



**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
WINTER 2008 VOL. 7 No. 1

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

Why did you become a member of Friends of Baxter State Park? My guess is that someone who knew that you enjoyed visiting the Park and supported its wilderness values personally invited you to join. And that is exactly our approach during the current Membership Campaign. We intend to keep it personal! And what a delight it has been to hear the many personal accounts of experiences in the Park that span the generations! I am struck by how we Park enthusiasts - artists, hikers, campers, volunteers, and Park staff alike - are tied to this special place in so many ways.

In this issue of *Forever Wild*, you'll read moving testimony from a number of people. You will also learn more about the generous support the Park receives from donors and volunteers. And finally, you'll find numerous opportunities to get together with other Friends and to visit the Park. Please be sure to save the date for the April 26th Annual Meeting when the keynote speaker will address the cultural and historical ties Native Americans have to Katahdin.

All of us who heard the panel discussion held in January at Bates College Museum of Art's opening of *Taking Different Trails: The Artists Journey*

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Winter access to the Park affords splendid views of Katahdin. — Photo by Rob Tice

Keep it Personal: Friends' Membership Campaign 2008

The Board of Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) is conducting a campaign to double its present membership by June of this year, and we need your help! The campaign is called *Keep it Personal* to convey our focus on personally enrolling friends, colleagues, relatives, and acquaintances, who have prior experience visiting the Park or are otherwise predisposed to FBSP's mission. I think you'll find it very satisfying to take a little time to talk or write to a friend and enroll her or him as a member in FBSP.

The response to the campaign is enthusiastic. Newly enrolled members thank us for giving them the opportunity to join. Rosemary, a friend of mine, enrolled at the "sponsor" level after I contacted her. She sent me a card and said, "Thank you so much for thinking of us during your membership drive. I am excited about joining Friends of Baxter." She loves the Park and is looking forward to participating in FBSP's activities.

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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.

BSP Calendar for 2009 Available Soon!

This summer, for sale at the Park, in bookstores around the state, and from Friends, you will find a 2009 Baxter State Park Calendar featuring photographs donated by a variety of photographers, including some you may know well. The Park staff has provided helpful information for each photo as well as an introduction and has collaborated with Friends in the selection of photos and production of the calendar.

Attention photographers!

The search is on for photos for the 2010 calendar, which will go to print at the end of 2008. It is best to have high resolution digital photos, horizontal orientation, for the calendar. During your travels in the Park, you might keep in mind that we are looking for photos for each month of the year.

Please contact Bill Bentley at bentleys@tidewater.net or 207-763-3014 for more information.

We're on the Web

Check out the Friends' website at:
www.friendsofbaxter.org

You can view note cards and photos of the Park for sale and order some for yourself from Bill Bentley at 207-763-3014 or bentleys@tidewater.net. Or consult the schedule of Friends outings and activities and find out how to sign up!

FBSP Staff Position Available

Friends of Baxter State Park is looking for administrative assistance and would be glad to hear from interested individuals. While familiarity with Excel, Word, and Ebase would be helpful, candidates should be proficient with spreadsheets, word processing, and database software. They should be good with detail and have excellent written and communication skills as well as the ability to take minutes and write them up. Managing the website is also part of the job. For more details, please contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net

President's Column — Continued from p. 1

Why did you become a member of Friends of Baxter State Park? My guess is that someone who knew that you enjoyed visiting the Park and supported its wilderness values personally invited you to join. And that is exactly our approach during the current Membership Campaign. We intend to keep it personal! And what a delight it has been to hear the many personal accounts of experiences in the Park that span the generations! I am struck by how we Park enthusiasts - artists, hikers, campers, volunteers, and Park staff alike - are tied to this special place in so many ways.

In this issue of *Forever Wild*, you'll read moving testimony from a number of people. You will also learn more about the generous support the Park receives from donors and volunteers. And finally, you'll find numerous opportunities to get together with other Friends and to visit the Park. Please be sure to save the date for the April 26th Annual Meeting when the keynote speaker will address the cultural and historical ties Native Americans have to Katahdin.

All of us who heard the panel discussion held in January at Bates College Museum of Art's opening of *Taking Different Trails: The Artists Journey to Katahdin Lake* were brought abruptly to attention when one of the panelists gave us three succinct reasons why land conservation is indispensable. I'll wager that each of these reasons plays a part in what ties many of you — and me — to the Park.

Professor Carl Straub emphasized the importance of humanistic reflection on public policy as he urged us not to get bogged down in making the distinction between wilderness and working environment. What is helpful, he said, is to argue toward consensus on what range of activities you want to allow over what range of land. "Wilderness is a myth," he said. "Yosemite is a lot like Mt. Fuji. Both are surrounded by parking lots." His reasons for conserving land apply to all land, including Baxter State Park.

First, according to Straub, **conserving land is indispensable to conserving human memory**. Place stores memory, and our returning to place triggers memories

Keep it Personal — Continued from p. 1

This campaign is not just an opportunity to reach people who might not otherwise have known about the good work of our organization. It is also an opportunity to enhance the organization's viability, which is often a matter of public perception relating to number of members. This is also important to foundations, and to the Legislature, both of which look for evidence of an organization's viability, as demonstrated by the size of the membership.

Here are some points we have been highlighting when talking to our friends:

- Baxter State Park (BSP) is the gem of the Maine North Woods, sets a high standard for wilderness preservation, and is gradually being surrounded by other conserved properties.
- FBSP published the 4-volume set *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources* in 2005 and is currently in the process of a second printing, as well as publishing a paperback supplement to the 4-volume set with new material.
- FBSP collaborates with the Park on specific projects: trail maintenance, economic survey volunteers, scientific literature search, review of the KL management draft plan among them.
- FBSP provides oversight for BSP of Legislature, Authority meetings, and related matters and promotes the Park and its wilderness values through talks, brochure, publications, and outings.

If you'd like us to send you some materials to help with enrollment, like newsletters or remittance envelopes, please contact Mary Cooke, our Administrative Manager, at macooke01@yahoo.com, or call her at 763-4535. If you need more input from us before, or after, you begin enrolling your friends, please contact Barbara Bentley, Campaign Co-chair, at barbarabentley@tidewater.net or 207-763-3014, or me at henryb@fairpoint.net or 207-524-3149. Send checks to FBSP, PO Box 1442, Bangor, ME 04402-1442. Thank you.

— Chaitanya York

Birders' Walk in the Park

Last fall, we reported that Friends counted over 30 species of birds while camping at SBP. We plan to add to that list on a birdwalk lead by Audubon birder Judy Kellogg Markowsky. Join the group on July 4th or 5th for an early morning outing. Contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net.



Who knew Park Rangers shoveled snow?!

— Photo by Park Staff

Update from the Park by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

Baxter State Park staff and volunteers held a successful Opening Day of reservations on Tuesday, January 15th. By noontime, fifty-one Mainers and six non-residents, a total of 57 people, had made 76 reservations at Park Headquarters, leaving over 99% of the Park's camper nights for 2008 still available through the Rolling Reservation System. The opening day crowd is now a solid core of Park enthusiasts and long-time campers. This enjoyable opportunity to meet old friends and celebrate Baxter State Park will continue into the foreseeable future. Many thanks to the volunteers (including some FBSP members) who help make this a successful effort.

Winter camping in the Park has now begun in earnest, and we are happy to have real winter conditions – cold and lots of snow. Our Ranger staff has begun to work on hauling materials and supplies to Chimney Pond and Russell Pond to prepare for the coming summer season. Reports that we shoveled four feet of snow off the bridges on the trail to Chimney Pond in December are true!

The new bunkhouse at Chimney Pond is getting a workout from winter campers. As we suspected, some miss the view the former bunkhouse afforded of the mountain, but all agree the new bunkhouse is warmer, brighter, and much more accommodating to winter gear and full occupancy. We have begun to look for lynx in the SFMA utilizing the IF&W protocols for track survey. Nothing so far, but more survey work will take place over the winter. Our supervisory staff is just completing some excellent training on employee supervision, and we are starting to work on revisions to our Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) Manual. The summer season is coming up quickly, and we look forward to seeing you on the trail!

Looking Back ...

“Whoops! The cable is stuck!”

Crossing the South Branch of the Wassataquoik on the way from Roaring Brook to Russell Pond is today a real challenge even at low water times. I wonder how many remember the cable crossing that was provided by BSP in the 1960's? Just downstream from the junction of the Russell Pond Trail and the Wassataquoik Stream (Tracey) Trail, a pulley and cable system was installed to get people safely across.

“Some old-timers still recall with great fondness that heart-thumping crossing with a full pack on one's back, pulling on the cable, all the while sitting in a crouched position on top of the two-by-six stud attached to the cable. It was great fun, especially when one was out over mid-stream with the water raging below, to hear one's companion explain with obvious delight and a veiled snicker, “Oops! I think the cable is stuck!” Sometimes one was reduced to blatant bribery in order to get one's companion to resume pulling the contraption the rest of the way across the roiling white water below.”

John Neff, author of the above quote in his *Katahdin: an Historic Journey*, would love to hear from anyone who remembers at jhneff@fairpoint.net.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 26, 2008

Friends' Annual Meeting

Cascade Grange in Oakland, ME
Gather at 8:30 am, meet from 9-12,
lunch at noon, hike/canoe in the
afternoon

Deputy Chief Ranger Stewart Guay will bring news from Baxter State Park, and Maria Girouard of the Penobscot Nation will deliver the keynote entitled: “Wabanaki and K'taadn: A History and a Future.” Come along and bring a friend.

Our Readers Write...

We welcome the many letters from our readers. We regret that we can only publish excerpts here. Full text of these and more letters as well is available on our website. Please send letters to Barbara Bentley, 546 Hatch-et Mt. Road, Hope, ME 04847 or via email to barbarabentley@tidewater.net Thank you for staying in touch.

— Editor

Give youths from summer camps the experience

...I was a trip counselor at a summer camp and led several groups of campers up Katahdin in 1953 through 1957. I was sadly surprised by Mr. Howlett's revelation that summer camps are now relegated to “drive-in sites along the road.” The ability of summer camps to climb to Chimney Pond and then to Baxter Peak was a beautiful experience and a beautiful introduction to one of nature's magnificent creations. ... After I left the summer camp world, I continued to climb Mt. Katahdin for over 40 years. My children all climbed Mt. Katahdin. ... Please don't curtail that wonderful opportunity that so many summer camps used to introduce Katahdin to the youth of this country in those long ago days. ...

— Chandler Burton, Worcester, MA

Make it easier to make reservations

Baxter Park has declining user-days. An important short term goal would be to make it easier to make reservations. ... You can make hotel reservations 'most any place in the world with a telephone and credit card. Why not in Baxter? I'm not writing about making reservations online. Just a telephone and credit card. ...

— Jon Lund, Hallowell, ME

New Member of Friends checks in

Back home in Maine after being away for too long, I hiked into Katahdin Lake WC this summer. When I read your newsletter in my cabin, I instantly decided to become a member of FBSP. I am delighted to receive my first newsletter. My first trip into the Park was in the 50's sleeping in the backseat of the family's 48 Chevy at Katahdin Stream. ... I want to support efforts to bring young adults to experience Baxter Peak! ...

— Nancy Hathaway, Surry, ME

Needs the larger lean-tos for group of friends

For many years I have taken annual spring and fall trips to Baxter Park to paint, hike, fish, and refresh. They are always different: different weather, different groups of people, and different paintings and fish catches. They are always special: fine friends, glorious vistas, sights, sounds and smells, big and small fish, and certain sore muscles to remember it all by. I have been fortunate to be able to stay in some of the larger lean-tos with my group of friends. The two big lean-tos at Roaring Brook are among those I have enjoyed. I usually have 6 to 10 people with me. Having the space for this group really makes for a fine stay and keeps us close together for our evening storytelling and bean suppers. ...

— Chris Polson, Lincolnville, ME

Daicey Pond Logbook — not Pandora’s Box but a reservoir of the human heart

...Moonlight spilled onto the floor in great blue-white patches, leaving the corners of the room black and mysterious. As the cabin warmed, we lit the gas lamp, and the cabin was suffused with yellow light. On a shelf near the stove, I found a thick green book with a tiny label: “Daicey Pond Logbook”. Because I was tired, still recovering from our day-long skiing adventure, I simply fanned the leaves until the last page.

The entry, written in a meticulous cursive, was dated October 27, 2007. The first line was powerful. “In a few weeks, I’ll be seventy.” So immediate, so personal were those seven words that I shut the notebook. I could not imagine writing so intimately in such a public journal. To my mind, the logbook had the unwelcome potential of a Pandora’s box. I had come a long way to be with my own family, to talk, to ski, to listen. I wanted to hear the woods, not the words of previous campers. I put the logbook on another shelf far from the stove, but not too far.

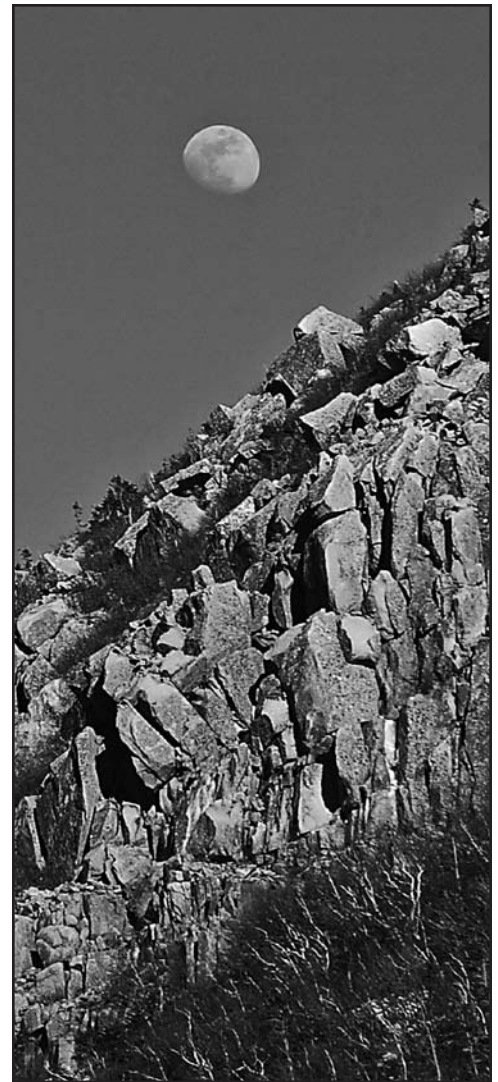
The moon was bright on the frozen pond, and glorious on Katahdin. Drifts two, three, and four feet covered boulders, tree trunks, and cabin porches. The temperature was twenty degrees and the woods were perfectly, coldly white as if covered in mounds of whipped cream. Hemlocks branches laden with snow sprung up only when shaken hard. All was white and cold and still. A Canada jay and a shrew kept quiet company near the cabin. Three ravens were silent in a tall pine. Moonlit Katahdin was riveting. We could not stop staring across the pond. Three days of visual splendor belonged to us. We were the only guests in the park. ...

Inside, we talked quietly, melted more snow, drank more tea. We were sleepy and content. In the shuffle of getting ready for bed, however, the logbook was rediscovered. That last entry had lodged in my mind. In seventeen years, I would be seventy. My son would be thirty-seven. What might the entry reveal about age, about Daicey, about the Park, about the writer? Were the other entries as compelling? I opened the logbook and read through the night.

Not at all a Pandora’s box, the journal was more like a reservoir of the human heart. The entries were by turns earnest, hilarious, hopeful, and nostalgic. They were written with love, with compassion, with longing. Without exception, the writers paid tribute to the awesome beauty of the Park. Without exception, the writers wrote of their families, their lovers, their friends. The entries were intimate and expansive. I saw daily life in Mountain View cabin at Daicey Pond through the eyes of scores of very different personalities. Even now, four weeks later, I can still hear their voices.

That first, well, last writer, I will never forget. Almost seventy, he had just completed the Appalachian Trial. His reluctance to end his six-month journey was palpable: “I do not want to leave this simple life of walking and finding water.” He described how his wife, his children, and his grandchildren had hiked long stretches of the trail with him. He wrote of the pleasures of being alone, of meeting other hikers, of depending on his family. For him, the route from Georgia to Katahdin had been both an external and internal journey. Sorry though he was to give up the simple routines of camping, he was looking forward to the “next part” of his life. His writing was graceful, poignant, clear, and full of conviction. I was glad to “hear” his voice and immediately read his entry aloud to my husband and son. They asked for another.

I read on. The “real” first entry was from June of 2000. The “Four Goddesses” from Portland had made their yearly trip to Mountain View cabin, this time with children. Written in bold print, their entries were exuberant, interrupted here and there with little cartoons of and by their children. The “goddesses”



Moon over Dudley Trail
— Photo by Bill Bentley

and their babes swam, fished, hiked, and cooked, all the while calling each other by their Hellenic pseudonyms: Aphrodite, Diana, etc. They dearly missed the goddess who could not leave her job this year and looked forward to next summer’s Daicey trip with the full complement of immortals.

When I read this entry aloud, my son and my husband shook their heads. Was there an entry of “gods”? I skimmed several dates and was astounded to find what might have been written by Ares, god of war. In cramped, often erratic entries, five writers had composed a five-page spoof, a wittily imagined disintegration of a fishing party, in which warring factions raided and cannibalized each other. The details were gory and rapacious, a Monte Python mixture of the Donner Party meets Cormac McCarthy.

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Most entries were more benign. In 2001, a summer entry began “We are a blended family, and we’ll see how this vacation works out.” As I read on, I could see that, in fact, the Daicey trip did work out. The disparate parts of the new family cleaned the same cabin, ate from the same spaghetti pot, and hiked the same trail up the mountain. They sweated, they swam, they swatted mosquitoes. They got dirty and smelly and shared whatever clean socks they could scrounge among themselves. They left Daicey in the same van, happy and all of one piece.

Several entries from 2002 included the long road trips families from Virginia, New Jersey, and Iowa had taken summer after summer to spend time in the Park. Other years, visitors from Europe and Japan wrote lovingly of the precious wilderness they saw in Baxter, a wildness they had never experienced in their home countries.

Reverence for the Park, however, was sometimes balanced by a healthy dose of parody. One entry questioned the “deification” of Percival Baxter, a name “unknown to Philadelphians and many others” until they hit Togue Pond gate. Another lampooned latrine etiquette. Still others, speculated on the fertility of Daicey frogs and gave instructions for ear plugs. ...

Teens often wrote in the logbook, chronicling their participation in the “required” family vacation. One young girl wrote in 2005, “I’m missing school for this trip. That’s always bad, but this weekend is Homecoming and tonight is the big dance. I guess, though, if you are here and reading this you’ll know why I am here too.” She signed her name with her age in parenthesis, fourteen.

There were many, many more writers. One man, now eighty-five, wrote a veritable history of the Tall Pines Camps and his longtime friends, now deceased, who returned year after year to Daicey Pond. Boys and girls as young as seven and eight scrawled, “We had a good time” across the top of two pages. One winter camper could chart decreasing snow cover from his many March skiing trips. He wrote sadly of global warming and his fear that all too soon, spring skiing in the Park would be an activity of the past.

Over the next two days, I reread several entries. They were eloquent, stunning reminders of the power the Park has on its guests. Too often we trot out Thoreau as our poet of Katahdin, when some of our more humble contemporaries have, in a few swift sentences, distilled the essence of living close to the great mountain. The logbook was a treasure chest of prose poems celebrating both wilderness and family. As I put it away for the last time, I felt I had read a great book. Later, on the last day, when our gear had been packed and the cabin floor swept, my son asked me what I had written. I told him my entry is very short and next year we will read: “December 22-24, 2007. Lisa, Dan, and Cy are very glad to be here.”

— *Lisa Scofield, Hope, ME*

These places seem to “own” a little bit of me.

The dictionary on my desk defines “transition” as a “passage from one state, place, or stage, or subject another.” My internal dictionary could probably add that I should expect a transitional passage, as predictable as an Old Faithful eruption, each October as the Park season ends. After 19 seasons of work at the Park, you might think I’d have the transition routine down cold, that I’d have the ability to move seamlessly through the seasonal phases of my life as a trout moves from one pool to the next. The reality, however, is that I’m still surprised by the depth of feeling I experience every October, as I make that last hike out from my work station at Russell Pond and resume my life in mid-coast Maine.

Most BSP seasonal folks cope with many of the same “nuts and bolts” issues that I face every fall. Since my bills and obligations aren’t seasonal, finding gainful employment is front and center – and it isn’t always easy or stress-free. I can’t afford to keep the state’s health care coverage over the winter, so I have to remember to arrange a new policy with Anthem Blue Cross – a process which makes me feel as if I am feeding a pack of rabid weasels. I am fortunate to own my own home and to have a place to return to each fall. While I don’t have the added stress of finding a place to live, the “to do” list of chores and upkeep seems to have grown exponentially during my absence. I have to reintroduce myself to friends and neighbors, and remind myself that they know me as “BC”, not “Unit 11”. Similarly, the rest of the world expects me to answer the phone with “hello”, rather than “10-3”. I have to remember that the use of indoor plumbing is now actually an option – a relatively easy adjustment on these long, cold nights. Unlike an outhouse, proper etiquette here dictates that I remember to flush.

For me, the trickier part of navigating the seasonal transition lies in deeper territory, beyond the nuts and bolts. It has more to do with a sense of place. A sentence from a book I read this summer seems relevant: “In the fall of the year, Lord’s Bog is the most beautiful place on the face of the earth, so beautiful that if you go there alone, it hurts your heart not to have someone to share it with.” ... I’d guess that many of us know our own versions of Lord’s Bog within the Park’s boundaries – places overlooked by the crowds and rarely mentioned in guidebooks. These places are every bit as much home to me as the home I actually own – except the sense of ownership is reversed. These places seem to “own” a little bit of me. The connection to them is bone-deep. Living and working, day to day, amid this beauty is a gift that I don’t take for granted – there is no line on my pay stub which adequately quantifies the “benefits” added to my income. When I prepare to leave in the fall, I tend to linger purposefully in these special places before turning to head down the trail. Walking away, I’m already buoyed by the notion of returning in the spring. In a sense, while I may leave them, they never really leave me. ...

— *Brendan Curran, Hope, ME*



Howard Whitcomb speaks about Baxter's vision at the State Capitol in Augusta. —Photo by Bill Bentley

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund —

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Caverly continued that he is confident future donors will jump on this bandwagon regardless of the economic situation in the state and country as a whole, that Baxter Park lovers from all corners will carry on the tradition of assuring that this jewel of Maine will thrive throughout the generations.

All gifts to the Fund, and the Fund's gifts to the Park, must be free of conditions or encumbrances and are to be used as the BSP Authority sees fit. This is as it should be. At present, however, gifts to the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund fall under additional limitations imposed by a State statute requiring that the Governor accept all gifts, bequests, grants or conveyances to the State of Maine of value greater than \$50. Although the Park itself enjoys an exception allowing it to receive direct donations of up to and including \$1000, this statute makes acceptance by the Fund of donations of over \$50 a cumbersome process. The Fund's Commissioners believe it is imperative that the Legislature consider and draft language for an LD that minimizes impacts and red tape for those who wish to make contributions to the BPWF. The Fund should not be handicapped by any such limitations.

Information about the Fund will soon be available on the web. and contributions to the Fund can be sent to:

**Baxter Park Wilderness Fund
P.O. Box 823
Rockland, ME 04841**

Baxter Papers Project Receives Funding Supplemental Volume to be Published This Summer

The acquisition of the Katahdin Lake parcel highlighted the need to update the four-volume set *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources*, published by Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) in 2005, that focused on the period prior to Governor Baxter's death in 1969. In summer 2008, the FBSP will publish a supplemental volume, tentatively entitled *Governor Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: A Documentary History 1931-2006*, with new documentary material, along with maps and annotations, pertaining to the land acquisitions of '92, '97 and '06.

This updated resource, including the reprinting of the annotated deeds of trust, will provide definitive documentation of the Park's creation and growth during the past 75 years. The paperback volume will have new front matter; an introductory essay on Baxter's Vision; and a multi-part appendix, including the complete Table of Contents of the Vision volumes and the location of public repositories where the 4-volume sets are held. Howard R. Whitcomb will be the author.

Friends received an anonymous gift of \$12,000 that will underwrite the printing of 1,000 copies. This generous gift has enabled the publishing of this 272 page paperback to go forward at this time. The market will include the Park itself and its Advisory (Committee), legislators, environmental organizations, libraries, members of the FBSP, and the general public.

In 2005, the FBSP published 14 copies of the four-volume set *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources*. The Friends underwrote three-quarters of the project's total cost of approximately \$8,500. The balance of the funding consisted of charitable contributions from the Davis Conservation Foundation (\$2,000) and several individuals.

It has become apparent that there is a need for wider distribution of the original four-volume set not only within the original target audience of governmental officials and public libraries, but also among collegiate libraries and those with academic, journalistic, or heightened personal interests in Baxter or Baxter State Park itself. A second printing of about 30 sets will meet that demand.

To date, sixteen individuals or libraries have agreed to purchase copies at \$350/set. These paid copies will underwrite all but approximately \$3,000 of the cost of the second printing. At least two of the library copies will find homes outside the state, namely at the Appalachian Mountain Club in Boston and the University of Vermont.

— Howard Whitcomb

From Baxter to Quimby: the Individual's Role in Planning for Maine Parks

Last fall, at the National Conference on Planning History held in Potland, ME, Marc Howlett presented a paper on the important role that Percival P. Baxter, Roxanne Quimby, and others have played in planning Maine parks through their philanthropic endeavors. The combination of public support for land conservation and private funding results in successful conservation efforts. Marc is a PhD candidate in city and regional planning at U. of N. Carolina.

Many Ways to Enjoy the Park

Training Sessions, Volunteer Opportunities, & Walks in the Park

VOLUNTEER in 2008:

BSP Trail Friends and Trail Stewards

Have you ever volunteered to work on the trails in Baxter State Park? The Park provides tools, safety equipment, training/supervision, and accommodation; the volunteer brings clothing, outdoor gear, and food. Park Trail supervisor Paul Sannicandro has announced the **Trail Friends** schedule for Summer 2008. There are four opportunities planned for this summer:

June 7 & 8

National Trails Day - Marston Trail and Trail Stewards Training - **14 volunteers - moderate/difficult** - 7.4 miles with daypack (with serious elevation gain)

June 23 - 26

Mixed Bag of Projects: Traveler Mt. Loop, North Traveler, and Fowler Brook Trails - **4 volunteers - moderate/difficult** - demanding 10.6 mile hike

June 29 - July 3, July 6 - 10, July 13-17, and July 20 - 24

Alpine Reconstruction: Saddle Trail - **4 volunteers each date - most difficult** - pack in gear 3.3 mi. to Chimney and climb Katahdin 4 days in a row - heavy technical work involved

August 27 - September 3

Hunt Trail - Erosion Control - **12 volunteers - moderate/difficult**

For people who take the training on June 7-8, and are willing to schedule three work trips per season, there is the **Trail Stewards Program**. Trails are assigned from a list of identified priority trails, and dates are scheduled in advance by the Trail Supervisor.

If you're interested in being a Trail Friend or a Trail Steward, please **contact Paul Sannicandro** in the next few weeks to get acquainted and make arrangements for these work trips. Places are assigned on a first come/first served basis and are going fast. **Leave a message for Paul at 207-723-9616 or email him at Paul.Sannicandro@maine.gov**

Fly Fishing Enthusiasts take note!

FBSP is looking for trout this 4th of July weekend! Join master Maine Guide Bill Bentley for a couple of days of backpacking and fly fishing in the north end of the Park. Be prepared to hike into a back country site for the evening hatch, overnight camping, and early morning fishing. Interested in joining the group? Contact Bill at 207-763-3014 or bentleys@tidewater.net.

FBSP Trail Crews

This year for the first time, Friends is sending a couple of four-person teams to the Park to help rid the many miles of trails of the winter's blowdowns. Each team will have one certified chainsaw operator and three helpers. Work they do will help free up the Park's own crews for more technical tasks.

The first dates on the books for 2008 are May 10 & 11, with arrival on the 9th. Possible trails include the Wasataquoik Lake Trail from Nesowadnehunk, the Freeze Out Trail, Wadleigh Brook Trail, or Frost Pond Trail. Please sign up as soon as possible with barbarabentley@tidewater.net. This is a pilot project for Friends and will likely lead to further opportunities for Friends to help clear trails in the Park.

Note: Date is subject to change if Park roads are not yet passable.



While most Brook Trout return to the water, these stayed for breakfast. — Photo by Bill Bentley

Interested in becoming a certified chainsaw operator?

You'll need a two-day chainsaw training course and another two day First Aid and CPR course. Both are available this spring on consecutive weekends in April. For chainsaw training on April 19 & 20 or October 4 & 5, contact Craig Dickstein at craig.donna@wildblue.net right away as places are limited. There is a fee.

To receive required training in CPR & AED plus First Aid certification, contact Bill Bentley at bentleys@tidewater.net. This course is open to anyone and there is a fee. This sort of training is not often available and would help prepare Friends for future projects in the Park.



Bill Bentley and Evelyn Dunphy were among the 19 artists in the Bates College show. —Photo by Barbara Bentley

Artists among Friends in shows at Portland and Bates

There are concurrent shows of artists portraying Katahdin and Baxter State Park including a number of Friends - Chris Polson, David Little, Evelyn Dunphy, Jym St. Pierre, Abbott Meader, and Bill Bentley among them.

At the Bates College Museum of Art is *Taking Different Trails: The Artists Journey to Katahdin Lake* through May 24th, www.bates.edu/museum. In Portland, the Jameson Art Group presents *Katahdin: The Lake and Her Artists* through March 15th, www.jamesongallery.com

Take a Nature Walk in the Park

In thinking about the lakes and ponds beneath Katahdin, Thoreau referenced the image of these still waters as "... a mirror broken into a thousand fragments, and wildly scattered over the grass, reflecting the full blaze of the sun." Those "fragments" have unique stories to uncover and are home to diverse living creatures. Come along with Friends' board member, lake educator, and guide Rex Turner as he leads a day of hiking and exploring water ecology in Baxter State Park's lower terrain. For more information, contact Rex Turner by email at rturner@mlci.org or at 441-9521.

A Day of Jake Day: Saturday, April 19, 1 – 5:00 pm

Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens celebrates the life of Maurice "Jake" Day with its on-going show of his serious work and an afternoon of talks about this remarkable Maine artist. Two members of Friends of Baxter, Howard W. Whitcomb and John Neff, join forces in revealing Jake Day's inspiring relationship with one of Maine's most inspirational places. Buzz Caverly tells us that Jake, as official Park artist, designed the BSP's logo, and many of Jake's painting reside at Park Headquarters.

Walk in the Park with Friends Day Trips Available this Year

Friends' overnight "Walk in the Park" this year is at Chimney Pond on July 23, 24, & 25. In addition, there will be a number of day hikes/outings available to folks who make their own arrangements for travel and accommodations. To sign up for any of these opportunities, contact barbarabentley@tidewater.net, call 207-763-3014, or see articles in this newsletter for contact information.

February

end of February - ski trip to Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps (rates on web) - TBA

March

27, 28, 29 - "Warm Winter Outing" at Twin Pines Camps on Millinocket Lake - \$35/person/night

April

12 & 13 CPR & AED plus First Aid Cert.
19 & 20 Chainsaw Training & Cert.

May

10 & 11 - FBSP trail crew(s) in Park (dates subject to change)

June

7 & 8 - National Trails Day - Trail Stewards' Training at BSP - early sign-up required at BSP
end of June - Leave No Trace (LNT) Training (1/2 day or 2-day) - Marcia Williamson at BSP

July

4 or 5 - Fly-fishing in Park - Bill Bentley
4 or 5 - Bird Walk - Judy Kellogg Markowsky
11 (rain date 12) - Painting en plein air - Evelyn Dunphy
19 - Loon Count - (7:30 - 8:00 am) - contact BSP
23, 24, 25 - Walk in the Park - 3 nights at Chimney Pond

August

21 (rain date 22) - Nature Walk - Rex Turner

September

October

4 & 5 Chainsaw Training & Cert.

No dates yet. Interested?

- Canoeing in the Park
- BSP Harpswell Property Walk
- Photography in the Park
- Day hike to Katahdin lake
- SFMA tour

Calling Landscape Artists

Interested in toting your own gear to a scenic vista in the Park? Consider joining Evelyn Dunphy for a day of painting *en plein air*, Friday, July 11th. To sign up contact Barbara Bentley at 207-763-3014 or barbarabentley@tidewater.net

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!

Baxter Park Wilderness Fund at \$3.1 Million

The newly created Baxter Park Wilderness Fund (BPWF) has received \$3.1 million so far, and the Park will reap its first financial benefits from the Fund this year. The Fund's Commissioners — Skip Pease, Jim Garland, and Buzz Caverly — have met several times, hired A.G. Edwards to manage the funds, and voted to give the Park a minimum of \$65,000 this year. Their goal is to provide an annual sum of money to the Park, one that will keep pace with inflation and go on forever.

The Commissioners are optimistic that as time goes on, others will want to follow the example of the Fund's founders, Frank and Margery Trautmann, as well as Percival P. Baxter himself, in assuring that long term financial resources are available to support the natural resources of the Park as outlined in the Deeds of Trust. Buzz Caverly said, "It is like a horse and carriage. Can't have one without the other. Without the needed financial resources, the Park's ability to protect the natural resources is impaired."

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Gorgeous Any Time of Year

Katahdin Lake is a year round destination for Friends — a 3.3 mile hike from Avalanche Field in the summer and a much longer ski or snowshoe from Abol Bridge (or Togue Pond Gate for the faint of heart) in the winter. Holly's welcome mat at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps is a draw for many.

— Photo by Rob Tice