



Friends of Baxter State Park

President's Column

by Charlie Jacobi

Trails "R" Us

In late September, a couple of months after arthroscopic knee surgery and some training and testing on my home turf, I was ready to head north and tackle Katahdin. Weathered out over a weekend, I came home and checked the forecast again Sunday night. Rain Monday, clearing out on Tuesday, a day projected to be cloudy with a chance of showers. I'll admit to being a little desperate for a mountain fix after a relatively sedentary summer. After work on Monday, with no camping reservation, I hit the road again. Three hours later I was at the gate. A half hour later, I was settling in at the Roaring Brook bunkhouse. Good karma, I guess.

Up and out at "0:dark thirty", as a good friend calls those wee morning hours when you have to get up and out, I hit the Helon Taylor Trail. When I started getting views of Keep Ridge, I could see there was a good chance it would be a day with interesting skies. I love "clearing days," maybe more than blue skies, because I know the clouds and sunlight may treat me to something special. This time, they did. As I crossed the Knife Edge, clouds were boiling up from Chimney Pond.

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Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SPRING 2007 VOL. 6 No. 2



Katahdin Lake seen from Pamola Peak— *Photo by Bill Bentley, 2007*

Katahdin Lake Management Plan in the Works Input Welcomed by Park Director

The much-celebrated addition of the Katahdin Lake land to Baxter State Park offers new opportunities and many challenges. While the Management Plan is being developed by Park Staff, work has already begun to prepare for the upcoming summer season. Improvements are being made on the 3.3 miles of access trail from Avalanche Field to the lake. Details of where people will access the water, what facilities will be needed, and how Park use will affect the inholdings and leased property in the area are being worked out.

Park Director Jensen Bissell has invited input from many parties interested in, and/or affected by, this addition to the Park. Members of Friends are encouraged to contact Park Director Jensen Bissell directly by mail at Park Headquarters, by phone at 207-723-5140, or by email at Jensen.Bissell@maine.gov. There is lots to think about here. Don't miss this great opportunity to contribute ideas.

Members of Friends will find more opportunities to contribute in the future. Friends will continue to urge the BSP Authority to

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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.



L to R: Jean Howes, Kenyon Howes, Pauline Howes, Attorney General Steve Rowe, Bob Howes
 —Photo by BSP Staff

At the 2006 annual award ceremony, Jean and Bob Howes, who live at Togue Pond, reaped double honors as the Park’s Employee and Manager of the Year. Congratulations to both of you!
 — Ed.

We’re on the Web

Check out the Friends’ website at www.friendsofbaxter.org.

You’ll find the Annual Meeting agenda and directions to the Oakland Grange for the meeting on April 28th.

In the Membership section, you’ll see a series of beautiful note cards. Renew your membership at a higher level or recruit a new member, and receive a set free of charge. These cards will also be for sale at the Annual Meeting, along with Bill Bentley’s photos of Katahdin, many of which have appeared in the newsletter.

Membership Matters

Remember that all memberships expire in March each year. Please send in your renewal now if you have not already done so. Membership statistics as of March 31, 2007:

Individual	101
Family	107
Sponsor	72
Hamlin Peaker	46
Knife Edger	6
Katahdin Club	2
Gov. Baxter Society	4
Total active members	338

— Mary Cooke

President’s Column — Continued from p. 1

A three-layered lenticular cloud hung over Hamlin Ridge. The sun, hanging low in the southern sky, burned through the scattered clouds, offering scant warmth. But its beams cast my shadow on the clouds boiling up from Chimney Pond, creating the rainbow-like halo called the Spectre of the Brocken around my head. I watched for ten minutes, mesmerized, as the halo came and went with the wind and the sun. More good karma.

We all look for these kinds of experiences when we hike, and the hiking trails in Baxter State Park are the heart and soul of the park. I suppose at some indeterminate but hopefully distant future time, when I’m less able than I am now, I’ll be happy that I can still drive into the Park in some way to enjoy all that it offers. But even then, I’ll know that Governor Baxter created it as a wilderness area to be experienced on foot through direct contact with nature. He once wrote, “The Park is for mountain climbers, trail walkers, naturalists, and campers – people who are willing to put up with certain primitive conditions.” I think that’s why most of us love the Park—because we can enjoy it on simple footpaths.

The Friends applauds the Authority’s initiative to develop a comprehensive trails plan for Baxter State Park, and we are delighted that several of our Board members are participating in this effort because of their trails expertise both in and out of the Park.

Our policy committee just drafted a position statement on trails’ planning and shared it with the Authority, the Advisory Committee, and the Director. You can read the full position statement on our website. Among other things, we urged the development of a trails’ plan and a comprehensive inventory of trail conditions, both of which are already underway. We also agree with the Park that the most important work is in the alpine zone, the most sensitive area and the most difficult to work in logistically and weather-wise. The summer season for work in the alpine zone is very short. Check out the opportunities to do volunteer work this summer, in this newsletter and on the Park’s website.

Free Bunk Space in Park — No Reservations Needed

Sound too good to be true? Two nights' lodging in the Park is available to persons who volunteer — first come, first served. The Park has issued a special call for volunteers to help with an Economic Impact Survey to be distributed on 42 randomly selected days during the 2007 camping season. For a commitment to only one 6-hour shift — the hardy might do a 12-hour shift — you receive bunk space the night before and after your shift. What a deal! Both the north and south gates of the Park will be covered.

The following dates were still available at time of printing:

Togue Pond: June 20; July 2; August 4, 13, 14.

Matagamon: May 29, 31; June 9, 10, 13; July 3, 11, 15, 27; August 6, 15; September 1; October 2.

Please contact Park Naturalist
Jean Hoekwater @ 207-723-8537 or
jane.hoekwater@maine.gov to sign up.



BSP Director Jensen Bissell with model recently constructed by Keith Smith and Gunther Bernadini. Friends' member Sally Wilder is painting the model, which will highlight the recently opened circuit trail on the Travelers near South Branch Pond. — Photo by Barbara Bentley



BSP Ranger Jodi Browning is part of team that patrols the Park in the winter months. — Photo by Baxter State Park Staff

Update from the Park

by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

The Baxter State Park Authority met in Augusta on March 15, 2007. The Authority considered and then approved an Artist in Residence Program for Baxter State Park. This program was developed by Park staff with assistance and advice from numerous individuals, including local artist and owner of Millinocket's Northern Lights Gallery Marsha Donahue and Friends' President Charlie Jacobi. The Artist in Residence Program will employ a panel of experienced artists to help Park staff evaluate and select program artists from submitted applications. Selected artists will receive no stipend but will receive Park housing for two weeks in the latter half of September. Artists will be expected to provide a campground talk or presentation and/or other means of demonstrating their work and methods to Park visitors. The Authority also approved a Code of Conduct and Ethics for Baxter State Park which will be included in the employee manual and other Park documents.

Last August, Park staff was engaged in a search and rescue effort for a teenage member of a hiking group from New York State. The young hiker was recovered by helicopter from just above timberline below North Peak on Katahdin. While this incident ended well, with one more poor decision or some bad weather it might have ended on a much sadder note. A post-incident investigation revealed a number of serious misjudgments on the part of the trip leaders in this incident; and, consequently, the Park requested reimbursement from the sponsoring youth camp owner for direct costs incurred by the Park in the incident. In late March, we received a check for \$1,500. This is the first time the Park has charged a negligent party for costs incurred in search and rescue efforts. We hope this will provide an incentive to groups and hikers to heed the advice and counsel of Park staff and to prepare well for a trip above treeline.

Winter is about to end in the Park and the field rangers and maintenance staff should be commended for the large volume of work accomplished this winter. With a tentative start to winter,

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

we received workable snow for field operations in mid-January. During this time, most of the field staff were hard at work blazing, painting, and posting the 8½ miles of boundary line around the new Katahdin Lake parcel gifted to the Park in early December. This was a substantial and important task and the crew really put their shoulders to it, finishing up in late January. Then we went to work breaking trail into Chimney and Russell to begin hauling supplies. On top of the normal work of assisting campers and covering Chimney Pond, the crew worked at the “cabin” site at Wassataquoik Lake Island, dismantling and removing the cabin to clear the site for construction of a new leanto this spring. We also managed to move out some derelict canoes from Foss Knowlton Pond and haul in a large amount of bog bridging stock for the Katahdin Lake Trail. Staff members accomplished a great deal in a short time this winter. When you see Park Rangers, be sure to compliment them on their hard work and dedication to Park stewardship.

As I write this, we are hoping to work with the 112th Army National Guard to fly in building materials to Wassataquoik Lake Island and Chimney Pond early in April. The 112th is scheduled for deployment to Iraq this summer, and we are anticipating a year or two without their valuable assistance. We have moved the replacement of the Chimney Pond bunkhouse forward one year to utilize the Guard to move the new bunkhouse materials up to Chimney prior to their departure. This flight is tentatively scheduled for late May or early June; if you are headed to Chimney this summer, you can expect some activity on this project.

Lastly, we are continuing to talk with people about the Katahdin Lake parcel. The Friends of Baxter is on my list, and I hope to have a chance to meet with interested Friends to review our thinking and knowledge about the parcel. We plan to conduct a significant amount of field review and monitoring this summer prior to preparation of a draft plan. The Baxter State Park Authority is planning to hike into Katahdin Lake on May 18 immediately



Bog bridging support stock headed for the Katahdin Lake Trail

— Photo by BSP Staff

diately following a brief meeting at Park Headquarters.

At Headquarters, we have completed our budget planning for the 2007 fiscal year, and we have started work on revising our Standard Operating Procedures manual. By this fall, I anticipate that this document will evolve into a more comprehensive policy and procedures manual. We have also completed our interviewing process for 2007 seasonal positions and are in the process of referencing top candidates. This year’s candidate pool was the most qualified and talented pool in memory – I hope it is a sign of the future of Park stewardship.

That’s all from the shadow of Katahdin. I’m looking forward to seeing many of you at the Friends’ Annual Meeting in April.

How well do YOU know the Park?

by Trivia Wizard Al Howlett

1) Ed Werler was a Baxter State Park Ranger for many years. One night around the campfire at Roaring Brook, Werler noticed that everyone was smoking except for a famous visitor, who, when asked, said he/she used to smoke and that it had been hard to quit. Werler, a lifelong smoker, was so impressed he never smoked again. Who was that famous person who made such an impression on Werler?

- a) President Theodore Roosevelt
- b) Painter Marsden Hartley
- c) Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas
- d) Naturalist Rachel Carson

2) When you head north out of Millinocket towards the South Entrance of Baxter State Park, there is one of those vertical black and white town line signs marking your entrance into:

- a) Indian Purchase
- b) Misery Gore
- c) North Millinocket
- d) Camp Phoenix

Answer available at Friends’ Annual Meeting!



Katahdin Continues to Inspire Artists All Year Long

There is no “season” for artists of Katahdin. Summer, winter, spring, or fall, they paint what they see. At the end of March, we found a paint-spattered Marsha Donahue at work in her studio at Northlight Gallery. Meanwhile, artists David Little and Chris Huntington were stoking their fires in cabins at Katahdin Lake Camps, trying to get the temperature up to dry their paint.

These are among the many artists whose work has been inspired by scenes in the Park. A show of the 22 artists who assisted in the Katahdin Lake Campaign, co-curated by Little and Donahue, will be on exhibit at the Bates College Art Gallery in Lewiston, Maine, from January - March, 2008, along with an exhibit by Bridgette Besaw Gorman, both shown as part of a project by Bates to showcase a conservation element in the arts. Contact David Little at dlittle75@earthlink.net for more information.

While one can view and purchase paintings of the Katahdin region in various galleries and studios around the state, the recently approved BSP Artist in Residence Program will give visitors to the Park a chance to see and talk with artists at work on site. And this year promises to be a great year for artists at Katahdin Lake, with Bryce and Holly Hamilton’s hospitality and management of the wilderness camps keeping this tradition alive! See www.Katahdinlakewildernesscamps.com for details on how to arrange your stay at the camps.

Another player in the art scene is the emerging Katahdin Cultural Center in Millinocket. Now an established 501(c) (3) non-profit organization and located on the only route that approaches the southern entrance of Baxter State Park, it is scheduled to house a 165-seat mixed-use theater, two rentable retail spaces, and several exhibition and common use rooms suitable for classes or meetings for the area residents.

Several artists have issued limited edition prints of their work for sale. Evelyn Dunphy’s work can be viewed at her website www.evelyndunphy.com, and fellow artist Marsha Donahue’s, at www.artnorthlight.com.

—Editor

Above:

Winter View of Katahdin from frozen Katahdin Lake — *Photo by Bill Bentley, 2007*

Below:

Artist David Little with drying paintings in cabin at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps — *Photo by Bill Bentley, 2007*



Correction:

Contact information for Park Naturalist Jean Hoekwater was incorrect in the last newsletter. We regret the error. Correct email is Jean.Hoekwater@maine.gov

—Editor

Trash Pick-Up Day

on
Saturday, May 5, 2007

Volunteers will be cleaning up the roadsides from Togue Pond to Millinocket, an annual spring ritual at the Park.

If this year lives up to last year's experience, you won't want to miss it. You'll be surprised what a team can pick up in its assigned mile or two. The cookout afterwards is a treat. Call Park Headquarters to sign up. Bring the family and friends.

TRAIL VOLUNTEERS CONTACT

Paul Sannicandro,
BSP Trail Supervisor
phone: 207-723-9616
fax: 207-723-6381

email: Paul.Sannicandro@maine.gov

US mail:

Baxter State Park Headquarters
64 Balsam Drive
Millinocket, ME 04462

Opportunities are listed on this page to the right. Check out the Park website for more details.

For each of the Trail Projects # 1 - 6, you will find a fairly detailed description of the proposed work, the housing arrangements, the amount of hiking/backpacking involved, as well as the numbers of people involved, all of which will help you choose the project best suited to your interests and talents. Friends of Baxter encourages all members to contribute to maintaining the trails in the Park.

Former BSP Park Director Buzz Caverly will be leading walks/talks in the Park this summer. Schedules will be available on the Park and the Friends' websites shortly. You can learn more about these special events by contacting Park Headquarters.

Trail Crew Volunteers Needed Friends Encouraged to Sign Up Now

BSP Trail Project #1

National Trails Day - Helon Taylor Trail - All welcome!
June 2, 2007 (Rain date June 3, 2007)
Supper and overnight accommodation provided.
Challenge Level - moderate to difficult

BSP Trail Project #2 - 4 volunteers needed

Mixed Bag of Projects:

Traveler Loop, Five Ponds, & Wadleigh Brook
June 10 - 14, 2007

Challenge Level - moderate to difficult: hike 4 miles round trip

BSP Trail Project #3 - 4 volunteers needed on each date

Chimney Pond Campground

Alpine Trail Reconstruction — Saddle Trail

Four (4) dates:

June 24 - 28, 2007

July 1 - 5, 2007

July 8 - 12, 2007

July 15 - 19, 2007

Challenge Level - most difficult: able to climb Katahdin to the work site from Chimney Pond four (4) days in a row

BSP Trail Project #4 - 2 volunteers needed on each date

Stump Pond — Causeway Construction

Two (2) dates:

July 1 - 5, 2007

July 8 - 12, 2007

Challenge Level - moderate to difficult: dry stone masonry, heavy lifting and shoveling

BSP Trail Project #5 - 2 volunteers needed

Mixed Bag of Projects:

South Branch Pond Area Trails

July 29 - August 2, 2007

Challenge Level - moderate to difficult: hiking and working the 10.6 mile Traveler Loop

BSP Trail Project #6 - 12 volunteers needed

Hunt Trail — Erosion Control

Labor Day Weekend

August 29 - September 5, 2007 (Wednesday to Wednesday)

Challenge Level - difficult and most technical: winch operators, stone cutters, rope handlers needed

**Friends of Baxter State Park
ANNUAL MEETING
2007**

**Saturday, April 28
Oakland Grange
on Lake Messalonskee**

8:30 AM – Gather

9:00 AM – 12:15 PM — Meeting

President's Report
Committee Reports
Nominating Committee Report and
Elections
Recognitions
State of the Park Report by
BSP Director Jensen Bissell
Q & A
Keynote Presentation
(See newsletter article to right.)
Q & A

12:15 – Lunch provided by Friends

1:15 PM - 3:00 PM – Group Hike
(See newsletter article to right)

Directions to the Oakland Grange:
Exit I-95 at Kennedy Memorial Drive
in Waterville and head WEST on
Route 11 to Oakland. In Oakland, bear
left (still on Route 11) and pass three
churches. The Grange is at the head of
Messalonskee Lake, at the dam, across
from Oakland Water Company.

Hope to see you all there!

**Friends' WALK IN THE PARK
3 nights — Sept. 6, 7, 8, 2007**

Just a couple of spaces left! Contact Barbara
Bentley at 207-763-3014 or
barbarabentley@tidewater.net

Notes on Upcoming Annual Meeting:

Watch your Step!

Mosses and Lichens Above Chimney Pond on Katahdin

The Keynote Presentation at the Friends' Annual Meeting will explore recent surveys of the alpine tundra, headwalls, and krummholz on the summit Tableland and in upper cirque basins. The scientists located most species from the historic collections and added many more to the documented flora, including significant range extensions and species new to North America or northeastern United States. They also explored the possible vulnerability of the mosses and lichens to global warming and air pollution effects. The team was surprised by the number of unexpected species awaiting discovery.

Participants in the surveys are:

Alison C. Dibble, Ph.D., Plant Conservation Biologist, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Maine, Orono, ME.

James W. Hinds, Ph.D., Lichenologist, Adjunct Faculty, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Maine, Orono, ME.

Alan M. Fryday, Ph.D., Lichen Systematist and Curator of Non-vascular Cryptogams, Department of Plant Biology, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI.

Norton G. Miller, Ph.D., Principal Scientist and Curator of Bryology, New York State Museum, Albany, NY, and Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences, SUNY University at Albany, NY.

— John Neff

Hike with Friends

After lunch provided by Friends, Board Members Al Howlett and Lester Kenway will lead a hike on a new trail along nearby Messalonskee Stream. The trail runs north (downstream) from the town of Oakland for almost two miles. This is a remarkably wild setting featuring old growth hemlock and pine almost in the middle of the town of Oakland. The trail is part of a larger network planned for several towns in the area. Come and learn more about the innovative arrangements permitting establishment of this trail.

It is a relatively easy hike of a total of less than four miles down and back with little change in elevation. It could be damp underfoot in places. We plan to leave shortly after 1 PM for a short ride to the trail head, and be done by about 3 PM. No sign-up required. Just come and enjoy the outdoors. At least we can talk about Katahdin!

— Al Howlett



High winds and sub-zero temperatures heightened the beauty of the view from Blueberry Knoll where Boreal Chickadees and Crossbills kept an eye on things. The three-toed woodpeckers wisely kept to lower elevations. — *Photo by Bill Bentley, 2007*

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accept unencumbered outside funding for Park priorities and to seek or accept grant money if this option becomes available. The actions outlined in Friends’ recently released position paper on trails in the Park (see full text on Friends’ website) include increasing our volunteer trail efforts, participating in the ongoing trails’ planning, and continuing to educate ourselves about trail history, current conditions, maintenance and management, and funding needs and options for meeting those needs. There is a role for every member of Friends in this process.

—Editor

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!

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