



**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SUMMER 2006 VOL. 5 NO. 3

Katahdin Lake Campaign Halfway to Fundraising Goal – Extension Secured

The Trust for Public Land (TPL), together with its partners in the Katahdin Lake Project - the Maine Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Baxter State Park Authority (BPA) - announced on July 1st that \$7.1 million raised in gifts and pledges has put the fundraising campaign officially past the halfway mark.

If the partners can raise the \$14 million purchase price by the deadline of December 15, 2006, approximately 4,000 acres around Katahdin Lake will be added to Baxter State Park and 2,000 acres north of the Lake will be acquired by the Maine DOC as permanent conservation land.

The project received a 90% endorsement by both houses of the Maine state legislature in April, and the legislature directed \$2.5 million from the sale of public lots to the Katahdin Lake purchase. Sam Hodder of TPL acknowledged the patience and the commitment of the Gardner family in their granting a 5-month extension of the option agreement to purchase the property.

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President's Column

by Charlie Jacobi

It's Time to Climb

"Getting up the mountain is optional, getting down is not."

Back in January when the Campaign for Katahdin Lake was launched at the State House in Augusta, I quoted this old mountain climber's adage in my remarks. The Campaign itself is another kind of mountain measured in dollars, not feet. It's 14 million dollars high, and getting up it is not optional; it's mandatory.

As you will see elsewhere in this issue, the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is rolling out its grassroots campaign, and we look forward to an active role in it. You'll also read about how you can participate in the campaign. Now is the time to think about how much you can give to it as well. If you do give, please mention the Friends of Baxter in the memo line of your check or elsewhere if you give by other means. We've asked TPL to track our membership giving.

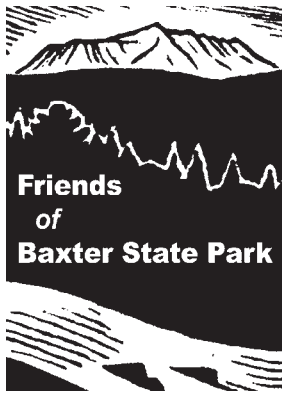
I visited Katahdin Lake for the first time on a beautiful day this May with Buzz Caverly as the guide for

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Resident polar bear swimming in Katahdin Lake on May 30th — a sure way to escape the flies.

— Photo by Al Howlett



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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.

Katahdin Lake – Continued from p. 1

Friends has endorsed the project and will help lead the campaign. “This is a remarkable opportunity for people around the state to participate in a critical conservation effort,” said Charlie Jacobi, President of Friends. “Our Board of Directors is thrilled to participate in this historic project and looks forward to helping conserve the last piece of Maine’s most spectacular landscape.”

Patrick McGowan, Maine DOC Commissioner, observed that since 1903 these lands have been among the state’s highest conservation priorities and yet have never before been available. “This is the most important conservation project in Maine since Governor Baxter purchased the lands around Mt. Katahdin, and with this campaign, every citizen of Maine will have a chance to take part in making it happen.”

During his lifetime, Governor Baxter worked single-handedly to purchase and donate to the people of Maine 28 separate parcels totaling more than 200,000 acres that comprise Baxter State Park but was unable to acquire the Katahdin Lake tract. The property includes hiking trails and opportunities for paddling and fishing. – *From press release by TPL, DOC, and BPA.*

New on the Website!

www.friendsofbaxter.org

Check out the latest news on the Katahdin Lake Campaign and instructions on how to donate online.

Katahdin Lake Campaign

Donate online at:

www.katahdinlakecampaign.org

or contact:

The Trust for Public Land
377 Fore Street
Portland, ME 04101
(207) 772-7424

Please make checks payable to *TPL – Katahdin Lake Campaign* and indicate that you are a member of Friends of Baxter State Park. Thank you for your support!

President’s Column – Continued from p. 1

our group. It was stunning. Go there and see for yourself if you can. (*See pg. 8.*) The beach where Frederic Church painted is about a half a mile from the wilderness camps, and you will know why he chose that spot when you look across the lake. I sat on a boulder there with a perfect little naturally carved rounded seat at the perfect height and said to myself, if I were the artist, I’d have sat right here to paint that picture. Maybe he did.

Like many of you, I love to climb Katahdin. If we compare its 5,267 foot elevation to this other mountain of dollars, the cost of climbing the second one is \$222 per vertical inch or \$2,658 per vertical foot of the real Katahdin. Give an inch. Give a foot. Please give what you can. This may be the only chance we have to make this land part of Baxter State Park as Governor Baxter intended eighty-five years ago. It’s time to climb.

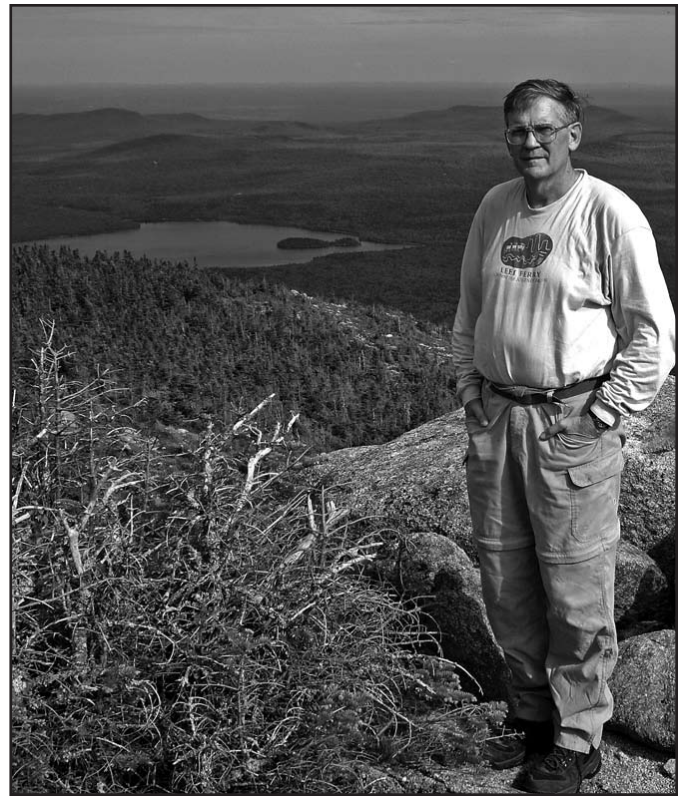
Friends Sends Volunteers to Park

Stewart Guay, Deputy Chief Ranger at Baxter State Park, reports that several hundred blow-downs were cut from numerous trails by volunteers on June 3, 2006, National Trails Day. Friends of Baxter sent a hardy group of five – Tom and Lisa Neely, John Mirick, and Barbara and Bill Bentley, who worked from dawn to dusk on the Russell Pond Trail.

Steady rain, torrential at times, kept the blackflies and mosquitoes at bay. Some of us chose to wade the Wassataquoik River on the way out and on the way back and felt no wetter after than before. Delicately adorned with drops of water, lovely white ladyslippers lined the trail along the way.

Park staff welcomed volunteers at the end of the day with a most appreciated cookout. Thank you everyone! We'll be back next year. Maybe you'd like to join us? We had a day of fishing and hiking in the sun on Friday before the serious work began on Saturday. The view of Katahdin Lake from the top of South Turner was worth the half bottle of deet it took to get there.

Contact Barbara Bentley to sign up for next year at 207-763-3014 or barbarabentley@tidewater.net



John Mirick on the summit of South Turner Mt. with Katahdin Lake in the background on June 2, 2006.

— Photo by Barbara Bentley

Volunteer Day at Katahdin Lake is Saturday, September 16, 2006. Are you a carpenter? Do you have a strong back? Interested in helping out for a day at Katahdin Lake Camps? Holly and Bryce Hamilton, present caretakers for owner Charles FitzGerald, could put a few willing workers to good use. If interested, please contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net or 207-763-3014 for more information.

Looking Back — *Continued from p. 5*

We put it up to the first peak as there was a clear route from there to the Pinnacle for anyone who wanted to go on. Put a good cairn at the upper terminus of the trail. This was real fun for all of us and a real thrill the next day to watch through the glasses and see climbers following our trail.”

And then in 1957, after a trip to Russell Pond, the family stayed at the old tent site on Upper South Branch Pond, where the picnic site now is. Another journal entry shows:

“On Monday [August 12] we went up Center Ridge to work on the trail. Jean & kids went down about 2PM as it was very cold. I finished the trail to Peak of Pinnacle Ridge. That is far enough.”



Editor's note: The Traveler Circuit Trail is now open and well marked. See the Friends' website's "Hikes Beyond Katahdin" for more information. And please remember that current practice in the Park does NOT allow individuals to blaze new trails in the Park. There are volunteer opportunities, however, for those interested in working on trail maintenance.

Update from Park

by Director Jensen Bissell



BSP Director Jensen Bissell at the Friends' Annual Meeting in Oakland on April 29, 2006.

— Photo by Bill Bentley

Readers write.....

Send letters to Friends of Baxter
Box 1442, Bangor, ME 04402 or
barbarabentley@tidewater.net

My husband and I are planning on hiking the 100-mile wilderness August 7-16 ending up in Baxter State Park. We will need a ride back to Monson, where we will leave our car. Can you send us contact info of people willing to do this?

— Karen Anderson

...Whenever I get a chance to be in places like Baxter, my thanks go out to those who, like me, have a love for the woods and the wisdom to be cautious about changing what makes wilderness. Baxter himself had those loves and visions, and those who continue to live in the Millinocket area have that and more. My hat is off to them and their friends who are keepers of a flame which, once out, is out forever....

— Ted Allen

Time is in full sprint right now. Even though all of summer lies before us, we'll be raking leaves before we know it. The Baxter State Park Authority held its spring meeting on May 19 at Kidney Pond. The Authority approved the Park's annual budget running on a fiscal year of 7/1/06 to 6/30/07 and approved the sale of two lots formerly under lease to Fred Lewis on the shore of Upper Togue Pond. The option for sale of the lots was determined as a condition of the original sale of the Togue Pond lands to BSP from Georgia Pacific in 1993.

The annual budget approved by the Authority is a little over three million dollars and is almost unchanged from last year's budget. We continue to consider ways to address shrinking revenues resulting from declining use rates. So far this year, revenues are up 8.5% over last year so there is reason to believe that use this year will be higher than, or at least the same as, last year.

Also at this meeting, the Authority approved the appointment of Peter Pray as Chair and Brian Noyes as Vice-Chair of the Baxter Park Advisory. Duffy Akerley, Rachel Therrien, Doug Callnan and former Chair Rod Hanscom have term-limited off the Advisory Committee after many years of service to the Park. Thanks very much to these folks as well as to Brian, Peter, and other Advisory members. Your advice and counsel help make the Park a better place. The Authority also appointed Dave Clement to the Scientific Forest Management Area Advisory Committee.

We are proud to announce that the new Bear Brook Group Area is open and in steady use. This site replaces Avalanche Field, and we will be working on rehabilitating the Field this summer and fall.

Continued on p. 5



The new Bear Brook Group Area is open and in steady use. —Photo by BSP.

All trails and the entire Park Tote Road are open to public use. Chris Drew and many Park staff and volunteers worked hard to clear the road of brush, trees and debris left by last fall's early wet snow and wind. Park staff has also worked hard on relocating the lean-tos and developing the new group areas at Nesowadnehunk Field in preparation for the scheduled opening of the campground on June 30.

I am pleased to announce that the Baxter State Park Authority has appointed Carol Redelsheimer to the position of Baxter State Park Resource Manager. Carol has extensive background in forestry and forest management, is familiar with the SFMA and will be a strong addition to our staff. Carol will assume her duties on August 14th. My thanks to the Administrative Staff and the Authority for their efforts in the search and hiring process.

Finally, we have received from Maine State Representative Herb Adams a copy of the Joint Resolution Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Establishment of Baxter State Park. Herb worked to spearhead the formation and passage of this joint resolution as an official statement of the value of Baxter State Park to the citizens of Maine in 2006 – 75 years from the March 3, 1931 presentation of Percival Baxter's first gift of 5,670 acres on Mount Katahdin to the People of Maine. Many thanks to Representative Adams for his work in this regard. We are currently awaiting the embossed and certified copy and will be posting this at Headquarters when it arrives.



Carol Redelsheimer is the new BSP Resource Manager.
– Photo by BSP.

**Looking Back to 1956:
Blazing the Center Ridge Trail
on the Traveler**

Long time Park enthusiast and member of Friends, Julian H. Orr of Bangor, now in his 90's, has been transcribing his journals and remembering the many trips he took with his family to Baxter State Park. He came across a 1956 entry about work he did on the Traveler that year. The family climbed the Center Ridge of the Traveler on August 11th; Julian bushwhacked the circuit route on the 15th, scouting a possible trail. His journal entry for the next day follows:

“On Thursday the 16th we blazed a trail up Center Ridge -- the whole family -- we started from Pogy Notch Trail just before it goes down to the upper pond and where the ledges could be seen to the left. Worked up the open ledges and rockslides as much as possible cutting through the brush and woods between. I got stung by wasps twice. Nancy and Jody [daughter and son Julian] slapped on the paint while I cut the trail and Jean [wife] carried the paint bucket and supervised them.



Julian H. Orr on the Center Ridge trail of the Traveler in 2002 by a cairn he and his family built in 1956 to mark the newly blazed trail.

– Photo by Orr Family

Continued on p. 3

A Walk in a Soon-to-be-part-of-the-Park – Katahdin Lake

by Sally Daggett

Thanks to the efforts of Retired Director of BSP, Buzz Caverly, Jr., and BSP staff, many of us have been able to visit Katahdin Lake for the first time this spring. During the legislative committee hearings this winter, Buzz graciously offered to lead a hike into Katahdin Lake. Several legislators, TPL representatives, members of the press, and FBSP Board members jumped at the chance. Interest has been such that Buzz has led four hikes into Katahdin Lake to date and three more are on the calendar. (See p. 8 for dates.)

On the May 30th hike, our fearless leader met us at Park Headquarters, where we got into vehicles and headed east along Route 157 and then turned north onto Huber property where we traveled 32 miles over logging roads to a point just south of Katahdin Lake. Our journey on foot began by following an old all-terrain vehicle trail to Painter's Beach on the southeast shore of Katahdin Lake, where Fredric Church and Marsden Hartley painted Mt. Katahdin – a spectacular spot that is part of a 150 acre in-holding owned by the Huber family.

An overgrown hiking trail then led us west to the 31-acre Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps parcel that will become a part of BSP. The lakeshore provides beautiful views of Mt. Katahdin, the Basin and South Turner Mountain, but there appears to be much work to be done to repair and maintain the camp facilities and to clean up the junked items around the camp. At various stops along the way, Buzz regaled us with tales of the “old days,” including Helon Taylor's exploits in pursuit of poachers in BSP.

Following a picnic by the lakeshore and a swim by our own resident polar bear and Newsletter Editor, Barbara Bentley, our journey on foot continued westward on a hiking trail that leads directly into the current BSP. The trail comes out at the old Avalanche Field group camping area, where our 5-mile hike came to an end. Greeting us with a smile and a mode of transportation back to Park Headquarters was Jan Caverly, all ears about the bugs, the trail conditions and, of course, the views.

What a wonderful way to spend a day. What a great addition to BSP.



L to R in rear are Bill Bentley, Rob Tice, John Piotti, Anne Huntington, Mary Cooke, Sally Daggett, Buzz Caverly, Charlie Jacobi; in front is Howard Whitcomb on the May 15th hike.

—Photo by Bill Bentley

Friends Welcome Lester Kenway to Board of Directors

Lester Kenway is Program Coordinator for the Maine Conservation Corps, developing outdoor conservation projects and hiring, training and putting teams of mostly young people to work on those projects. Lester has supervised teams on trail work for the past 33 years. He was the Trails Supervisor in Baxter State Park for 22 years. Lester has served the Appalachian Trail as a volunteer in many ways over the past 35 years including coordinating the Maine Appalachian Trail Club's trail crew for 18 years. Lester operates his own business, Trail Services, designing and building trails and selling trail equipment. He travels around the country training national non-profit and federal agency personnel in trail work. He has also worked for the Land Use Regulation Commission in enforcement out of their Greenville office. Lester is a founding member of Friends of Baxter State Park. Lester lives in Bangor with his wife Elsa.



Lester Kenway is new member of Board of Directors of Friends.

—Photo by Kenway.

Day Use Parking Reservations at BSP available to Maine Residents!
Call 207-723-5140 to reserve.
There is no charge for this option.

Now available in bookstores and on the web:

*Katahdin: An Historic Journey
Legends, Explorations, and
Preservation of
Maine's Highest Peak*

by John W. Neff

Foreword by Buzz Caverly

"Neff has assembled a collection of scattered contributions into an unparalleled whole. You will know every trail and landmark in the area, and the history and folklore behind them, when you finish reading."

— Neil Rolde, author of *The Baxters of Maine*

Looking for paintings and photos of Mt. Katahdin and Baxter State Park?

Stop in at the **North Light Gallery** at the corner of Penobscot and Central Streets in downtown Millinocket. You'll find Friends' note cards and postcards for sale, too.

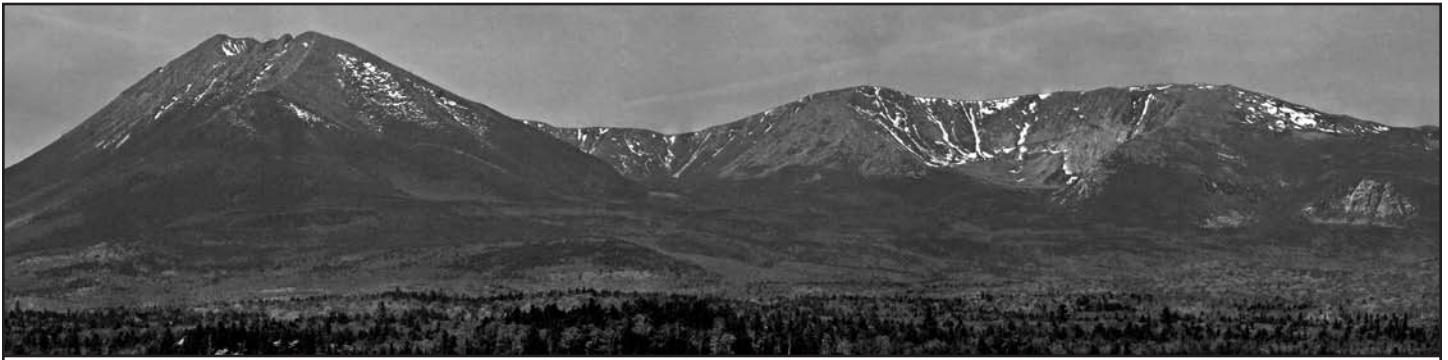
The current show is "Michael Vermette: Land and Sea," which includes paintings of the Katahdin Lake area. Maine artist herself, gallery owner Marsha Donahue features artists who represent the northern interior of Maine, rather than the coast, with a particular focus on the Katahdin region. For the latest on shows, hours, and contact information, go to www.artnorthlight.com or 207-723-4414 or 800-970-4ART.

HELP needed at the Friends' booth at **Common Ground Fair, September 22, 23, and 24.** Please sign up for a couple of hours and then enjoy the fair yourself! A wonderful way to spread the word and garner support for the Katahdin Lake Campaign. Contact Friends' Administrative Manager Mary Cooke at info@friendsofbaxter.org or call 207-763-4535.



L to R: Richard L. Scribner, Associate Professor of Recreation Management at the University of Maine at Machais and recent recipient of Honorary Doctorate of Science degree, Irvin C. Caverly, Jr. on May 13, 2006. Congratulations, Buzz, on your well-deserved honor!

—Photo by BSP.Staff



View from KL

Hike to Katahdin Lake with Buzz Caverly!

— *Photo by Bill Bentley*

Interested in seeing Katahdin Lake for yourself? The group meets at 9 am at Park Headquarters, drives to starting point together, hikes into the lake, visits Katahdin Lake Camps, and returns to Park Headquarters by 3 pm or so. Hikes to KL are tentatively scheduled for the following dates:

Friday, July 21st

Monday, August 14th

Friday, September 15th

Contact Barbara Bentley at barbarabentley@tidewater.net or 207-763-3014 to sign up.

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

Visit our website!

www.friendsofbaxter.org

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.** Thank you!

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

e-mail