



Friends of Baxter State Park

Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SPRING 2008 VOL. 7 NO. 2



How warm is an FBSP Warm Winter Outing? A bagpipe serenade at Twin Pines Camps by Ian MacDonald of Fredericton, N.B., certainly helps. – Photo by Bill Bentley

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

Upon arrival at a wilderness campsite, wielding axes and knives, campers would set out to cut ridgepoles, lash them to trees, string up a tarp or two, and ditch them to provide proper drainage. Others cleared away vegetation, dug a fire pit, lashed the kitchen box to trees, and created a table. Some dug a latrine. Cutting firewood came next. I remember my early days in the Park when lean-to #3 at Russell Pond had a dirt floor. We made bough beds that smelled wonderful and were more comfortable (can that be true?) than my current Thermarest mattress. Breaking camp involved burying the trash, filling in the fire pit, cutting the twine and scattering the wood used in our structures. At Russell Pond, all trash we didn't burn went to the dump, which was not all that far from the lean-to and spilling into what we now view as fragile wetland. We were leaving no trace. Or so we thought.

That was then, and this is now! Today, fifty years later, Leave No Trace (LNT) is an established national program that embodies the current practices regarded as the most ethically responsible way to behave in wilderness settings. The idea may be the same, but there is a world of difference

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Friends of Baxter Renews Focus on Mission

There is nothing like spending more time in the Park, working more closely with Park staff, and increasing volunteer participation in Park-related activities to fine tune focus on one's mission. Friends of Baxter State Park has been doing just that over the past year or so and has developed a number of new initiatives. The mission of Friends includes oversight and advocacy roles that are in keeping with our commitment to the preservation of wilderness, and we also educate people about the wilderness nature of Baxter State Park and facilitate discussion in the public forum about land conservation and environmental issues related to the Park. (See Mission Statement on FBSP website.) The remarkable success of the Baxter Papers project and the imminent

publication of Howard Whitcomb's new book are major contributors to this effort. (See p. 3.) Many current and former Board members, including authors Howard Whitcomb and John Neff, continue to speak on behalf of Friends.

The schedule of training sessions, volunteer opportunities, and Walks in the Park is evidence of Friends' fulfilling its mission to help folks learn more about the Park and support it in a variety of ways. (See p. 7.) The pilot 4-person chainsaw crews and funding of professional trail-crew work in the Park this summer are important steps in our establishing a working relationship with the Park. Friends is promoting First Aid and chainsaw certification courses in hopes that members will prepare themselves to participate in these

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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.

President's Column — Continued from p. 1

details. Each time Friends' Past President Charlie Jacobi sends me an email, I see right there listed in his signature the seven (7) precepts of LNT and where to learn more about them at www.lnt.org.

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Leave What You Find
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

The Park staff is trained each year in LNT by Marcia and Gabe Williamson, who have spent a few years on the road teaching the LNT course around the country. They have extended an invitation to Friends to participate in the two-day training this year on June 26 & 27. This will involve some

classroom time and then demonstrating and putting into practice the principles of LNT on an overnight camping trip.

On each trip to the Park, I pass a landfill in Hampden where a pyramid of Egyptian proportions is rising higher each day. As I approach Millinocket, I see what I formerly took to be a level airstrip now rising above the treeline with a fabulous view of the mountain. Another landfill. As a society, we have a real problem these days. Sure, we pay lots for trash disposal, but that doesn't seem to reduce the amount my household disposes of each week in those yellow bags I buy at the Town Office. What could we all be learning from LNT about how to treat Mother Earth, not just in wilderness settings, but also in the more heavily traveled regions of our everyday lives? I hope some of you will give LNT a try.



Rosemary Hastings (L) is the new Administrative Manager of Friends, replacing retiring Mary Cooke. — Photo by Bill Bentley

Changing of the Guard at Friends Mary Hands Reins to Rosemary

FBSP Administrative Manager, Mary Cooke, has shepherded the Friends through the last three and a half years of its growth and evolution, lending her expertise and winning smile to every situation she has encountered. We owe her a huge debt of gratitude and send her thanks and love for all she has done. THANK YOU, Mary. That said, we can hardly wait to include her in volunteer activities.

Rosemary Hastings, a new member

of Friends and enthusiastic visitor to the Park, is taking over the administrative responsibilities for Friends. She comes to the position with a wealth of experience in administrative support in retail, service, and manufacturing sectors. What's more, she and her family live on Serenity Lane in the town of Hope. With an address like that, we can expect her to have a terrific influence on the Friends' President. WELCOME, Rosemary.

Focus on Mission – Continued from p. 1

The variety of Walks in the Park offered this year – some day trips with special focus – will help more people take a closer look at specific areas of the Park. These are just a few of the items on the schedule.

Everyone's gift lists for the holidays should include Howard Whitcomb's new book, *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession*, published by Friends, and the BSP calendar produced by the Park and Friends, both of which will be appearing this summer. Also in the works is a brochure of practical tips for first-time visitors to the Park that will be available in information booths and Chamber of Commerce bureaus in various locations in Maine. The Membership Campaign currently underway is bringing in many new faces and with them, new ideas, thanks to the recruiting efforts of our Board, our Honorary Directors, and our membership. Thanks go to all who are participating. We like to remind ourselves, we can all use new Friends. Why not join us for a Walk in the Park? –Editor



This Baxter State Park logo is a very familiar image to most of us. Did you ever wonder how the Park came to have its own distinctive logo? In the next issue of *Forever Wild*, Buzz Caverly tells that story. – Photo courtesy of BSP



Howard Whitcomb (R) presents 4-volume set of *Baxter's Vision* to Attorney General Steve Rowe (L) and Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Danny Martin at the March 14th meeting of BSP Authority – Photo by Anne Huntington

Keen Interest in *Baxter's Vision* Volumes Second Printing Almost Fully Subscribed

The second printing of *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources*, originally compiled and annotated by Howard Whitcomb and published by Friends in 2005, is nearly fully subscribed. This past March, thirty sets of the four-volume compilation were printed, and only a few are still available for purchase at \$350.

The volumes are accessible for public use in libraries throughout the State of Maine. In addition to the public library holdings in Millinocket, Presque Isle, Bangor, Portland, and Bridgeton, there are now sets in seven collegiate collections within the state, including three campuses of the University of Maine system – Orono, University of Southern Maine, and Machias. The other collegiate libraries acquiring the sets are Bates, Bowdoin,

Colby, and Unity colleges. For those outside the state, copies may be found at the University of Vermont in Burlington and the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) at 5 Joy Street in Boston.

This new printing has also enabled Friends to make additional copies available to the Baxter State Park Authority and the Park itself. It is highly unlikely that there will be additional printings of this annotated collection. However, Whitcomb is currently at work on a new book, *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession, a Documentary History*, which will include the Deeds of Trust, an essay on Baxter's Vision by Whitcomb, annotations by Whitcomb, as well as some new material. This single volume, more portable than its hefty predecessor, will be available to the public at the Park, in bookstores, and on the web later this year.

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Looking for a Logo

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Commissioner Buzz Caverly invites artists to submit original designs for a logo for this newly formed organization. The design should be distinct from Baxter State Park's logo (see image to left) and from the Friends of Baxter logo (see cover of newsletter) and should reproduce well in color as well as in black and white. Samples should be sent to Friends of Baxter State Park by June 15, 2008.

Looking Back ...

Baxter Summit Climbs — A Mystery

How many times did Gov. Baxter reach Katahdin's summit? According to John Hakola's LEGACY OF A LIFETIME and John Neff's KATAHDIN: AN HISTORIC JOURNEY, the answer would be twice. The first was in 1920 with a group of political friends who, upon reaching the summit, renewed their commitment to protect the mountain as a public preserve. The second was in 1932, after the mountain had been protected, when Baxter accompanied the small Great Northern Paper Co. crew authorized to install near the summit the bronze plaque that reminds all who pass by that Katahdin is to remain forever wild.

But wait! There had always been something about that second trip that mystified me. While digging deeper in the Baxter Collection at the Maine State Library, I discovered that Baxter also climbed to the summit in Sept. of 1933 on an "inspection trip" in the company of twenty-one members of the Millinocket Chamber of Commerce.

Thus both Hakola and Neff (now Chief Errata Administrator) got the reports of the two 1930's trips mixed as one. The record can now be corrected - unless someone comes up with a fourth Baxter ascent. I love to solve Katahdin mysteries! If you have any, let me know!

— John Neff

Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*
jhneff@fairpoint.net

Baxter Park Staff Never Hibernates

Update from the Park by Park Director Jensen Bissell

For many years now, many of us on the Park staff have been complaining about the lack of winter snow and wishing for a snowier winter. One should be careful what one wishes for. As I write this text, we have around 80" of snow depth at Chimney Pond, plenty of snow for everyone. The abundant snow has helped us complete a significant amount of materials transport to and from Chimney Pond, Russell Pond and Katahdin Lake. The Chimney work was particularly busy as we dismantled and removed the old bunkhouse. We will work next spring and summer to restore the former bunkhouse space to natural vegetation and consider future uses in the area.

While it was snowing outside, BSP staff worked on several issues inside, and a few were approved by the Baxter State Park Authority at the March 14th meeting at Bolton Hill. The Authority approved a proposal to remove

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Seen here by the Penobscot River, Maria Girouard will talk about historical, cultural, and spiritual ties the Penobscots have with the area now in Baxter State Park at Friends' Annual Meeting.

— Photo courtesy of Maria Girouard

Available for Purchase from Friends

at Annual Meeting & on the Web

Notecards

- Assorted BSP Scenes - pkg of 8 - \$10
- Assorted Wildflowers - pkg of 8 \$10
- Panorama of Katahdin from Katahdin Lake - single \$2.50

Bill Bentley Photos

Color \$15, \$30, \$50 sizes
Black & White \$10, \$25, \$45 sizes

Hats w/ FBSP Logo \$20

Key Note Speaker Maria Girouard to Focus on Wabanaki and K'taadn at Friends Annual Meeting

The Penobscot Indians of today still nurture a spiritual relationship between themselves and the mystical mountain of Maine: k'taadn (Katahdin). This relationship is as deeply rooted in their existence as k'taadn is to the Earth from which it rises. Through legends, history, personal accounts, song, and pilgrimages, the story of this sacred relationship between the Penobscots and k'taadn evolves, presenting evidence of a spiritual relationship that is and was infused in tribal identity and culture since time immemorial.

Comprehension of native worldview is integral to understanding the relationship between the Penobscots and the mountain. This presentation will touch on native worldviews; the historical significance of the mountain to the Penobscots; the three main ingredients that make a place sacred; and will give evidence that this is a relationship that can be expected to continue for as long as it has endured.

“Such must be our ways of celebrating the graciousness of the land.”

Remarks at the Jameson Gallery on March 6, 2008

by Carl Benton Straub

I have been asked to share some reflections about land and our dwelling within it. “Land” is shorthand for the integrity—the complex oneness—of the natural world. My reflections, like our shared presence, are occasioned by the Katahdin landscapes which wait quietly all around us. My thoughts are sprung in part by the art. So I start with reflections on it.

The word “landscape” is Dutch in origin. It means land shaped or land worked. Land is always being shaped and worked, of course. It is shaped by geologic and climatic forces, to be sure; but also by beetles, birds, and alas by us. Such shaping confirms that earth is fit for diversity of life and for the different needs and proclivities of all creatures to seek survival in its evolution, to be enfolded in its unfolding. Landscapes are the signatures of those passing through; often they are the outward manifestations of an enduring resistance against being left by the wayside, homeless and bewildered by the expansiveness and terror of the land.

So ants build their hills, raven weave the twigs, the deer stomp out their yards, salmon swirl the gravel before giving up the eggs. We human folk lace the meadows with stone fences, plant in near-perfect rows the corn, muster vision to design the glass house on the knoll. We pollute the rivers, tear up the fern and the salamander, smear the deserts and deep waters with the oil of greed. In the human regard landscapes are templates of what we value; they are the forms of history meeting the earth.

The work in this gallery is in continuity with these wider, all-pervasive renditions of life shaping life. Using pen, brush, and camera rather than claw or spade, the artists fashion the elemental forces of Katahdin Land to serve the dictates of their imagination and to satisfy the hunger for also being at home on earth. Their translations of

light and shadow, color and form, focus the human eyes and hence engage the human mind. Through their constructions, informed by the histories of art and by their own, often secret, journeys, the artists capture moments and condense places so that we, their companions, can also survive with our humanity intact. Their works compel us to look around and perhaps remember the primordial yet delicate structure of grace which is life on earth.

This evening we acknowledge not only the artistic celebrations of Katahdin Lake. We also acknowledge our shared trust in the importance of the Lake’s preservation. I want to share some reflections on land conservation.

Conserving land is indispensable to conserving ourselves as sentient creatures, that is, as selves whose bodies open out to and are porous to the surrounding environments. Gary Nabhan has written, “We are inspired by what surrounds us, we take it into our bodies, and we respond with expression. What we have inside us is, ultimately, always of the larger, wilder world.” Nabhan’s analogy to breathing is deliberate. Indeed while breathing is our fundamental connection to earth, our bondage is assured through our eyes, ears, noses, through the porous

structure of our skin. It is this very “earthiness” of our human form which assures our solidarity with all of creation, and which eventually triumphs over vapid spirituality or vain ideologies. Through our eyes we participate with the sparrow, through our ears we share in the silence. Through the wind on our bodies we look up and see the falcon soaring.

Conserving land is also indispensable to conserving human memory. Landscapes are the vessels of remembrance. They store past adventures of civilizations and past journeys of a people. They are maps for retracing even fleeting romps in the woods. This is why tyrants always destroy home lands. The Spaniard Cortés in 1521 destroyed the aviaries and gardens of Montezuma in the name of Christendom; the Nazis leveled the forests surrounding the Jewish villages in Lithuania. The war cry is always to decimate memory. It is the slow tapestry of land—the millennial walking of caribou across tundra or the timing of lichen’s tenacity with granite which reminds us of the deep wreckage from our adoration of speed. It is land and its variables which teach us that we have origins as well as destinies.

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(L-R) Sam Hodder of the Trust for Public Land, DOC Commissioner Patrick McGowan, and Carl Straub at the Jameson Gallery.
— Photo courtesy of Jameson Gallery

Carl Straub - Continued from p. 5

Finally, conserving land is indispensable to conserving a scale by which we can measure our human place in the scheme of things. The “far outside,” beyond the peripheries of our dominions, displaces our sense of being in the center with its rituals of self-aggrandizement. The “far outside” offers us freedom from vainglory. The expansiveness, complexity, and unpredictability of natural places bring us to the edge of what is perfunctory and comfortable, to the brink of astonishment and bafflement that things are the way they are. This tilting of our stature reminds us that we are closer to grasshoppers than to Zeus and Athena. The land’s complexity dwarfs our capacity to know. [E.O. Wilson suggests we are aware of only about ten percent of earth’s organisms.] The land is not obedient to our calls; it is neither persuaded by our logic nor attracted by our sexiness. Blackberries do not respond to our ‘blackberries.’ Even whistling in the dark does not push aside the darkness.

It is this gracious Otherness which holds us in check and frees us to be participants in the plenitude of being. We all have instances of the otherness of nature giving us liberty from self-centeredness. I share one of mine. My father had an avocation of trapping furbearing animals, including foxes. As a young boy I went with him on the traplines. When we checked for foxes, caught in steel, they were always alive. So my father carried a long, heavy pole to beat the fox to death; this way the pelt would remain free of any bullet hole, and hence fetch more money. I would always stand away and turn my back on the unspeakably violent moment. But once I turned around too soon, and my eyes caught the eyes of the fox before the final lethal blow. The eyes of the fox caught my eyes. In that glance, the entire universe was looking at me, and crying in travail. Nearly 50 years after the moment, on a college bench, I asked Barry Lopez, the finest naturalist

writing in America today, what the fox may have been saying to me. Lopez responded, “Remember me.”

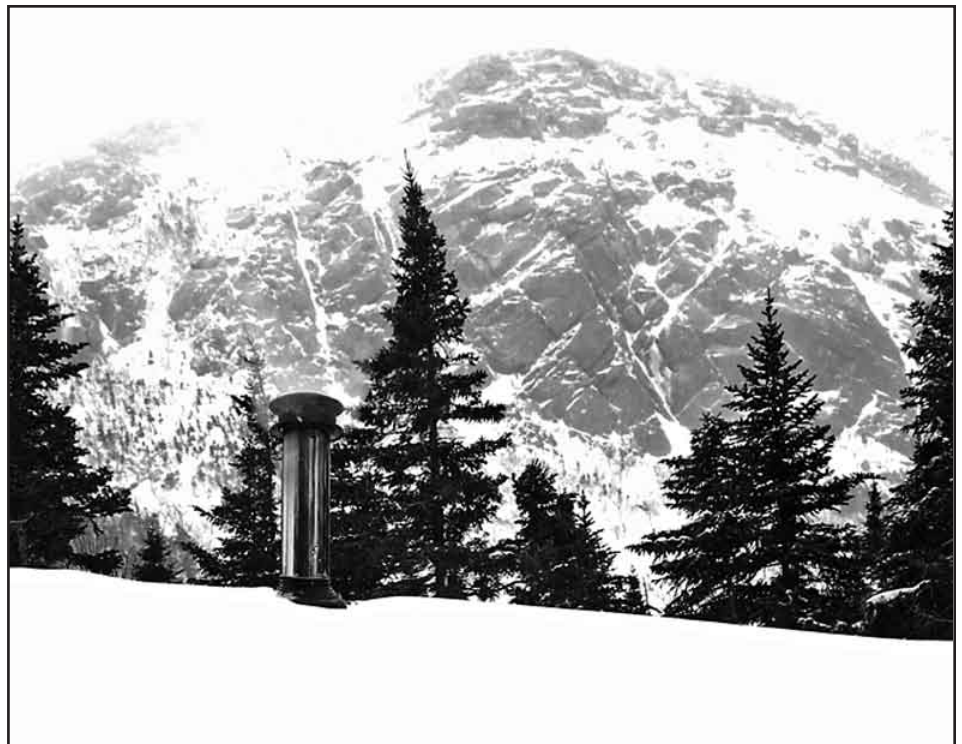
I always have. Since that gray November morning, with the trilogy of father, son, and fox, I see only melancholy in the faces of wild creatures. I am reminded of my solidarity with them. The power of the fox, trapped in my father’s steel, put me in my place: in the family of all things. Such epiphanies of Otherness, such unmerited gifts from the far outside become entangled in our sinews, coalesced in our marrow. They will not let us go. They hold us in our true place, liberating us from false securities of mind and heart.

I return very briefly to the art. One of the paths for nature’s otherness is beauty. Elaine Scarry points out the paradox within our experiences of it: beauty moves our attentiveness away from ourselves, yet instills in us the wish to stay in its de-stabilizing presence. Nature’s beauty pushes aside indifference toward the earth and instead nurtures our impulse to hold onto it and to replicate it, to return again and again to be in its domain rather than to follow

our own paths. The grandeur of Katahdin—the land, the lake—greet us and then calls us forth to a giant labor of our begetting its beauty. The land begets the landscape art, to be sure. But it also begets our common and relentless efforts which ennoble us as citizens: to restore and conserve other places, wild and worked. Such must be our ways of celebrating the graciousness of land.

TPL invited Carl Straub to speak at a gathering in the Jameson Gallery in Portland during the show “Katahdin: The Lake and Her Artists,” that ended March 15th. He also was a participant in a panel discussion on land conservation at the opening of the Bates College show “The Artists Journey to Katahdin Lake” on January 17th.

Friends encourages you to take part in the broader discussion about the importance of land conservation and to share with our readers your thoughts. Send your letters to the editor for publication in “Our Readers Write...” in the summer issue of “Forever Wild” to barbarabentley@tidewater.net or 546 Hatchet Mt. Rd., Hope, ME, 04847. Thank you.



Roof of the new bunkhouse shows above deep snow at Chimney Pond with ice climbs on Pamola’s cliffs in background. — Photo by Bill Bentley

Training Sessions, Volunteer Opportunities, & Walks in the Park

April

26 FBSP Annual Meeting in Oakland, 8:30 am - 12:15 pm, followed by lunch & hike. All welcome.

May

3 Litter Patrol from Togue Pond to Millinocket in morning, barbecue at noon. Contact Marcia.Williamson@maine.gov for more information.

10 & 11 FBSP trail crew(s) in Park (back-up dates May 31 & June 1 or June 7 & 8 if roads not passable) Stay at Trout Brook Farm and work on Freezeout trail. To be on a team, contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net

June

7 & 8 National Trails Day – Trail Stewards' Training at BSP (See Park website for details.) Contact paul.sannicandro@maine.gov to sign up. Space limited.

26 & 27 Leave No Trace (LNT) Training (2-day) – Learn the ethic and put it to practice. Sign up by June 18th with Marcia.Williamson@maine.gov or call 207-723-8537. \$20.

July

3, 4, or 5 Fly-fishing in the Park on Webster Stream – For details, contact Master Maine Guide Bill Bentley at bentleys@tidewater.net. Camp and fish along the stream for 3 days or hike in for a day of fishing.

4 or 5 Birding in the Park with Audubon Naturalist Judy Kellogg Markowsky – Meet at South Branch Pond. To sign up, contact at barbarabentley@tidewater.net.

11 (rain date 12) Painting in the Park with artist Evelyn Dunphy. Pack your painting gear, meet at Roaring Brook, and hike to a view to paint for a day. Contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net to sign up.

19 Loon Count (7:30 - 8:00 am) Contact Marcia.Williamson@maine.gov to sign up. Hiking to remote sites a possibility.

23, 24, 25 Walk in the Park – Camp for three nights at Chimney Pond. Contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net to sign up.

August

21 (rain date 22) - Nature Walk in the Park with lake educator and Maine Guide Rex Turner exploring water ecology in BSP's lower terrain. Contact Rex at rturner@mlci.org or 207-441-9521.

September

6 & 20 (approx. dates) Volunteers for Peace (VFP) hosts in Bangor area needed to meet and house early/late arrivals at airport. To sign up, contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net or call 763-3014.

13 & 14 End of Trail Festival in Millinocket. To help out at the Friends' booth, contact Barbara Bentley at barbarabentley@tidewater.net

19, 20, & 21 Common Ground Fair – Volunteers needed at the FBSP booth. Contact Linda McKee at 207-685-4385 or PlumgoodFarm@aol.com

October

4 & 5 Chainsaw Training & Certification course in Windham, ME – FBSP needs a certified sawyer on each crew. To sign up, contact Craig Dickstein at craig.donna@wildblue.net \$130

Friends welcomes suggestions and encourages members and friends to participate in any or all of the activities.



Artists Barbara Bean and Annie Merrill were busy at work during the Warm Winter Outing. – Photo by Bill Bentley

Twenty Friends Gather for Warm Winter Outing

All agree that this was the first of many Warm Winter Outings to come! The setting on Millinocket Lake at Twin Pines Camps could not have been better with snow white Katahdin appearing in splendid form. Friends skied and snowshoed on the Lake, some as far as Twin Ponds and the summit of Trout Mountain, while others ventured into the Park toward Blueberry Ledges. Meanwhile, artists were at work back at camp. We met one evening with our host Matt Polstein and then toured the site of the proposed Kataadn Resorts with him another day on snowshoes.

Visit our website! www.friendsofbaxter.org
News, photos, cards, letters, membership information,
and links are at your fingertips!



Park Headquarters looks snugly protected by its high snowbanks, but staff just about ran out of places to put the snow this winter. From Opening Day in January, reservation staff has been hard at work in BSP headquarters five days a week. Shown here is Jeannie Tibbetts, an 8-year veteran and one of four reservation clerks. She reports that they have all been very busy this year working at a steady pace to process requests that are made in person, by mail, and on the phone.

— Photo by Bill Bentley

Baxter Park Staff Never Hibernates — *Continued from p. 4*

the deteriorating wooden dam at the outlet of Abol Pond. The dam will be replaced during the coming summer with a formation of large rocks in an attempt to provide a natural hard outlet to the pond. The Authority also approved a set of proposed changes to the Park Rules and Regulations. Now we will begin the formal promulgation process according to the Administrative Procedures Act, hopefully concluding with an updated set of Rules and Regs we can print by January 1, 2009. Lastly, the Authority also approved proposed changes for the Park's organizational structure. The changes have been developed over that past two years and will be implemented as current personnel change positions or retire. In summary, the future will hold fewer law enforcement rangers on the staff and a stronger emphasis on maintenance of

Park facilities.

Our Information and Education Department was also hard at work this winter. The issue of declined outdoor use by young people has been a frequent topic of discussion over the past few years. Our Naturalist and Interpretation Specialist have been talking and walking about the outdoors and Baxter Park with young people in our area for two decades. Their winter schedule is dotted with connections to young people in local schools, scout troops, and other organizations. They are very good at what they do, and I'm sure that many of the young people they work with will grow up to be steady Park users and committed to the conservation of our natural resources.

We are currently finishing work on the Park's 2009 fiscal year budget (7/2008 to 6/2009). The administrative

team has put a very thorough effort into this budget, and our toils were eased somewhat by the \$75,000 expected from the Baxter Park Wilderness Trust established by Frank Trautmann. We have an ambitious schedule of projects and trail work in 2008, and most of our seasonal staff will be returning in about a month.

We will also be working through the replacement of a key member of our administrative team this fall as Chris Drew prepares to enter retirement on August 31, 2008. Chris is a living Maine legend and has been a tremendous asset to Baxter Park for more than 35 years. Chris' departure will be an important landmark in Park history, and you can expect more about this over the coming summer. In the meantime, let's hope for a gentle, but rapid spring.

Photo Left:

A steady stream of winter campers and climbers requires the presence of rangers in the Park all winter. Alpine Ranger Rob Tice digs a test pit and examines snow to assess the avalanche danger in the Great Basin. – *Photo by Bill Bentley*



Fabulous snow cover, calm weather conditions, and good ice provided a range of activities for one group this winter. They hiked to the Second Cathedral for tea one day, circumnavigated the North Basin another day returning to Chimney Pond via the shoulder of Hamlin Ridge another, and also skied down Saddle Brook and ice climbed on the “Waterfall” next to the Chimney.

– *Photo by Barbara Bentley*



A group of Friends skied - well, one walked on the frozen snow- to Katahdin Lake in February to enjoy the comforts of Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps and the splendid fare at Holly Hamilton’s table. Well worth the 11-mile trek, they say. They started out in temperatures below zero and skied out two days later in the pouring (!!!) rain. Go prepared when you travel to BSP in the winter. Shown here are (L-R) Tom Neely, Sally Daggett, and Lisa Neely.

– *Photo by Bill Bentley*



During the winter, rangers haul out of Chimney Pond human waste (Humanure) from the 600+ winter campers and the last bins from the summer that did not get composted. There are, on average, ten to twelve 200+ pound bins hauled out each winter to a collecting vault that is pumped out when the septic truck pumps the campgrounds. (See photos of Rangers Bob Howes and Rob Tice (L-R) in photos above and to the left.) This lends new meaning to Leave No Trace. Pack it in; pack it out. On trips up the mountain, they take a dozen 100 lb. propane cylinders, about 1000 lbs of bark chips for the summer’s composting toilet system, 3-4 cord of firewood for the bunkhouse, crew camp, and Ranger cabin, paint and other supplies, including 10 (!!!) cases of TP. In addition, they haul to various remote sites materials for building lean-tos or other buildings, materials for summer trail crews such as cribbing, decking and bog bridge material along with 50 pound boxes of spikes to put it all together. (*Glad they are not in my backpack!* – Editor)

– *Photo by Bill Bentley*

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

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.

Friends Website: www.friendsofbaxter.org

Thank you!

Friends of Baxter State Park ANNUAL MEETING

Saturday, April 26, 2008

8:30 am - 12:15 pm

Cascade Grange in Oakland
on Lake Messalonskee

Directions to the Meeting: 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. When you come to a T with a sign for Route 11 pointing right, turn left and the Grange will be immediately on your right, with a parking lot next to it. The Grange is on Messalonskee Lake, at the dam, across from Oakland Water Company.

Come and bring a friend. We look forward to getting together with you!

Annual Meeting Agenda

8:30 AM – Coffee & Muffins

9:00 AM - 12:15 PM — Meeting

President's Report

Preview of Friends' Slideshow on BSP

Committee Reports

Nominating Committee Report and Elections

Recognitions

Preview of video project on the Park - Caitlin Coady

State of the Park Report by

Deputy Chief Ranger Stewart Guay

Keynote Presentation by

Maria Girouard of the Penobscot Nation

12:15 PM – Complimentary Lunch provided by Friends

1:15 PM - 3:00 PM – Group Hike Opportunity



Hiking in The Nature Conservancy property on Trout Mountain, you arrive on the shore of the lower Twin Pond, take a few steps out onto the ice, and this is the view that grabs you.

– Photo by Bill Bentley