



**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

Gifts to Baxter State Park take many forms. Thanks to the generosity of our members, Friends was recently able to give an unrestricted gift of \$20,000 to the Park. In addition, due to our strong membership numbers and through collaboration with Park staff, Friends has secured three grants to support projects in the Park this year – trail work and protection of the resource, wilderness education for Maine youth, and staff support for volunteers in the Park.

A gift of time and energy is also a valuable contribution to the Park. This season, the Park and Friends are launching the Volunteers in the Park (VIP) program. The second weekend of the month in June, July, August, and September has been identified as a VIP weekend. I invite you to check out the calendar on p. 5 and sign up now. Become a VIP! And please get your BSP Volunteer Form sent in soon so it will be on file when you get to the Park. In her column on p. 5, Laurie describes many other ways to help out. As she says, "Things are happening all over!"

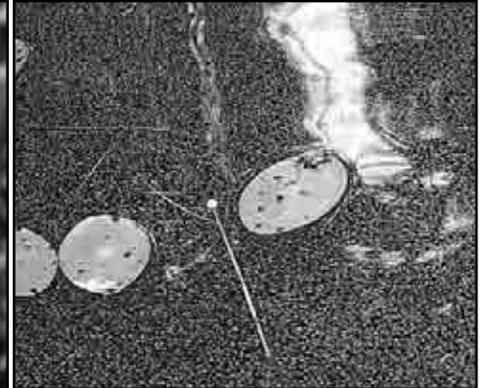
Friends is also able to seek funding for specific services and goods that the Park identifies as useful and then donate these items to the Park. Projects currently on the drawing board and in need of sponsors include: Advanced Wilderness First Aid and High Angle Search and Rescue training for Park staff; handicapped access to water at Togue Pond Beach and Daicey and Kidney Ponds; mountain models showing trailheads to Katahdin. We'd love to hear from you if one of you'd like to sponsor any of these projects.

Remembering the important role

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Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SPRING 2010 VOL. 9 NO. 2



Left: *Lythrum salicaria* – Photo © Don Cameron Above: *Gleotrichia Didymo* – Photo © Maine Volunteer Lake Monitoring Below: *Didymo* – Photo © Amy Smargula



Visiting the Park?

Avoid Unwanted Hitchhikers!

Spring is here! I don't know about you, but I'm busy planning my summer activities in the Park. And I plan to do everything possible to insure that I don't bring any unwanted hitchhikers with me, and I don't mean people. I mean potentially invasive or exotic plants, bugs, animals or whatever else might result in changes to the ecosystem of the Park that I love.

For the rest of this discussion, I'll use some general definitions as follows: An "invasive species" is a non-indigenous species that has the capacity to adversely affect the habitats that it invades. Generally, they are able to out compete the natives and are to be avoided at all costs. An "exotic or alien" species is one that has been delib-

erately or accidentally introduced into an area. It may be noxious (purple loosestrife) or not (brown trout). "Indigenous" means a native or a species naturally occurring or originating in a geographical region since prehistoric times. An indigenous species can certainly be irritating (think black flies or poison ivy), but it belongs where it is and generally fills a specific niche in the ecosystem. Baxter State Park is a refuge for indigenous plants and animals. Every effort should be made to avoid human introduction of populations that are either exotic or invasive.

My idea of summer recreation is to climb into my kayak and poke around secluded aquatic plant beds.

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President's Column *Continued from p. 1*



BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell receives Friends' gift of \$20,000 from FBSP President Barbara Bentley. – Photo © Bill Bentley

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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.

Friends of Baxter State Park played in the purchase of the Katahdin Lake Parcel in 2006, I was tickled to see that the Natural Resources Council of Maine listed "Katahdin Lake Protected" as one of the "Top Ten Environmental Victories of the Decade 2000-2009" in the Winter 2010 issue of *Maine Environment*. It says, "This magnificent addition to the public trust was made possible through a multi-year fund-raising and political campaign, involving many heroes. Governor Baxter's original intent was documented in maps and communications, and now that plan is a reality. Spectacular Katahdin Lake and its surrounding lands are now part of Baxter State Park, to be enjoyed as protected lands today and forever." Hiking trails, lean-tos, canoes, and picnic area will all be available in the Katahdin Lake and Martin Pond area this summer. Take a look for yourselves! It is all it is cracked up to be.

Many, many thanks to each of you for your support of Friends of Baxter State Park. I hope to see you in the Park this summer. And please don't forget the FBSP Annual Meeting on April 24th. (See the notice on this page.) We've got a great agenda for you.

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Friends of Baxter State Park
ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 24, 2010
9 AM - Noon

Pine Tree State Arboretum
in Augusta

8 AM Bird Walk led by
Kristen Lindquist & Jay Adams

Poetry, Paintings, & Books
on display

Business Meeting

Update from the Park by
BSP Naturalist Jean Hoekwater

Alpine then-and-Now, Increasing
Tree-cover at New England Treelines
Keynote by Kimberley S. K. Beal

12:15 PM Complimentary Lunch by
Board Member Anne Huntington

12:45 PM Forever Wild
Film by Caitlyn Coady

1:30 PM Hiking Options:
Vaughan Woods or Mt. Pisgah

Membership Matters

Membership renewal notices were sent out on March 1, 2010. THANK YOU to all who have renewed so far. We have 285 current members and invite the balance of our 567 members to renew soon.

Current Membership categories:

Governor Baxter Society	4
Katahdin Club	6
Knife Edger	9
Hamlin Peaker	37
Sponsor	63
Family	94
Individual	72

Distribution of entire membership of 567 by State (or province):

Maine	415
New England	71
NY-NJ-PA	28
All other States	49
Canada	4

Unwanted Hitchhikers

Continued from p. 1

OK, my kids say I need to “get a life!” But I don’t know any place I would rather be in July than Hay Brook Logan just as the sun is rising. For a couple of years, I’ve been working with Park staff to develop screening procedures for invasive aquatic plants and baseline data on indigenous plants in the beautiful ponds and lakes of Baxter State Park. (If you want to help, contact FBSP Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Rich.) We’ve all heard about the scary aquatic invasives. Eurasian milfoil, hydrilla (see photo of *gleotrichia* on p. 1), and the rest of the “unwanted eleven” have been in the news for years. Unfortunately, invasive aquatic plants aren’t the only problem as each year it seems that there are alerts of new threats to indigenous flora and fauna. Worse still, people are frequently responsible for unwittingly moving these threatening species from one location to another.

In the lakes and streams, potential introductions include exotic predators like the northern pike, muskellunge, and bass, as well as various baitfish and even exotic crayfish, mussels, and snails. Any of these can have an effect on native fish habitat and populations. Another serious threat to clear, fast-moving streams is didymo, aka “rock snot” (see photo on p. 1), a potentially invasive freshwater diatom that attaches itself to rocks and can form a thick felt-like mat. This mat can have a negative impact on the habitat of macro invertebrates, aka “trout food,” and can also deoxygenate the water when it decomposes. Didymo is spread from stream to stream partly on the boots and gear of fishermen and hikers as the microscopic cells can live for weeks in damp conditions. Once established, there is no known means of control. There is no known infestation of didymo in the Park at present.

In the forests, introduction of the Asian longhorn beetle and the emerald ash borer would threaten Park trees. Both of these pests are transported in firewood. Because of this serious threat, the Park will no longer allow visitors to bring firewood into the Park. In fact, we all need to be more aware of the danger of transporting firewood from infested areas because Maine relies so heavily on the forest products industry and these bugs are just as happy destroying the trees in your backyard.

On land, Park staff members watch for invasive purple loosestrife (see photo on p. 1) and other exotic alien plants. European common reed (*Phragmites*), honeysuckle, barberry, Japanese knotweed,

Japanese stilt grass, and giant hogweed are a few of the plants that could pose problems. Loosestrife, with its pretty pink flower spikes, is particularly noxious as it is very hardy and spreads rapidly. Each plant is capable of producing thousands of seeds that can remain viable for years. Unfortunately, loosestrife has very little food value and can choke out wetland areas that would otherwise provide diverse food and shelter for many Park creatures. Each year, plants are carefully removed to slow the spread of loosestrife in the Park. Most of these invasive or exotic plants are opportunistic and take root in places where soils are disturbed. In the Park, that means roadsides, trails, shorelines, and campsites are all vulnerable.

It seems that the list of threats grows every year. What can you do? It takes time and effort to learn to identify the various species that are at issue, but that isn’t always necessary. If you are a regular Park visitor, be conscious of the flora and fauna that you see on your visits. If you see something that doesn’t look right,

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Barbie Riker on the KL Trail says, “Three nights next year!” – Photo © Chris Polson

Our Readers Write...

Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps ...

Yes, our snow did melt. We got your winter. Enjoyed it but don’t miss it now that it’s gone. I don’t think I told you but my wife loved our stay at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camp. We went back for a visit in October. Spent two nights and met artists Chris Polson, nice fellow, and Chris Huntington, quite an interesting character. When we got back to the trailhead to leave, my wife simply looked at me and said “three,” meaning 3 nights this October. Can’t thank you enough (and many others) for securing this piece of Park history. Can’t make the annual meeting, will miss attending. I enjoy listening to all the stories and great speakers. Probably won’t

get to Maine until October when we visit BSP and Acadia Park to camp with friends.

– Bob Riker, Pottsdam, PA

Warm Winter Weekend...

What a grand weekend! Thank you all for sharing so much of your knowledge about the area, the Park history, and its geography. You were very patient with all of my questions and made a newcomer feel really welcome. On one of the walks, I told Barbara that when I take people to the Baxter area, they often say “you are nuts about this place”, and that it seemed nice to be with others who were so enthusiastic about the surroundings. Barbara responded that the Warm Winter Weekend gave me a chance to be with the real addicts. Thank you to everyone who did the organization. I will definitely come again. I have been studying the field guide this morning and am wondering if the birds that we saw on the Penobscot could be Canvasbacks?

– Shirley Ellis, Old Town, ME

Mikki and I were thrilled to be north of Portland and outside hiking in the glow of Katahdin. Friday’s hike made me wonder if any artist had ever painted or drawn the mountain from the east ends of either of the Logan ponds. The hike Saturday may have brought me for the first time to the West Branch site (from the mouth of Aboljacarmejus-Abol Falls) and view of Katahdin in both the Virgil Williams painting at Colby and the young James Stodder photo taken under the watchful eye of Frederic Church.

The dinner and conversation at River Drivers’ that included Marsha Donahue’s “5 symbols test” was a perfect complement to all the fresh air, snowshoeing miles we logged from the BSP entrance gate. I also, in curiosity, followed others upstairs to find a terrific mural of the river drivers and the action of the wild river by Chuck Harris, the current curator of the Boom House.

Thanks to the combined visual memories of Bill Bentley, Howard Whitcomb, and Rob Tice, I was able to ascertain the locations of many of the bxw photos taken during my Grandfather’s 1924 trip to Katahdin. Also, I was excited to have Howard date, with some accuracy, the hand-

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BOOK REVIEW by John Neff

Becoming Teddy Roosevelt

by Andrew Vietze

In 1878, when rugged Island Falls Maine Guide, Bill Sewall, first met a rather sickly Harvard college student, Theodore Roosevelt, it would have been hard to predict the profound significance of that meeting to subsequent American history. The story of Roosevelt's three visits to the north Maine woods, including an ascent of Katahdin (in moccasins, no less), has, until now, been known only in simplest outline. Now, the full and inspiring story is being told for the first time by Andrew Vietze in his new book *Becoming Teddy Roosevelt*, Downeast Books, 2010.

Journalist, author, and seasonal Baxter State Park ranger, Vietze brings to the task his great love of the Katahdin area as well as his solid writing skills. He tells the inspiring story of the life-long friendship of these two stalwart men and their profound influence on each other's lives. It would seem that the real hero of the narrative is not Roosevelt, as one might expect, but Sewall, who brought to the surface some of the qualities that made T.R. one of our great presidents. The story is further enhanced greatly by the author's reliance on original sources: journals, diaries, letters, speeches, etc. The story includes vivid word pictures of the locations of the action: Sewall's Island Falls community and the surrounding north woods frontier, the New York of T.R.'s growing up years, the stark Dakota Badlands, the White House

in our nation's capital.

Members of the Friends of Baxter State Park will be especially touched by the account of T.R.'s climb to the summit of Katahdin with Sewall and others in 1879 and will no doubt speculate how his experience there might have influenced his later unwavering commitment to the American conservation movement. I believe that experience made a huge difference in Roosevelt's later life and work.

I liked Vietze's writing style that includes many colorful and finely honed phrases that bring life and clarity to the subject. For instance, he tells us that the



Annual winter expedition to the Park takes friends Jym St. Pierre, Howard Lake, Jim Connors, Jim Lluoma, Bob Steneck, and Eric Spalding on familiar route across Upper South Branch Pond headed for Russell Pond.
— Photo © Jym St. Pierre

“view from Katahdin is intoxicating.” It is, indeed, but few of us have used that exact word, have we? We know exactly what he means. No doubt T.R. “drank it in” as well.

I highly recommend the book. You will be heartened and moved by the stirring tale it tells. The subtitle of the book, by the way, is *How a Maine Guide Inspired America's 26th President*. That is the story Vietze tells, and he has done it well. As the author himself notes at the end of his Introduction, “We could all use a guide like Bill Sewall.” So true.

— John Neff,

Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*

Unwanted Hitchhikers

Continued from p. 4

tell someone. Park Rangers are alert for signs of exotics and invasives and will either be able to identify what you see or they will know whom to call. Early identification is the best and sometimes the only means of control.

Most important of all, before you leave home for your visit to Baxter State Park, plan carefully not only for your own safety but for the Park's safety. Check vehicles and gear for mud, seed, and plant fragments, and remove them. Don't forget to clean thoroughly tarps and ground cloths that have been used elsewhere, even your own backyard. Practice Carry in Carry out of ALL wastes. If you are a fisherman, boater, or long distance hiker, and especially if you have been in an area where invasives or exotics are known to exist – CSD! In so far as possible, Clean Sterilize and Dry any gear you plan to use in the Park. Leave your firewood at home. Finally, never ever introduce any fish or bait into Park waters that did not come from that water.

I hope you have a great summer in the Park. I intend to.



Plenty to see but no rafters in sight at the Cribworks on the West Branch of the Penobscot on a sunny day in March during the Warm Winter Weekend. Fishermen were out in force. L to R, front: Mikki Little, Barbara Bentley, Annie Merrill, Howard Whitcomb; back: Rosemary Hastings, Shirley Ellis, Ellen Pariser, and David Little.
— Photo © Bill Bentley

Pitchin' In and Steppin' Out

Laurie Rich,
FBSP Volunteer Coordinator



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Things are happening all over! FBSP received a grant from L.L. Bean to fund a Volunteer Coordinator position for Baxter State Park. My husband Doug and I have taken on this new task and will set-up the volunteer events and dates, coordinate with available volunteers, arrange for housing if available and needed, etc. Below is a list of the opportunities we have planned, and I hope you will find something in there that fits with your schedule and liking. Be sure to send in your Baxter State Park Volunteer Application. This can be found on the BSP website – baxterstateparkauthority.com and must be on file at the Park (for insurance reasons) for you to participate.

First up is the Park's recognition of Earth Day (we just had to wait for the snow to melt). Litter Day is scheduled for May 8th. We each take a 1/2 mile section of the road to the Park and pick up the litter that accumulated over the last year. One year the team I was on built an entire outfit of clothes from overcoat to shoes; of course, none of it matched. After we finish our assigned sections, we met back at the Togue Pond Ranger's Quarters to share lunch and swap (brag) stories of our finds. This is a great opportunity to introduce a person to volunteering for the Park.

Next is the opening of the campgrounds in anticipation of this new season of visitors. Each campground gets a good going over from picking up branches, raking, window washing, curtains going up, and a multitude of other jobs. There is literally something for everyone. And, this is another chance to bring along a new volunteer.

For the strong of heart and body, there are four FBSP chainsaw crews scheduled. These are 4-person crews that take an assigned trail and cut up any downed trees and remove the debris from the trail. The crews hike anywhere from 4-8 miles, depending on the number of blowdowns during the day. Team members carry equipment from loppers to the chainsaw. We have the certified sawyers, and now we need the crew. So if you are up for a challenge and like to hike a trail making it better for others, the chainsaw crew is for you.

Volunteer Opportunities 2010

May 8th – Litter Patrol: work in teams to pick up litter and then join others for lunch at Togue Pond Ranger's cabin.

Week of May 10th – Campground Openings: Abol, Katahdin Stream, Daicey Pond, and Kidney Pond.

May 22-23 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #1: One sawyer is joined by at least three other volunteers to clear blow downs from a trail chosen by BSP Trail Supervisor.

May 29-30 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #2: One sawyer is joined by at least three other volunteers to clear blow downs from a trail chosen by BSP Trail Supervisor.

May 30-31 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #3: One sawyer is joined by at least three other volunteers to clear blow downs from a trail chosen by tBSP Trail supervisor.

June 5th – BSP Trail Team Project #1: National Trails Day (Contact BSP for this opportunity to train as a BSP Trail Steward.)

June 12-13 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #4: One sawyer is joined by at least three other volunteers to clear blow downs from a trail chosen by BSP Trail supervisor.

June 12-13 – VIP (Volunteers in the Park): This project will be a painting party, easy carpentry, and general clean-up. We plan to gather at Daicey Pond and give the campground a nice face-lift.

June 13-17 – BSP Trail Team Project #2: Traveler Mt. Loop, Pogy Notch and South Branch Mt. Trails (Contact BSP to join Park crews on trail restoration work.)

July 10-11 – VIP (Volunteers in the Park): This is a project to be announced after coordination with the BSP staff and involves painting, mowing, re-glazing windows, or general maintenance.

July 11-15 – BSP Trail Team Project #3: Alpine Trail Reconstruction – Saddle Trail (Contact BSP.)

July 17 – Loon Count: Be part of the Audubon Loon Count at an assigned location in the Park.

July 19-23 – BSP Trail Team Project #3: Alpine Trail Reconstruction – Saddle Trail (Contact BSP.)

July 25-20 – BSP Trail Team Project #3: Alpine Trail Reconstruction – Saddle Trail (Contact BSP.)

August 2-6 – BSP Trail Team Project #3: Alpine Trail Reconstruction – Saddle Trail (Contact BSP.)

August 14-15 – VIP (Volunteers in the Park) This is a project to be announced after coordination with the BSP staff. Generally this will be a job involving painting, mowing, or general maintenance.

August 14-28 – Volunteers for Peace (VFP) will again be working in the Park. There may be a need to help with transportation and possibly overnight housing.

September 1-8 – BSP Trail Team Project #4: Hunt Trail = Erosion Control (Labor Day Weekend) (Contact BSP.)

September 11-12 – VIP (Volunteers in the Park): This is a project to be announced after coordination with the BSP staff. Generally this will be a job involving painting, mowing, or general maintenance.

Starting October 16th – Campground Closings: We spend one, two, three or more days (your choice) closing the camps for the winter and preparing selected sites for winter camping.

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Steppin' out and Pitchin' In

Continued from p. 5

The first major trail project is National Trail Day, training for anyone interested in being a Trail Steward. Bring that new person or family member with you and help spruce up the South Turner Trail. Also on the schedule is the first of the Park's trail project for the Traveler Mountain Loop, Pogy Notch, and South Branch Mountain trails. This project has a limited number of slots available, and the details are on the Park's website.

Last but not least for this edition is the first of the VIP – Volunteers in the Park – events. We will give Daicey Pond Campground a facelift. There is something for everyone – painting, easy carpentry, window glazing, ground work, and more. And (if you haven't gotten the idea yet) this is another great chance to introduce someone to volunteering.

Let's make it a challenge for ourselves – bring along a new volunteer. Remember that each volunteer must have an approved Volunteer Application on file with Baxter State Park.

And now for a bit of something new – introducing the “Baxter State Park Volunteer Badge.” Will you be a VIP and proudly show it?



Our Readers Write...

Continued from p. 3

colored photo of Katahdin by G. Carleton Bicknell to 1907-13 approx based on the typed inscription on the backing that read “Mt Katahdin: A game preserve and prospects of it being a National Park”.

Part of the reason I enjoy being included in the WWW is that I can ask questions that have been percolating

around the research I have been doing and ask the experts- especially for ID on photos, past and present.

– David Little, Portland, ME

Bugs at Russell Pond?

I couldn't find an e-mail address for the Park Authority so I hope you may be able to answer my question. My son and I are planning to camp at Russell Pond during the first week of August. We'd like to stay in a lean-to to avoid carrying a tent but due to the fact that it is a low elevation pond, I was wondering if biting bugs are a problem there in early August. Certainly don't want to be swatting mosquitoes all night! Do you know how the bug situation is there at that time?

– Peter Fasano, Jefferson, ME

I don't want to deliver discouraging news. Bugs are no problem during the day, and it is nice to have a lean-to in case of rain. But we suspend out mosquito nets from the nails/pegs inside the lean-to. One net goes over the heads of four folks. They do have tent sites; but in my mind, the lean-to sites are preferable. I just wanted to clarify for you that tents could not be pitched on lean-to sites. In the past, some folks have thought they could if they needed bug protection. Can't hang hammocks outside the lean-to either. Enjoy your trip.

– Editor

Sky High in Maine ...

Before three weeks ago, I had never heard of Mt. Katahdin let alone Henry David Thoreau. But on July 28, I found myself sitting in a car driving to Maine's Baxter State Park not knowing exactly what I was getting myself into. My family had decided to climb Mt. Katahdin, one of the most challenging mountains in the East, that morning. Mt. Katahdin sits at the center of Baxter State Park's 209,501 acres and looms 5,276 feet above the whole park.

We were about twenty miles away when I got my first glimpse of Mt. Katahdin. I couldn't believe that I would be climbing that monstrosity. Three quarters of the way up, the mountain disappeared into clouds. But my dad, who had climbed Mt. Katahdin when he was younger, was excited to try it again, so I figured that it couldn't be that bad. ...

– Gabe Ryan, York, PA

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Ballad of Katahdin

Katahdin the magnificent
Did beckon young Thoreau
With Baxter Peak awaiting him
Up Abol he did go.

To see what young Thoreau did see
I, too, up Abol climbed
Into the woods my hike did start
Although it was ill-timed

I blinked as sun shone through the trees
Onto this wooded trail
And listened to the chirping birds
As I began my scale.

Then things began to quiet down
As I approached the Slide
Apart from weeds and scraggly trees
No life did here abide

Upon the Slide I found myself
With every step a threat
My feet did slip on every stone
And I began to sweat

I reached the first of two high peaks
Yet one more mile to go
To reach the highest peak of all
That did elude Thoreau

To see that summit, to see that peak
Yet one long mile to go
To reach that top, so hard and bleak
That did elude Thoreau

More rocks and stones lay in my path,
As if to say watch out!
Don't let yourself fall to the ground
And give your head a clout

I finally reached the very top
I finally got to rest
I finally looked 'round at the world
North, South, and East, and West

And saw a land vast and pristine
A sea of green in flow
A view created for a few
It did elude Thoreau

Yes, I did climb up Abol Trail
And Baxter Peak did show
A view created for a few
It did elude Thoreau

– Gabe Ryan, York, PA



“Rising Mist”, this view from Daicey Pond is the first painting Evelyn Dunphy did on site as BSP Visiting Artist in 2009 with five people standing around and chatting with her about painting.
 – Photo © Evelyn Dunphy

duck. He/she circled the pond, quacking at full volume the entire time. I really questioned my eyes. One duck could not make that much noise. I finally realized that it was the contrast of the quacking against the utter stillness of everything else that amplified it so.

The back of my journal was more personal. It’s difficult to separate the personal from the artist. It all ends up being about painting! But I did write candidly about how I felt from one day to the next. There was a fair amount of angst because I wasn’t “producing” as much as I thought I might. Then I’d remind myself that I was also there to hike, and swim, and have the luxury of sitting on the shore to just watch the clouds rolling by. Most of all, just to be there, and take home the memories of that unforgettable place.

I am so grateful for those two weeks. I met wonderful people, gained a whole new appreciation for the views of Katahdin from around Daicey Pond, and so thoroughly enjoyed the hours that I spent by myself on the shore and in the camp. When the two weeks was up, I felt I was just getting into the swing of things, and I would gladly have signed on for another two weeks. I am happy for the next Visiting Artist. Whoever it may be is in for a wonderful experience.

– Evelyn Dunphy, W. Bath, ME

There has been an enthusiastic response to Evelyn’s painting workshops at Frederic Church’s camp on Millinocket Lake. A few spaces remain. Or if painting in a wilderness retreat in Nova Scotia is to your liking, email Evelyn at artist@evelyndunphy.com for information.
 – Editor

Our Readers Write...
Continued from p. 6

For the complete account of Gabe’s trip to climb Katahdin with his mother, father and sister, and his reflections on Thoreau, go to the FBSP website at www.friendsofbaxter.org
 – Editor

BSP Visiting Artist Remembers ...

It’s almost a year since I received a call telling me that I had been selected as the first Visiting Artist in Baxter State Park. I could barely believe that it was

true then, and it still seems quite unreal to me even now. I kept a daily journal while I was at Daicey Pond. The front section was an “artist’s” journal – descriptions of how the light changed in the morning while I sat in the rocking chair on the porch of the library with my tea and book, the silence, the colors, and how to make a “really good painting.”

Thinking of the silence, I’m reminded of the morning when I was surprised to hear such a racket coming from the sky over the dock. It was one

We’re looking for PHOTOS for 2012 BSP CALENDAR!

The Baxter State Park calendar includes photos of all locations in the Park at twelve (12) months of the year and features only a few photos of Katahdin. Park staff and members of Friends of Baxter State Park donate all photos in the calendar. We welcome you to join and submit your photos for consideration.

Instructions for submitting photos:

Each photographer may submit up to ten (10) photos. Bear in mind that most of the calendar photos are in landscape orientation, not portrait. Each photo file must be labeled with photographer’s last name, location of photo, and approximate date (month) of photo. Include lens and distance from subject for wildlife photos. Label the CD or DVD with contact information for the photographer (mail, email, & phone).

Format:

Best option for Photo File is a digital negative (DNG). Camera Raw Files are just as acceptable (NEF, CRW, CR2, ORF, etc.). If your camera does not support RAW format, then format your photograph as a 12.5” x 9.5” image at 300 Pixels/inch. Save as a TIFF (.tif) File. JPEG Files are not acceptable for quality reproduction.

Questions:

Contact Bill Bentley for help with technical details for your photographs at 207-763-3014 or bentleys@tidewater.net

Send CD or DVD to Friends of Baxter State Park or to Baxter State Park by October 15, 2010. Please do not send photos via email.

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or

Baxter State Park
 64 Balsam Drive
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Update from the Park

by BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell

Spring appears poised for an early arrival in at least some parts of Baxter State Park. Ponds in the area are likely to open up several weeks early, but there is still plenty of snow at Chimney Pond. We have had a very busy winter at the Park.

We are pleased to announce the selections for two important positions in the Park. In February, Craig Kennedy began work as the Park Carpenter, replacing Albert Rickards, who left Park service to pursue his own business. Craig has over 20 years experience and has made a huge, positive impression on all who have worked with him over the past month. His enthusiasm, work ethic, and experience make him a great asset to the Park staff.

After a thorough and extensive hiring process, we have hired Deirdre Brace for the Forester 1 position. After the retirement of Mac Browning in 2009, we decided that the Forester 1 position, bringing a second licensed forester onto the staff, would best meet the needs of the fully operational Scientific Forest Management Area administered by Resource Manager Carol Redelsheimer. Deirdre has a B.S. in Forest Science from Penn State and is leaving a position as County Forester in Parsonsburg, MD. Deirdre plans to start her work with the Park on May 3.

In my experience, few policy changes were as rapidly embraced by Park users as the changes we implemented this season in our Winter Use

At top of page: Forester Deirdre Brace (L) and Carpenter Craig Kennedy (R) have recently joined the BSP Staff.

– Photos courtesy of BSP

Policies. The changes in reservation, registration, equipment and group-size expectations resulted in a significant increase in the amount of winter use and in the size of groups (many groups of 2 and 3). This was augmented by a relatively warm winter with an unusual number of good weather days – we have never seen the Park so busy in the winter. This policy change was a positive experience from all perspectives, and Chief Ranger Ben Woodard and the Ranger staff deserve recognition for their work to implement this change in a clear, positive, and orderly fashion.

The Park's Administrative Team has worked hard together and with the year-round staff and BSP Advisory Committee to craft a substantial revision to the Park's Rules and Regulations. Besides additions to the text to clarify or add necessary language, the format of the rules has been changed. We believe that the new rules will be significantly clearer and easier to understand and reference. We are currently hoping to complete the last phase of the Rules revision which involves the decriminalization of the Park's rules. Currently, violations of the Park rules are assessed as Class E criminal violations. Most such rules in similar agencies have been decriminalized and are assessed as civil violations with fines. This change requires legislative action, and I expect that action to be completed or in the final stages when this newsletter reaches you. We will then enter our rule changes into the Administrative Procedures Act process with hopes to issue the revised rules sometime this summer.

This winter, Steve Clark issued his 5th edition of *Katahdin, A Guide to Baxter State Park*. Steve wrote his guide after spending the summer of 1978 walking and cataloguing the Park trails. *The Clark Guide*, as we call it, has been the only complete guide to the Park's trails that most of us have ever known (the AMC Guides also provided somewhat more cursory information on the most prominent Park trails). After some discussion this winter, the Authority completed the purchase of the copyright to the *Clark Guide* and all existing inventory at the Baxter State Park Authority meeting on March 8th. This purchase will allow the Park to continue the *Clark Guide* into the future. Some evolutions of the package and presentation of the *Guide* will be likely topics of discussion next winter as the Park works through the sale of the existing inventory of the 5th Edition. Many thanks to Steve for his unflagging support of the Park and the trail guide – as much a labor of love as a business venture.

In late February, the Park contracted with Paul Nichols of Cadillac Web Development in Hermon, Maine, to assist us in rebuilding the Park website. This work has been proceeding steadily and the results will be a remarkable improvement over our current site. The impressive volume of very informative content produced by our Reservation and Information and Education (I&E) offices will now find its way onto our website. We are very excited for the expected launch of the new site around May 1st.

We are also making final preparations for the launch of our Day Use Parking Reservation (DUPR) system on April 1st.

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Need reservations?

Go to the Baxter State Park website at baxterstateparkauthority.com Under Camping and Reservations, click on CAMPSITE AVAILABILITY to plan your trip. Then call or write Park HQ's.

Check on up-to-date trail conditions by calling the newly established Hiker Info Line at 207-723-4636.

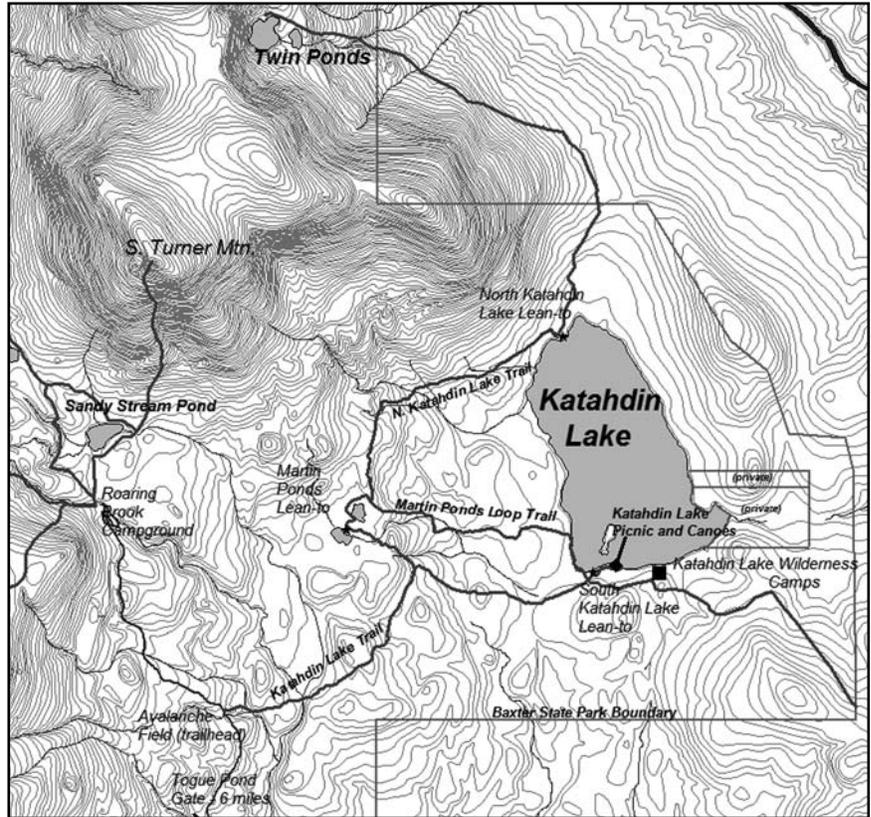
Day use parking reservations are now available on Park website or at Park HQ by calling 207-723-3877 (DUPR).

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This system provides a complete reservation and information system for making a reservation at any of the three Katahdin trailhead parking lots (Roaring Brook, Abol, and Katahdin Stream campgrounds). This system, like the changes to Winter Use Policies, has the potential to change significantly the way the Park's most busy summer trailheads are accessed. The objective of the system is primarily to remove the uncertainty currently involved in getting a spot at a Katahdin trailhead on a sunny summer day while maintaining the resource protection provided by limited trailhead parking. Reservations can be made online through the Park's website or by phone. Complete information on the DUPR system and reservations can be found on the Park's website at: <http://www.baxterstateparkauthority.com/hiking/dulimits.html> or "What's New".

Park Naturalist Jean Hoekwater and Interpretive Specialist Marcia Williamson are making significant progress toward the completion the Park's first Park Newspaper. This informative and attractive newspaper will provide committed and potential Park visitors with a wealth of interesting and attractively packaged information on how to, and how not to, use and enjoy the Park. We hope to be freely distributing the newspaper by early summer.

Our summer work looks busy. Thanks to fantastic work by Denise Clavette, Barbara Bentley, and other FBSP personnel as well as BSP Trails Supervisor Paul Sannicandro, the Park will be receiving the significant benefits of a Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant for work on various trails in the Park. The RTP grant funding, in combination with the Park's consistent commitment to trail maintenance, promises to make this one of the most productive trail work summers in Park history. We will talk more about this



This map shows the new trails and campsites in the Katahdin Lake area at Martin Pond, south and north shores of Katahdin Lake, and the trail to Twin Ponds. Lots of new territory to explore this summer.
– Map courtesy of BSP

grant in later issues as funding and plans finalize.

As we look forward to the rapidly approaching summer, we are planning to complete several projects on the Katahdin Lake parcel with the construction of two new 6-person lean-tos on the south and north shores of Katahdin Lake and the completion of roughly 3.8 miles of new trail extending from the Martin Ponds Loop Trail to Twin Ponds. This work will add to the Martin Ponds Loop Trail and the Martin Ponds lean-to, the public rental canoe

and picnic shelter, and the trail maintenance and improvement completed on the Katahdin Lake Trail from Avalanche Field to the Park boundary. This area will now provide an interesting two to three night backpacking opportunity suitable for families, with options for a canoe leg in lieu of hiking or a stay at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps for part of the trip itinerary. After construction this year, we will wait for use to develop on the parcel before considering any further activity.

That's a brief update from Katahdin – the black flies will be here before we know it. Can't wait! See you on the trail.

Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program repeats in 2011

The ten participants have been selected for this year's expanded wilderness program, and the itinerary for the 8-night trip in the Park is all set, including three nights at Russell Pond. Many specialists will accompany them as they learn about the Park's unique characteristics. They'll hike N. Turner with a journalist, spend a day on trail with a Penobscot Chief, climb Katahdin with a geologist, and paint at Katahdin Lake with an artist. Funded by FBSP and a grant from the Quimby Family Foundation, this very successful program is offered at no direct cost to Maine high school sophomores and juniors. Plans for 2012 are underway.



Alex Hadik and Audrey Cross shared their experiences (and photos) of the 2009 MYWLP at Teens To Trails T3 in Windham on April 3rd.
– Photo © Barbara Bentley

Friends of Baxter State Park
P.O. Box 609
Union, ME 04862-0609

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 609, Union, ME 04862-0609
Friends Website: www.friendsofbaxter.org**

Thank you!

FBSP Outings in 2010

South Branch Pond - July 8, 9, 10 (3 nights) - 3 lean-tos

Pack your gear and provisions and join other Friends at SBP. Visit the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) on Friday with BSP Resource Director Carol Redelsheimer. Hike, fish, canoe on your own or with group. Or volunteer for the VIP project.

Chimney Pond - Sept. 3, 4, 5 (3 nights) - 3 lean-tos

Pack your gear and provisions and join other Friends at CP for a chance to enjoy fall on the mountain. Summer or winter conditions could prevail. Exciting time to be in the Park.

See *How to Contact Us* on p. 2 of newsletter to reserve a place for you, family, and friends.

Fair Weather for 3rd Annual Warm Winter Weekend

Members of Friends once again gathered at New England Outdoor Center's Twin Pine Camps on the shores of Millinocket Lake for the Warm Winter Weekend. One sunny day, we hiked/snowshoed to Logan Ponds for lunch with a fabulous view; on another, we trekked along the West Branch of the Penobscot accompanied by flocks of crossbills and equal numbers of ducks. Joined by North Light Gallery's Marsha Donahue and Wayne Curlew one night for dinner and by Ranger Rob Tice and Sarah Hunt another, we dined well and in good company. Matt Polstein lead a tour of Hammond Ridge to check out the view and maple syuping operation. (See p. 3 for more accounts of WWW.)

– Photo of E. Logan Pond © Bill Bentley

