

**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

Forever Wild

**Newsletter of the Friends of Baxter State Park
Spring 2002 Vol.1 No. 2**

Update

by John Neff, President

Over recent months there have been two particularly salient events in the life of our new organization which bode well for the future.

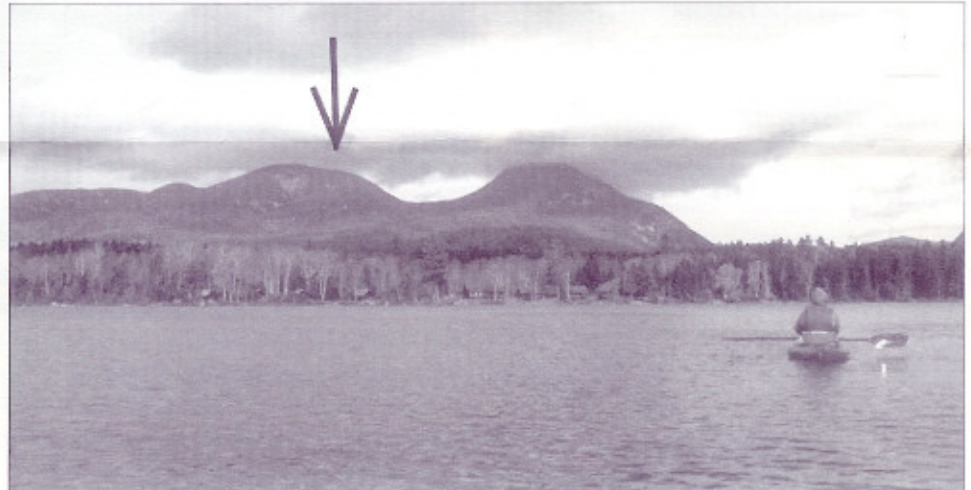
The first is the shift we have made in our Board of Directors meeting agendas from being centered on organizational and administrative matters to giving more significant time to the issues that our beloved Baxter State Park is facing now or might be in the future. We spend an hour or more each month devoted to such issues, calling on others who might help us understand them.

We have looked at the Park's North Peaks Trail, the proposal for a North Woods National Park and, at our Annual Meeting, we will offer a panel to discuss questions about land surrounding the Park. A session is also scheduled to hear from the Northern Forest Alliance.

We will soon be addressing some of the issues that were identified recently at a Park Authority/Advisory Committee Workshop. The intent is to prepare ourselves well for times when those issues become important to the preservation of the wilderness values of the park.

We are most excited that nine

(Continued on page 2)



A Strange Name Gets Stranger. Long a fine view to the north from Kidney Pond (the camps can be faintly seen on the far shore), the modest mountain known as Squaw's Bosom (under arrow) has a new and anatomically challenging name—Moose Bosom. The change follows a decision by the state legislature to replace place names containing "Squaw," which is offensive to Native Americans, to the more politically correct "Moose." The Piscataquis County Office tells us that Big Squaw Mountain near Moosehead Lake, which is privately owned, will retain its old name. It's an interesting world we live in.

Changes in and Around Park to be Topic of Panel at Our Annual Meeting April 27

by Holly Dominic

Friends will hear from an impressive panel on April 27 about the possible benefits and adverse effects to the park of further land preservation or conservation in its vicinity.

Former Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Commissioner Bucky Owen will moderate the four-person panel discussion being held from 10:15 a.m. to noon. This follows the annual meeting, which begins at 9 a.m., at the Best Western Waterville Inn. Members of Friends of Baxter and the public are invited.

Park Director Buzz Caverly will

lead off with an explanation of the Park's policy on accepting additional lands or gifts of money for acquisition, and his assessment of how expansion could improve or impair administration of the Park and its mission to protect resources and recreation and wilderness values.

Jack McPhee, Maine guide and owner of Macanamac Camps, and a former Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife warden, will present his thoughts on the potential effects on the Park's natural resources. He will consider such aspects as watershed and ecosystem functions,

(Continued on page 2)



Board of Directors

John W. Neff, President
John Howard, Vice President
Joanne McPhee, Secretary
Don Hudson, Treasurer

William Bentley
Holly Dominic
Clint Dyer
David R. Getchell, Sr.
Eric Hendrickson
Howard Lake
Charles Jacobi
Pat Murtagh
Jon Tierney

Honorary Directors

Eric Baxter
Alexandra Conover
Donn Fendler
Leon Gorman
Jon Lund
Elizabeth (Libby) Mitchell
Chellie Pingree
Kay Rand
Neil Rolde

Membership Manager
Barbara Bentley

Newsletter Editor
David R. Getchell, Sr.

The Friends of Baxter State Park is an independent citizen's 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**



An unusual sight on the heights of Katahdin was this group of Mennonites photographed by Amy Winston on South Peak a couple of years ago. Despite their ankle-length dresses, the women seemed right at home on the rough going. While such attire might be a "drag" on some of the steeper trails, others such as the Hunt, Saddle, or Hamlin Peak trails lend themselves to easier passage. Have you an interesting picture taken in the Park?

Annual Meeting

(Continued from page 1)
wildlife and habitat integrity, and high-value resource conservation.

Matt Polstein, a river guide and outfitter and a member of the Millinocket Town Council, will comment on relations with

the state of the park. Recognizing that the administration has little influence on what happens outside of Park boundaries, he asked the authority and advisors to consider creating more wilderness within the Park. He posed that this could be accomplished by a creative mix of selective road closures and trail expansions that would create more back country and disperse hikers more effectively.

To Get There

The Annual Meeting will be held in the Capitol Room of the Best Western Waterville Inn from 9 a.m. to noon.

If you are driving north on I-95 take Exit 34, turn right onto Main Street and take the first right. Driving south on I-95 take Exit 34, turn left on Main Street and take the first right after the overpass.

surrounding communities, landowners, and businesses. A fourth panelist, yet to be announced, will explore recreation and wilderness values.

Director Caverly will present his annual report to Friends' membership with a decidedly intriguing twist. He will explain his thought-provoking, long-term vision for the Park, an idea that he recently showcased during a joint Authority and Advisory Committee retreat on

Update

(Continued from page 1)

prominent Maine persons have responded to our invitation to become Honorary Directors of Friends. They are: Eric Baxter, Alexandra Conover, Donn Fendler, Leon Gorman, Jon Lund, Elizabeth (Libby) Mitchell, Chellie Pingree, Kay Rand, and Neil Rolde. All believe in the wilderness values that have made Baxter State Park so unusual and are willing to be associated with our effort to preserve and protect these values. We are deeply grateful for their support.

Visit our Website at
www.friendsofbaxter.org.

Volunteers Needed for Work in Park on National Trails Day

What are Friends for? We're for volunteering, among other things. Here's your first chance to give back to Baxter State Park through your Friends group. We've arranged for up to 25 members to spend National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1, cleaning waterbars and cutting brush along the Chimney Pond, Russell Pond, and Sandy Stream Pond trails.

Come and meet the park trail crew and fellow members on what we hope will be the first of many hot, sweaty, buggy, and rewarding days of volunteering in the park. We have several leantos available (no charge!) for those who want to stay in the park on Friday and Saturday nights.

Contact Charlie Jacobi at 288-5782 for further details and to sign up.

A Walk in the Park Slated for August 10

Would you like to take a walk in the Park with some Friends of Baxter State Park?

A group of Friends will spend Friday night at Avalanche Field in the Park to get an early start the next day for a day hike. Lean-tos at Abol Field will also be available for those who want to spend Saturday night after the hike. Weather and interest will determine the route.

Possibilities include an assault on Baxter Peak via Chimney Pond for a full day's worth or a more leisurely hike up South Turner for lunch, with a panoramic view of Mt. Katahdin.

We have reservations for ten persons. If you want to join the group, give coordinators Barb and Bill Bentley a call at 207-763-3014 or e-mail at <bentleys@tidewater.net>.

Dates are Friday night, August 9, at Avalanche Field, hike on Saturday, August 10, and that night at Abol. Spaces go to those who speak up first! We look forward to hearing from you.

Endowment Fund Will Honor Whit McEvoy

by Don Hudson

Mary (Whit) McEvoy was one of the first to lend her support to the Friends nearly two years ago during our Founding Member drive. She had enjoyed the park throughout her lifetime, so it was that her family asked at the time of her death last fall that, in lieu of flowers, gifts should be made to the Friends of Baxter State Park. Whit's daughter, Barbara Bentley, serves as the Membership Manager of the Friends, and son-in-law Bill Bentley is a member of the Board – love of the Park runs deep in this family!

We are pleased to announce that the board voted recently to create the Whit McEvoy Fund as the Friends'

first endowment. Over \$2,500 has been set aside for that purpose. During the coming months the board will review options for the long-term maintenance and caring of the endowment.

Endowment funds are intended to earn income and a level of stability for an organization. It is the responsibility of the board to guarantee careful investment of the principal so that the wishes of donors can be realized...forever.

Long-term thinking and planning was the hallmark of Percival Baxter. We are proud to be able to celebrate the life of Whit McEvoy with the inaugural fund of our fledgling endowment.

60 Years—and Still Counting



May 23, 1942. A grinning John Howard leads Louie Parkin and Frank Gilley up the late spring corn snow of The Chimney while a fourth member of their party, Al Reynolds, takes the picture. Note the thick rope, the wood-shafted ice axe, and hob-nailed boots, all a far cry from today's high-tech climbing gear. Howard, still grinning and quipping—but perhaps not quite so spry—was among the organizers of the Friends of Baxter State Park and has served as vice president for the past year.

Membership Nears 300 As Drive Continues

In January, Friends of Baxter State Park launched a membership campaign. Volunteers put together a mailing, cheerfully stuffing envelopes for hours. Thank you, everyone, for your help.

Response has been very encouraging, both in terms of numbers and in enthusiastic comments from new members. In the two months of the campaign, 147 new members have joined the ranks of Friends. This brings the total membership to 285.

Of these memberships, 79 are at the Individual level, 90 at Family, 65 at Sponsor, 35 at Hamlin Peaker, 3 at Knife Edger, 3 at Katahdin Club, and 11 at Governor Baxter Society level. Members come from Maine and elsewhere in the United States and Canada and from as far away as California.

In addition to those responding to the mailing, some new members have been referred to us by existing members; others have been gift memberships. Great birthday and holiday presents! We welcome all new members and hope that you will feel free to request membership

information for your friends. Please contact Barbara Bentley, Membership Manager, by mail at the FoBSP address, by phone at 207-763-3014, or by e-mail <bentleys@tidewater.net> and she'll send off information right away.

Annual renewal notices will appear in your mailboxes as they come due. If you have corrections or changes in your name or address, please let Barbara know.

Tips on using Ebase are also welcome as she wrestles with this new membership software designed for nonprofit organizations. And thank you all for your support!

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

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 and State

Zip Code

_____ \$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