy drive north (I-95 isn't built yet), you pack your rucksack for the long hike and set out. The trail winds through miles of forest still recovering from decades of logging and includes a ford of frigid Wassataquoik Stream. (Some things never change!) Finally, you enter a small clearing on the southwest shore of Russell Pond. Here, in a log camp dating back to Bill Tracy's "Wissataquoik Camps," you find the campground's first ranger, Ralph Dolley. Slender and bespectacled, Dolley is a knowledgeable lover of classical music, a gourmet cook, and an able woodsman who built the early leantos with an axe and hand tools. Your accommodations might be a tent you carried in, one of Dolley's early leantos, or space in another Tracy-era log camp that served as a bunkhouse. Once settled in, you do what Russell Pond visitors still do 60 years later – relax and enjoy an area teeming with wildlife and renowned for its beauty.



Ralph Dolley at work building a leanto at Russell Pond with axe and handtools.

– Photo courtesy of Brendan Curran



This contemporary photo of Russell Pond today illustrates Baxter's vision that "... in a few years thereafter it will completely reforest itself and will then be covered with a new growth of trees. Nature will heal all wounds." Compare this with the very same view in an historic photo shown below published earlier in the Winter '09 edition of this newsletter.

– Photos courtesy of Brendan Curran

In the early days of the campground, many of the area trails were based partially or wholly on old roads used in logging operations from the turn of the century. The logging, along with the devastating effects of the 1903 fire, left a relatively young forest with a number of open views. Making arrangements for camping was a simpler process, and there were a number of informal campsites in the surrounding area, some of which were eventually cleaned up and closed, while others were officially designated and maintained. Wassataquoik Stream presented a challenge to early loggers and continued to prove daunting to recreational visitors. Various attempts to ease the crossing included a cable and trolley system, as well as bridges, the most elaborate being an engineered structure built in 1978, which only lasted 10 years.

As public use at Russell Pond and the rest of the Park increased in the '60's, problems related to human pressures prompted thoughts of change. According to John Hakola in *Legacy of a Lifetime*, Russell Pond Campground was slated for



closure by the end of the decade. The delta formed by Greene Falls on Wassataquoik Lake was considered as the site for a new campground, although the confluence of the main and south branches of Wassataquoik Stream was eventually chosen. Six leantos were built at the site before the decision to close Russell Pond was reversed. The two Wassataquoik Stream leantos at that site remain popular today.

Over the years, the cast of rangers serving the campground has included a colorful crew. Buzz Caverly started his long tenure at Baxter Park by replacing Ralph Dolley. Tom Chase, Bob Howes, Barry MacArthur, Bernard Crabtree, and Keith Smith are all familiar names to recent Park visitors. Roger Chase, resident ranger in the mid-70's, populated the campground with whimsi-

Russell Pond.. Continued from p. 8

cal creatures he carved from cedar – Tree Squeaks, Ridge-Runners, Side-hill Gougers, and others. Roger built the infamous pack scale in the campyard, named nearby “Blister Buster Hill,” and generally set the tone for humor that still prevails. Will B. Wright was installed as weather prognosticator and honorary mayor of T4 R9 in the early ‘80’s and has held office ever since.

By the early ‘90’s, the last of Tracy’s camps had been removed, and the present configuration of the campground was in place. The only recent changes have been the replacement of several worn-out leantos in the campground and surrounding area. The forest has absorbed most of the obvious traces of human activity, giving first-time visitors the impression they are entering an undisturbed wilderness.

Today, the Russell Pond visitor obtains computerized reservations before packing an efficient load of high-tech gear into that same clearing at the southwest shore of the pond. Though the log ranger camp is long gone and much of the clearing has grown in, traces of the early days remain. Resilient lilac bushes and a wizened apple tree mark the site of the old camp, where rusted implements still occasionally surface. And for those who know where to look, freeze-dried meals can be garnished with fresh chives from the herb garden of Ralph Dolley.

– Brendan Curran,  
BSP Ranger at Russell Pond

## Call for Volunteers

### Katahdin Summit Sign to be Replaced

The time has come to replace the Katahdin Summit Sign – and the wooden frame that holds it. We are looking for 10-12 people to help carry the six sections of 4”x4” s up the mountain from Chimney Pond. The day of choice (and hopefully Pamola’s blessing) is Saturday, July 25, 2009. The timbers have been transported by sled to Chimney Pond. It is our job to carry all the pieces up the Saddle Trail to Baxter Peak and put it all together. Please contact me well in advance if you would like to join us.

Lester C. Kenway

PO Box 8057 Bangor ME 04401

tel. 207-947-2723 [trailser@myfairpoint.net](mailto:trailser@myfairpoint.net)



FBSP photographer Bill Bentley inspects the summit sign on a rainy day in September 2008.

– Photo © John Weaver

### FBSP Picks Wilderness Leaders of Tomorrow Ten High School Students to Participate

After careful review of about 50 applications, a panel of Friends of Baxter State Park Board members chose ten sophomores and juniors from across the state to participate in the first FBSP Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, scheduled for August 9-16 in the Park this year.

The students, representing both geographic and social diversity, have been notified; and all have accepted our invitation to participate in the program. They are: Audrey Cross, Brunswick; Laura Donovan, Veazie; Anna Doyle, Winthrop; Nolan Dumont, Lin-

coln; Isaac Grindle, Camden; Alexander Hadik, Woolwich; Jessica Hoch, Fal-mouth; Keegan McGowan, Phippsburg; Eric Meyer, East Wilton; and Katherine Spring, Wells.

“We were delighted by the interest and response to our Wilderness Preservation for the Next Generation project. It was very hard to choose among such excellent candidates,” said Barbara Bentley, FBSP President. “And very grateful to the Quimby Family foundation for its financial support.”

– Linda Rogers McKee,  
Project Coordinator

### BPWF Maintains Funding Level

At a meeting of the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund (BPWF) in Rockland on February 27, 2009, Commissioners Buzz Caverly, Jim Garland, and Skip Pease reviewed the Fund’s financial reports and discussed strategies for the future. They voted to keep the Fund’s annual gift to the Park at last year’s level in an effort to maintain a consistent stream of income on which the Park can rely for budgeting purposes. They are also pursuing legislation which would facilitate the Fund’s receiving gifts from individual donors. For more information on the Fund, see [baxterparkwildernessfund.org](http://baxterparkwildernessfund.org)

Friends of Baxter State Park  
P.O. Box 1442  
Bangor, ME 04402-1442

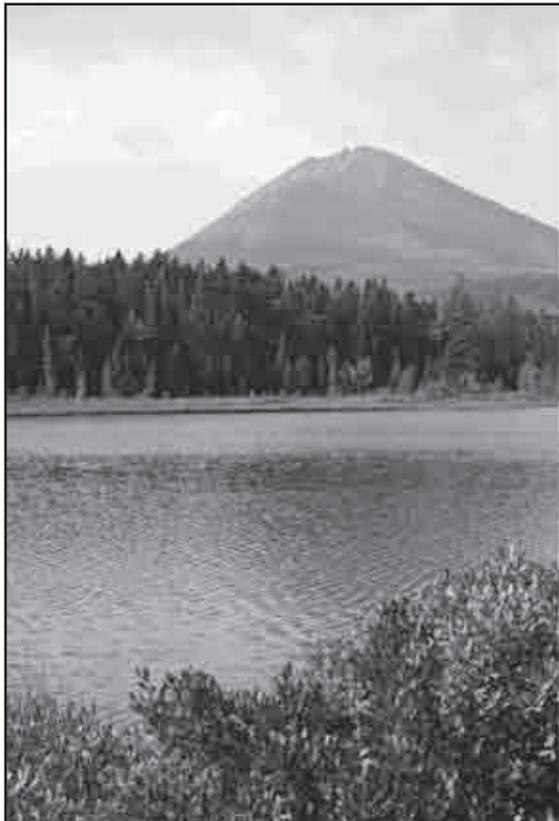
## We're looking for new Friends!

_____ \$1,000	Governor 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. Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law. Send to

**Friends of Baxter State Park,  
P.O. Box 1442, Bangor, ME 04402-1442.  
Friends Website: [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)**

Thank you!



**Join us and bring a new Friend to the  
Friends of Baxter State Park  
ANNUAL MEETING**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2009**  
**Pine Tree State Arboretum, Augusta, ME**

**8:30 AM – Gather for Coffee and Muffins**

**9:00 AM –12:15 PM Meeting**  
Guest speakers include former Attorney General Steve Rowe, talking about his tenure on the BSP Authority, and Carol Redelsheimer, BSP Resource Director, speaking about the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA). Visit with a number of authors and artists involved with the Park and view their works. Hear from FBSP Board members and meet other Friends.

**12:15 PM – Soup and Sandwich Lunch provided by Friends**  
Enjoy homemade, healthy fare prepared by Anne Huntington.

**1:15 - 3:00 PM – Guided Walk in the Pine Tree State Arboretum**  
There are six miles of trails and 300 different trees, plants, and shrubs, not to mention the many species of birds.

*Directions to The Pine Tree State Arboretum, 153 Hospital Street, Augusta, Maine, are available on the web at [pinetreestatearboretum.org](http://pinetreestatearboretum.org)*