



**Friends  
of  
Baxter State Park**

# Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK  
FALL 2007 VOL. 6 NO. 4



Katahdin from South Turner Brook Outlet

— Photo by Bill Bentley

## President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

I must be a bit claustrophobic. Given even a few days in the city, I yearn for the mountains and find myself going to the tops of tall buildings for a view. It's the view that attracts many to the Park, I suspect; and this explains the popularity of campgrounds at Kidney and Daicey Ponds, Katahdin Lake, and South Branch. You've got splendid views and open spaces that beckon. At the gate, the most frequently asked question after "where's the moose?" is "where's the view?" Board member Al Howlett's recent survey of views on the drive through the Park on the tote road indicates that, unless he's prepared to take a hike, the day visitor might be well advised to turn around and head back to Upper Togue Pond behind the Visitors' Center for a view of the mountain.

In mid September, I spent a couple of nights in the bunkhouse at Chimney Pond and ate supper on the bench outside with what is surely one of the world's most fabulous views— more than 180° of Katahdin's Great Basin. After the evening light had played itself out on the headwall, I went inside to join what sounded like an army of mice for the night. (Hope they don't move into the nifty little bunkhouse now un-

*Continued on p. 2*

## Philanthropist Follows Governor Baxter's Model with Baxter Park Wilderness Trust

On August, 23, 2007, Governor John Baldacci announced the formation of the Baxter Park Wilderness Trust (BPWT), the income from which will provide welcome financial support for the operation of Baxter State Park. With the front page newspaper article the next day was a photo of Frank Trautmann, a member of Friends and a long time devotee of the Park who has camped and volunteered there for almost two decades, and creator of this new trust.

Those who know Frank can attest to the fact that this publicity ran counter to his wishes to keep the focus on Governor Baxter's original gift to the people of Maine and the many who support it. In a letter to Friends earlier this year when talking about the success of the Katahdin Lake Campaign (KLC), Trautmann said, "What has been missed in all of this, I'm afraid, is the incredible amount of effort that so many have put into this. ... A lot of credit and thanks should go to all who made this happen."

For years, Frank and Margery Trautmann talked of giving money to the Park they loved so well. Rules and regulations governing how the Park, and the State, can accept gifts made this a complicated procedure. When time was running out in the KLC, things finally came together. A fortuitous connection between former Park Director Buzz Caverly and Mike Boucher, dating from 30 years ago, resurfaced on Islesboro, ME, where Mike was friends with the Trautmanns and worked with John McCaw. At the eleventh hour, Trautmann

*Continued on p. 8*



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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.

## À nos visiteurs francophones — Devenez un ami de Baxter State Park

Les Amis de Baxter State Park seraient heureux de vous accueillir comme membre.

- participez à nos excursions et recevez notre bulletin d'informations;
- soyez informé sur les questions concernant le parc et impliqué dans la conservation de ses aspects uniques.

Les frais d'adhésion peuvent être payés par chèque personnel en argent US ou en argent canadien, en ajoutant un montant correspondant au taux de change en vigueur, (C'est à dire, rien de tout en ce moment.)

*Merci a Marcel y a Jane pour la version francaise. — Editrice.*



L to R: Tom Neely, Lisa Neely, Barb Bentley, Ted All, and Al Howlett work on the FIA trail in the SFMA. — *Photo by Bill Bentley*

The **Walk in the Park '07** included a tour of the SFMA guided by Park Resource Director Carroll Redelsheimer. Some of the group got to operate big equipment in the harvesting operation; others settled for rakes on the Forestry in Action Trail. Camping at South Branch Pond, the group was joined by Sally Daggett and Charlie Jacobi. We hiked the Center Ridge of the Traveler, canoed in South Branch Pond, and ate very well! Where to next year?

**Correction:** It is Gail Curtis, not Carter, on p. 4 of Summer 2007 newsletter. Sorry for error. — *Editor*

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

der construction nestled in the woods on the path to the Outlet. They'll miss the view.) In the morning, after breakfast on Hamlin Peak, I headed out to spend the rest of the day "on top of the world." I enjoyed the recently restored trail on the tableland where trail crews mined rock, transported it above ground, and filled in the infamous trench. A number of AT hikers were celebrating the completion of their long journeys just as I passed the summit on my way to South Peak. I returned to Chimney via the Dudley, my mental health much improved.

During my time in the Park this year, I've found myself viewing things from a different perspective than in the past. Much more aware of what it takes to operate BSP, I've also come to appreciate the range of expectations its users have. Time spent at the gate, volunteering on the Park's economic survey, has shown me another side of Park use. Yet, everywhere I've found people delighted to share their experiences in the Park, eager to learn more about it, and concerned about its future. Some yearn for the mountaintops as I do, but others fix on a closer view, taking time to study the carrion beetles on the trail at South Branch or identify the 223 species of vascular plants listed in the Katahdin Lake Parcel Draft Plan.

The Park inspires love of life and gratitude to those who created the Park and support it. Philanthropy is, in fact, the love of life, manifested recently in Frank and Margery Trautmann's most generous gift of the Baxter Park Wilderness Trust. Friends of Baxter will work with the Park and others to support the No Child Left Inside Initiative to insure that young people have access to the beneficial experiences of wilderness. Board members will spend a daylong retreat on November 11th forging a work plan for 2008, the details of which will be in our January newsletter. There'll be something for everyone. Keep an eye out for new ways to support the Park that inspires so many folks. There is a philanthropist in each of us. And thank you for sending your thoughts and suggestions.

## Katahdin Lake Parcel Draft Plan Released for Comment

The Katahdin Lake Parcel Draft Plan is available for public comment until November 15th. The plan can be found on the Park's website under "What's new?" and "Katahdin Lake" or at the BSP Headquarters. Please send comments to:

**Park Director Jensen Bissell**  
**64 Balsam Drive,**  
**Millinocket, ME 04462**  
**207-723-9500**  
**Jensen.Bissell@maine.gov**

The plan presents a concise picture of the Katahdin Lake (KL) parcel, including some historical background and descriptions of its human and natural landscape. The parcel's 4,119 acre total includes the 649 acres of lake. Within the parcel are 200 acres of private inholding; an additional 31 acres are leased for 25 years to the owner of a sporting camp.

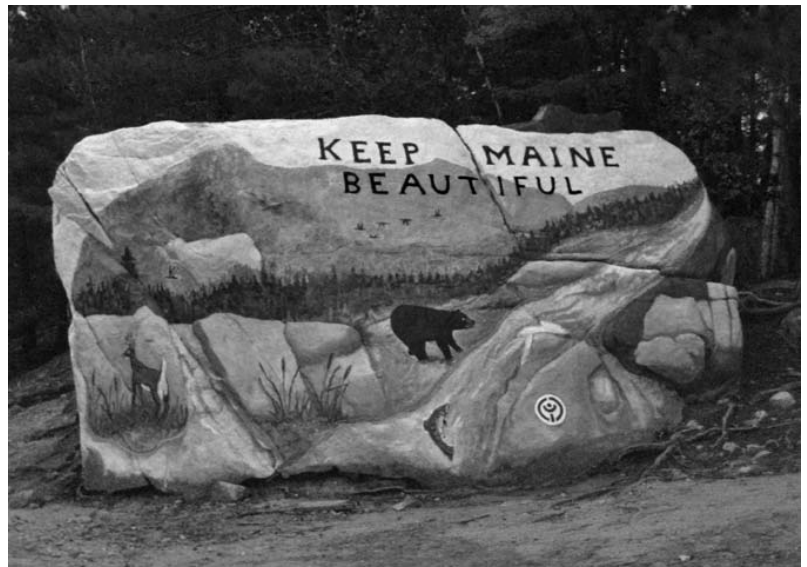
Since acquiring the KL parcel in December of 2006, the Park staff has put in considerable effort exploring the landscape as well as the issues involved in management of the area. The over 10 miles of new boundaries are painted and posted; the access trail and parking at Avalanche Field, improved. A lease has been signed with Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps, and a short new section of trail and a canoe rental have been installed on the south shore of KL. Former road access to the area from the southeast has been gated and posted; and forestry restoration efforts, begun.

The management plan is aligned with Governor Baxter's intent that "foot trails (be) built and attractive campsites laid out in the valleys, by the brooks, and on the shores of the water..." (*January 2, 1945 - communication to Gov. Hildreth and the legislature*) The plan proposes:

- a) to extend current Park uses - hiking, camping, canoeing, fishing, and opportunities for back country experience and solitude - to the KL area;
- b) to provide public access to the area;
- c) to maintain the current pristine character of the lake.

Everyone is encouraged to read the details, envision the future, and provide comment. Don't miss this opportunity to put in your own two cents!

—Editor



Pockwocamus Rock, recently rejuvenated by Friends' members Nancy and Abbott Meader, was originally painted in 1979 by a young woman in the YCC program to cover vulgar and offensive graffiti on the site.

— Photo by Park Staff

## Update from the Park by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

The current Baxter State Park Authority has been actively engaged with the Park. The Authority members have spent significant time in the Park, both on official visits and unofficial visits as hikers and campers. After a tour of the Park with fellow Authority member Alec Giffen, Authority Chair Steve Rowe commended the Park staff for the progress made with the SFMA Forestry Mile project saying this effort will help achieve Governor Baxter's vision that the SFMA be a "showplace for those interested in forestry." He further stated that it is the Authority's belief that Governor Baxter would be extremely pleased were he to visit the Park today.

The next scheduled meeting of the Authority will be on Friday, October 19th, at Kidney Pond. One of the agenda items will be recognition of Frank and Margery Trautmann's exceptional generosity in forming and funding the Baxter Park Wilderness Trust. (See article on p. 1.) This act by Frank Trautmann is truly a remarkable gift to Baxter State Park and Park staff, the Authority and I'm sure the Friends of Baxter will search for ways to adequately thank Mr. Trautmann in the days ahead.

Along with an active Authority, we also have an active and interested Baxter State Park Advisory Committee. On September 21, most of the Advisory members toured the southern end (Nesowadnehunk Field to Togue Pond) with me to review current work projects and developing issues. The interest and commitment of these volunteers is very helpful and very much appreciated. The BSP Advisory will review the Katahdin Lake Parcel plan at its next meeting.

In your travels in and out of the Togue Pond entrance, you may have noticed that Pockwocamus Rock looks a little fresher. Many thanks to Abbot and Nancy Meader for helping out (for the third time) on this project. Although the rock is not in the Park, it has

*Continued on page 4*

## Update from the Park *Cont. from p. 3*

long been maintained by the Park as an important local landmark. Foot traffic around the rock has developed some erosion issues at the rock base that we hope to address this fall.

After considerable effort over the past 9 months, we have issued our first draft of the Katahdin Lake Parcel draft plan. (See article on p. 3.) The draft plan describes the social and physical history and characteristics of this complex landscape and provides specific proposals for trail and site development over the next 15 years. We will accumulate comments on the plan until mid-November and then prepare a draft for consideration by the Authority in December.



Exploring the KL parcel, Bob Brodeur (pictured here) and Jensen Bissell found South Turner Falls, which eluded a Friends' group this summer and left them in the swamp.

— Photo by BSP Staff

## Our Readers Write...

*We welcome letters from our readers. Remarks in the last newsletter concerning dropping attendance, and rising age, of Park users generated a healthy response. Because of space limitations, we are only able to publish excerpts of the letters here. Full text of letters will be available on the website. Please keep writing!*

— Editor

### The Park as a classroom

The BIO 205: Field Nature History of Maine class trip to Katahdin was very important for a number of reasons. First of all, actually going there allowed us to look at living plants in their natural areas and patterns and see them alive and in person, not just a dead sample in the lab, while listening to our professor talk about it. Second of all, this trip took a lot of students who would normally never go for a hike into such an amazing wilderness area and exposed them to something totally different from their everyday lives. As a student and outdoor educator, I lead many students into the wilderness who have chosen to be there, but this experience was totally different. I watched many students grow throughout the day because of the challenges laid upon them, and they still seemed to have a good day and maintain a positive attitude. This trip gave me a new perspective on the wealth of the wilderness as a tool in education.

Happy Trails!

Kaitlyn Fowle, Orono, ME

*Editor's note: On a September trip to Chimney Pond, I found a group of students from Lawrence High School, Fairfield, ME, doing leadership training and the students and teachers from the middle school in Lee, ME, on a field trip, in addition to the biology class from UM in Orono.*

### Balancing use and wilderness preservation

... it'll be a difficult balancing act to truly keep usage at modest levels allowing the "wild" to return to Baxter Park's wilderness and to simultaneously cultivate the interest and involvement of today's younger people. I'm sure you realize the U.S. population increased by 50% in the forty years between 1967 and 2007. (200 million to 300 million) Most of that increase occurred here in the northeast and continues to occur, a bottomless well of humanity all looking for a place to vacation and recreate. If a youth backpacking craze were to sweep the nation again as it did a few decades ago, the demand at Baxter would be overwhelming. We must proceed with caution.

Best regards,

Bob Richardson, Walpole, NH

*Continued on p. 5*

### Would you recognize these birds?

Members of Friends of Baxter and Maine Audubon spotted the following during Friends' **Walk in the Park** at South Branch Pond: Common Loons, Common Mergansers, Spotted Sandpiper, Pileated Woodpecker, Downy & Hairy Woodpeckers, Flicker, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Merlin, Bald Eagle, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue-headed Vireo, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Black-capped Chickadee, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Warblers: Black and White, Black-throated Green, Black-throated Blue, Nashville, Bay-breasted, Magnolia; Also Warblers: Redstart, Ovenbird, and Common Yellowthroat, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow. Many thanks to Judy Kellogg Markowsky and Ted Allen for their sharp eyes!

### **Kids in the wilderness**

... Your concern about future protectors of the Park is right on! Kids aren't getting out in the woods anymore, nor are their parents providing them with wilderness experiences. Where will future protectors come from? Perhaps working out joint programs between FBSP and the boy and/or girl scouts would help.

... I have climbed Mt. Katahdin at least 25 times since the 1950's, many of these times leading my UM classes on ecology field trips before I retired from UM. My latest trip up the mountain included a 2-night overnight at Chimney Pond two summers ago to celebrate my 74th birthday.

Keep up the good work!  
*Ronald Davis, Orono, ME*

### **Make the Park more user friendly**

The President's Column in the summer issue of *Forever Wild* struck a responsive chord with me. We do indeed need a new generation of youth to enjoy the Park today, who will lead the effort to protect it tomorrow. And yet some of my fondest memories of trips to Katahdin as a youth are against the rules today.

For example, my camp, Medomak, camped at South Branch, Russell, Davis and Chimney Pond (CP) summer after summer. In the summer of '61, 13 of us camped at South Branch Pond, on to Russell Pond and even at what we called the Quonset hut at Davis; then some 25 of us at one time at CP. Can't do that anymore-- summer camps are relegated to drive-in sites along the roads.

We also used to love the "run to Russell". We left from CP, up the Saddle, across the North Peaks to Russell, out to Roaring Brook and back up to CP in time for dinner-- 22 miles. Can't do that anymore. The North Peaks Trail seems to be closed or impassable.

While I was a student at Hebron Academy, the Outing Club took a weekend trip to Katahdin in the fall, leaving Hebron on Friday after class, arriving after dinner at Roaring Brook at 7 pm in the dark; then hiking up to CP, each student with a flashlight lighting the trail of the hiker

in front of him. We were in bed in the bunkhouse around 10 pm. Can't do that anymore. You have to leave Roaring Brook by 5 pm.

After supper in the mid-sixties, we used to watch the bears at the Chimney Pond dump. Can't do that anymore. No dump! I don't propose to bring back the dump! But why not trained volunteers who could lead weekend hikers to CP on Friday nights? I propose we put this issue on the table for the next meeting with the Director. Maybe the Park should carry out a review of its rules with a view to increasing enjoyment of the Park especially by our youth, eliminating rules, and making those that remain more flexible where possible.

The Friends' Policy Committee could help in that review by developing a position paper with specific suggestions to making the Park more user friendly. It's a difficult balancing act in a wilderness area, but if we don't encourage youth to visit and enjoy the Park today, Katahdin could lose its wilderness character tomorrow. A large cadre of supporters will always be needed to ensure the Park remains forever wild.

Cheers,  
*Al Howlett, Yarmouth, ME*

### **Name that view**

FBSP members going to New York City from October 2-29 are invited to see "Cloud over Katahdin" at the Catharine Lorillard Wolfe Art Club exhibition at the National Arts Club, 15 Gramercy Park South. This painting can also be viewed on my new website: [www.evelyndunphy.com](http://www.evelyndunphy.com)

I have three snapshots taped together of this view of Katahdin, but I don't know the location where I took the photos! Can anyone identify the spot for me? The photos show water in the near foreground although that is not visible in the painting. Thanks for your help.

*Evelyn Dunphy, West Bath, ME*

*Current exhibits featuring paintings of Katahdin include ones at North Light Gallery in Millinocket, ME, and the Harlow Gallery in Hallowell, ME. Information on both is available on the web.*

— Editor

*Continued on p. 6*



### **Hikes beyond Katahdin**

I am sending a photo of me taken by Sarah Reid on the South Peak of Doubletop. It was quite a hike. On Sunday, we walked into Katahdin Lake. ... It's a great walk in with rewarding views and a real treat for people whose knees no longer allow them to climb mountains.

*Jill Ippoliti, Winthrop, ME*

## **Blessings of that time**

... Over the many years since my time at Natarawi and the days and weeks spent on Katahdin, I have often pondered the great blessing of that time. It informed my life, my relationship to the world and the environment, in countless wonderful ways. To support the ability of children and young people to have those experiences seems utterly wise to me. To create rules and restrictions that keep kids and families from the Park seems not only sad but foolish. Who, in years to come, will protect this amazing land?

I return still, at 65, all the way from California to the wood, lakes, and mountains of Maine. I am grateful for all who have protected them before me, and I hope we can find ways to encourage coming generations to continue this work.

*Mary Grace Orr, Aptos, CA*

## **As children in the Park, we...**

As someone who has been backpacking in the Park for almost 50 years. ... My first experience in the Park was in 1961, when I was part of a family group that spent a week at Russell Pond. As I recall, in that first year there were ten of us children, ranging in ages from 7 to 17, and seven parents. In the following years, the numbers and the participants varied, but we generally made Russell Pond our base camp, and spent the week doing day trips. For the younger children, a day trip could be simply a walk down to Grand Falls or over to Wassataquoik Lake for a swim and a day in the sun, or a trip to New City to pick blueberries, raspberries, and poke around for artifacts. For the more adventure-some of the group, a day trip usually involved a mountain climb, sometimes "the big circuit" of the Northwest Basin Trail to Davis Pond, up to the Northwest Plateau, and back down the North Peaks Trail. ... It was a great time! As children we learned to read a map and use a compass while exploring old trails, to collect wood, to build campfires, and to cook increasingly better meals. Part of the learning was camp etiquette: wash your dishes away from the water sources; burn out food residues from your cans and bury them; dowse your fires before leaving on a day hike; police the campsite when packing out, etc. We learned to fish with flies (it was fly fishing only in the 1960s), to canoe, and to have fun in the woods no matter what the weather. We watched moose and deer, and had the occasional rare sighting of a bear. And we developed a deep respect for the vision of Governor Baxter who had made everything possible. As we grew to be adults, we brought our children. For many years, there were three generations on the trip, although the older generation has now all passed on. I confidently expect that my grandchildren will start joining us in

another couple of years. The oldest is now 5, and is already a good day hiker. . . .

*John Mirick, Princeton, MA*

## **View from Burnt Mountain**

My return to the Park after a fifty-year absence brings an interest in the whole Park rather than only the Peak and the wonderful diversity of approaches to it. When I was younger, Baxter Park meant one of the routes to the Peak from Chimney Pond. Now I want to get a feeling for the immensity of Percival Baxter's idea.

In August, I drove for the first time through the Park from Togue to Matagamon. For me an hour in the car is a wasted hour unless the destination makes up for time lost so I planned several stops along the way. One was Burnt Mountain. I chose that stop because I thought getting to the top would not challenge my body too much and because a look at the map suggested that the top would give me a bird's-eye view of the vastness of the Park. It did.

The mountain lies about 6 miles north of Nesowadnehunk Lake and a picnic table marks the trailhead. The trail is an easy walk of a mile or so as it winds its way up about five hundred feet through mixed forest to the top, an open area with blackberries. That day a Sharp-shinned Hawk harassed the many Juncos which were feeding there. Trees surrounded me, and the berry bushes hid the foundation of a fire tower (burned with the event that also named the mountain?). Next to the foundation pilings was an area trodden down by beings which had bedded there, but I sought in vain an opening for the view which had to be there, somewhere.

In the words of Pogo's alligator friend Albert, my "trigger brain finally snapped," and I made out a path which led away and down from top. In less than fifty yards, I stood on an extensive plateau of stone which afforded a view from the Scientific Forest Management Area, past the Traveler and jumble of mountains that I could not unscramble, and on to glimpses of the North Peaks and summit ridges. The whole panorama ended in the southwest with a wonderful angle on Doubletop.

That stop alone was worth two car rides from southern Maine. The view is one which I am incrementally able to layer with other views from other climbs, for example that seen from the Traveler on the Friends of Baxter trip in September. This layering gives detail to the three dimensions so central to full appreciation of this complex ground. A wide exploration of the Park brings the rewards which I think Baxter had in mind as he developed his many faceted view of what the Park should be. My current wish is to know it well.

*Ted Allen, Brunswick, ME*

## Marvels of Nature at Ground Level, Baxter State Park

While walking along the east side of Lower South Branch Pond, I saw a dead shrew right in the middle of the trail. I stopped to look at it because it's seldom that you see a shrew. Might as well study what they look like. This one was a short-tail shrew. It looked thoroughly dead, but started to move as it lay there. It stayed in one place, but seemed to be slowly writhing. I couldn't understand what was happening.

Then a big black and red carrion beetle, an inch long, emerged from under the shrew. The beetle walked away from the dead shrew, which now was lying still. The beetle then turned back towards the dead shrew and went to all its vulnerable areas with less hair, such as under its tail and its armpit. The beetle kept going under the shrew and making it look like it was writhing in slow-motion.

After a while, I continued on my hike to see the beautiful pools on Howe Brook. As I headed back the way I came, I wondered if the dead shrew would still be there. It was. It was still writhing. As I watched, one, then another, then a third carrion beetle came from under the shrew. Perplexed, I walked back to South Branch Pond Camp. I had plenty of time to wonder about the carrion beetles. Why do they crawl under the shrew, making it move? Where do they come from? How do they find a body? Do they eat it, or lay their eggs in it or what?

Later, at home I had a chance to read up on carrion beetles. They fly to the dead animal from as far as a mile and a half away. They sense the dead animal and go to it within a half an hour of its death. There are many species of carrion beetles; they lay their eggs in a small, dead animal. Vultures, crows, gray jays, and ravens take care of dead large mammals; carrion beetles take care of small animals. Larvae of some carrion beetle species eat the dead animal; larvae of other carrion beetle species eat the maggots (larvae of flies) in the dead animal. They tunnel under the small, dead animal over and over. That results in a cavity in the soil. Eventually they bury the small animal and lay their eggs in it. They are becoming more and more un-

*Continued on p. 8*



L to R: Former Board Members John Neff, Bill Bentley, and Jon Tierney  
— Photos by Bill and Barbara Bentley and from Jon Tierney's archives

## Three Retire from Friends' Board of Directors John Neff, Bill Bentley, and Jon Tierney

At the Annual Meeting in April 2007, Friends honored three retiring Board members, each of whom has given long and valuable service to the organization. We are thankful that all three remain active on committees. Once a Friend, always a Friend.

Reflecting on his role in founding the organization, John Neff said, "Being a part of the founding and the early life of the Friends of Baxter State Park has been one of the great experiences of my life. I am confident that the organization will not lose sight of its central mission - to participate, as a responsible partner, in the effort to preserve the wilderness values of the Park on behalf of the citizens of Maine. That mission has taken us in a number of unforeseen directions in our infancy, and I believe we have represented the people well. We must continue to earn and be worthy of our role as responsible participants in preserving the Baxter legacy. I look forward to being a part of that effort for many years to come."

Jon Tierney continued, "Participating in the evolution of FOB over the past several years has been a wonderful reminder of the power of human motivation and the fact that a lot can be accomplished when a small group of interested people work toward common goals. Since leaving the board, I have remained busy guiding climbing trips, including several to Katahdin; operating our outdoor retail store; and working part time as a paramedic."

Bill Bentley added his perspective, "There are many wild and special places on our planet, many green and open places in the US, many blue and white rivers in New England, and many tall and ragged mountains in Maine. Yet, in one sacred place we can find so much of this, in one park, Baxter. And so, Friends of Baxter State Park seems a natural, in fact a necessary, group of people to work to safeguard and celebrate this area. I continue to visit, volunteer, and photograph Katahdin's wilds and support Barbara's many lists of things to do for FBSP!

— Editor



Panorama from Russell Pond near Ranger's Cabin with North Turner in background

— Photo by Bill Bentley

### **Baxter Park Wilderness Trust** — *Continued from p. 1*

donated his 58 acre waterfront property on Islesboro to the Trust for Public Land with McCaw, the willing buyer, standing at the ready. It was thus that the December 15, 2006, deadline was met, and the Katahdin Lake parcel has now become part of the Park.

Since that time, with the help of many individuals and State officials, the structure of the Baxter Park Wilderness Trust has been hammered out. Three commissioners will oversee the trust: Jim Garland from Ohio, who has served on the Park's Investment Committee; Skip Pease, Trautmann's attorney in Rockland, ME; and Buzz Caverly, former Baxter State Park Director. The management of the trust will be contracted out; only the interest will be available to the Park with 5% retained for the principle. The funds will be used at the Park Authority's discretion with no strings attached.

In a recent conversation, Buzz Caverly said how delighted he is to be involved in this wonderful cause. Following on the heels of his 46-year career in the Park, and his subsequent work with the Legislature and the KLC, Caverly will now serve as one of the three commissioners of the BPWT. "God is good and has given me this opportunity to transition from a lifestyle inside the Park to one outside it" and continue to work in a way beneficial to the Park. Caverly says there are still challenges to be met; among them are resistance on the part of some State officials, details concerning acceptance of additional funds into the trust and funds going to the State, as well as internal structure of the trust management. He applauds the Trautmann gift and is confident that the trust, initially at \$2.7 million, will grow to over \$10 million as pledges to TPL are paid, when the balance from the sale of the Islesboro property is added, and finally when the pledged gift from the Trautmann estate is received.

This tremendous act of philanthropy is accompanied by an exemplary humility. What was at one time referred to as the Trautmann Trust is now formally named for Baxter himself. Jensen Bissell, Park Director, addressing the Friends' Annual Meeting in April 2006, said, "The Park, as a large Public Trust, accepted piece by piece by many legislatures and Governors over several decades, represents one of the most durable and eternal institutions we can fashion in our society. If society unravels, we'll be the ones that turn out the lights after everyone is gone." Trautmann calls the establishment of

the trust a labor of love. And there seems to be no better way to continue Baxter's lifelong labor of love than to support the Park and insure it continues as he envisioned. Thank you, Frank, for doing this so well.

—Editor

### **Marvels of Nature** — *Continued from p. 7*

common. One species is even on the Federal Endangered Species List. Carrion beetles can only live in large undisturbed areas like Baxter State Park.

Several groups of hikers, adults and children, went by the dead shrew. They noticed it, and thought it was dead, and then thought it was still alive when it moved. We compared notes back at the campground. We all had been fascinated and perplexed by what we saw. We can marvel at the beauty and grandeur of Katahdin, and we can also marvel at the ways of nature at ground level and below. Thank you again, Governor Baxter, for your wondrous gift. — *Judy Kellogg Markowsky, Director, Fields Pond Audubon Center*

## **LOOKING BACK**

### **How about Some Dunderfunk for Breakfast?**

In 1851 the Rev. John Todd and his companions camped along the "Quasatiquoik" on their way to Katahdin. Their guides had little imagination so the meals were mostly "dunderfunk," which consisted of "hard sailors' bread [sea biscuit]... soaked in water, crumbled fine, fried in pork fat, and then sweetened with molasses, or sugar, if you can't get molasses." Todd was not exactly impressed but had little choice but to partake.

Despite their culinary deficiencies, the party successfully followed the relatively new Keep Path all the way to Pamola and across the Knife Edge to the summit. They survived, but it is not reported how much Todd tipped the guides at the conclusion of the journey.

— *John Neff, author of Katahdin, An Historic Journey*

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## National Park Service Kicks Off NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE Initiative

“Passion is lifted from the Earth itself by the muddy hands of the young; it travels along the grass-stained sleeves to the heart.” Richard Louv, author of *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature Deficit Disorder*

If you’ve shared the nation’s frustration with the national educational initiative No Child Left Behind, you will, on the other hand, as lovers of the outdoors and wilderness, be especially delighted and encouraged by the fledgling No Child Left Inside initiative in our state.

Predicated on the belief that myriad social ills are contributing to the physical, emotional, and academic health of our nation’s youngsters, NCLI would like to heed the advice offered in Richard Louv’s new popular book *Last Child in the Woods*: get kids outside. Not only would his suggestions improve health, happiness, and homework, he says, but the initiative could also accomplish a strategic long-term environmental goal: preservation of the planet. What we can experience, we can learn to love; what we love, we will protect.

Louv asserts that never before in history have our children been so out of touch with the outdoor world and that this lack of nature in their lives is contributing to rises in obesity, attention deficit disorder, depression, and other disturbing childhood trends. To turn things around, the child advocacy expert outlines numerous steps we can take to reverse these trends and realize a nature-child reunion. These steps will involve national, state, and local cooperative efforts. Three meetings over the past six months in Maine have launched our state’s efforts.

In early May, Sheridan Steele, Superintendent of Acadia National Park, kicked off the Maine initiative to some 55 representatives of outdoor recreation and education organizations from across the state who gathered at the Schoodic Education and Research Center at the park. For two days the group explored factors contributing to the trend, ways to get kids outdoors, obstacles that can be expected, existing opportunities, and the need for a statewide plan for No Child Left Inside.

Steele echoed Louv’s concerns saying, “Fully one-third of children under the age of 18 are considered dangerously overweight or obese. Children ages 6-11 spend an average of 30 hours a week on electronic media. Older children spend even more. A study by the Roper Organization said that since 2001 there has been a decline in outdoor use by all age groups.”

The superintendent stated that it was important to begin a statewide dialogue on the issue of getting both children and adults outside and to assess the perception of this issue from multiple perspectives within the state.

The event was sponsored by the National Park Service, the Maine Department of Conservation, College of the Atlantic, University of Maine Cooperative Extension, Friends of Acadia, and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning. Representing Baxter State Park and Friends of Baxter State Park at the event were Jensen Bissell, Jean Hoekwater, and Linda McKee.

Since that first meeting in May, three additional gatherings have occurred to further the efforts. A volunteer steering committee reported on progress through an extensive conference call in July, and two formal meetings have taken place, one in August and a second in September, when the committee met to create a formal mission statement for the initiative, to define the problem, to discuss solutions for barriers, and to determine avenues for funding.

FBSP Board of Directors member Rex Turner attended the September meeting of the informal working group at Camp Matoaka on East Pond in Smith. One tangible point emerging from that meeting was that the State will host a “Take it Outside” conference next spring. Turner reports that details are still developing and that the future of the No Child Left Inside collaboration and the related Take it Outside initiative are fluid. The organizational collaborative (NCLI) hopes to extend the tenure of the single existing staff member hired for the project and to further define the tasks of the various groups formed at the May meeting. FBSP is among the many organizations being asked to contribute \$400 toward the retention of the administrative assistant.

— Linda McKee, FBSP Board Member

**Want to learn more? Go to [www.kidsoutside.org](http://www.kidsoutside.org).**



L to R: Chavaleah (12) and Andre (18) Winters were delighted with their first visit to Russell Pond in August. “Life is so simple here. There is everything you could need. How could anyone want more?” asked Andre.

—Photo by Bill Bentley

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

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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!

## Who is buried in Evergreen Cemetery?

Apparently not Governor Baxter as we stated in our invitation to walk in Baxter Woods and then visit the adjacent Evergreen Cemetery! We stand corrected! Thank you, Herb.

*The Baxter Family plot in Evergreen is a lovely, shaded spot. Governor Baxter is memorialized there, but alas, Gov. Baxter is not buried there, as you kindly indicated in your letter-- he was cremated, and his ashes poured from a plane into the winds above Katahdin, tho' how much of the Governor in fact blew back into the plane (I am not making this up!) is disputed. I spoke with two of the plane's passengers years ago, and believe that enough of the Governor went into the winds of the mountain he loved to do due honor, but it is still a touchy point with some. But the Baxter plot is a lovely place well worth visiting, as is the mountain, and that is just as he would like it.*

- Rep. Herb Adams, Portland, ME

## Join us for a Walk in Portland's Baxter Woods Saturday, October 20, 2007 10 am - 12 noon

Friends of Baxter State Park is hosting a walk in Portland's Baxter Woods, guided by Jeff Tarling, City Arborist for Portland's Parks and Recreation Department. Dogs on leash are welcome.

Baxter Woods is located between Forest Avenue (Rte US 302) and Stevens Avenue (Rte 9) near Morrill's Corner in Portland. We'll meet at the entrance on Stevens Ave., just north of Percival St. at 10 am on Saturday by the new kiosk. There should be plenty of on-street parking. You are welcome to bring family and friends. Hope to see you there.