



Friends of Baxter State Park

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

Money! Decisions so often come down to the basics. "How much does it cost? What can we afford?"

Not everyone is aware that Baxter State Park receives no taxpayer funding whatsoever. In fact, some people express surprise, even disbelief, when I tell them. In his efforts to ensure that the Park remain forever wild, Percival P. Baxter put considerable thought into each part of that formula – the "forever" and the "wild." Funding for the Park comes from trusts established by Gov. Baxter himself and dedicated to the Park, from Park campground fees, from revenues generated by sustainable timber harvesting in the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA), and from unrestricted donations given to the Park for use as the Park Authority deems most appropriate.

The Park's trust funds are managed to provide funding for the Park in perpetuity. Park budgets are formed with careful attention to affordability. Park staff members ask themselves, when putting together the annual budget for approval by the BSP Authority, "What is the best job we can do with the funds we have available?"

That said, I hope you've seen the new Ken Burns series, *The National Parks, America's Best Idea*. Makes

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Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
FALL 2009 VOL. 9 NO. 4



Anna Doyle, Laura Donovan, and Audrey Cross wade a stream in the Park's backcountry during the week-long Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program in August.

— Photo from Alex Hadik's website

First Wilderness Leadership Program Is Huge Success

The seeds for this year's first Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program were planted at the Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) Board's fall retreat in 2007. Looking for ways to ensure wilderness preservation for the next generation, the Board chose experiential education in Baxter State Park for youth as the best route toward that goal. On August 9th, 2009, ten Maine high school students set out on a backcountry hiking and camping adventure that would introduce them to wilderness and deepen their understanding of its meaning and its value.

Chosen for their promise of leadership, these students represented diverse areas of our state. They were: Audrey Cross, Brunswick; Laura Donovan, Veazie; Anna Doyle, Winthrop; Nolan Dumont, Lincoln; Isaac Grindle, Camden; Alex Hadik, Woolwich; Jessica Hoch, Falmouth; Keegan McGowan,

Phippsburg; Eric Meyer, East Wilton; and Katherine Liscovitz, Brunswick.

"By all accounts, this year's program was a huge success," reported Project Coordinator Linda McKee at the September Board meeting. "Through reading the evaluations written by both students and the two wilderness leaders, we learned quickly that everyone had enjoyed the week and had made strong connections to the wilderness of Baxter State Park. I have no doubt that they will remember this special week for some time."

The week began at Park Headquarters where Park Manager Jensen Bissell welcomed the participants and their parents and shared information about the Park and its history. FBSP President Barbara Bentley told them about the Friends organization and our interest in wilderness preservation as

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PO Box 1442
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 www.friendsofbaxter.org

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*

us proud of our national parks, no? Ironically, it has inspired Board member Howard Whitcomb to prepare a talk entitled *Baxter Thwarts NPS Plan for Katahdin (circa 1937-38)*. Howard compiled and annotated the *Baxter Papers* and authored the book *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession* so I expect we'll get the real inside story of why Baxter went to such great lengths to make his Park both independent and self-supporting. He made provisions in the Deeds of Trust for the Park's separate identity, independence from legislative interference, and budgetary autonomy.

Why do I remind you of all this? While *The National Parks, America's Best Idea* makes us proud, it also reminds us how difficult, and controversial, funding our parks can be. Since its inception, Baxter State Park has been blessed with financial independence. However, in November, Mainers will be asked to vote on what is referred to as TABOR II, "An Act to Provide Tax Relief" that proposes to set spending and revenue limits on state government as well as spending limits on county and local governments.

As is often the case, the devil is in the details. Maine voters should give careful consideration to the details, including those that would apply these same limits to more than 700 "special revenue" and "internal service" accounts. These accounts are the way our public agencies manage dedicated sources of revenue. Baxter State Park's account is one of these accounts. The limits proposed by TABOR II would apply and could interfere with Gov. Baxter's effort to insulate the Park's budget (and all the essential activities it funds) from outside interference. Details, details!

How to Contact Us
Rosemary Hastings, Admin. Manager
 28 Serenity Lane, Hope, ME 04847
 207-785-2641
 rosehast@tidewater.net

Barbara Bentley, President
 546 Hatchet Mt. Rd, Hope, ME 04847
 207-763-3014
 barbarabentley@tidewater.net

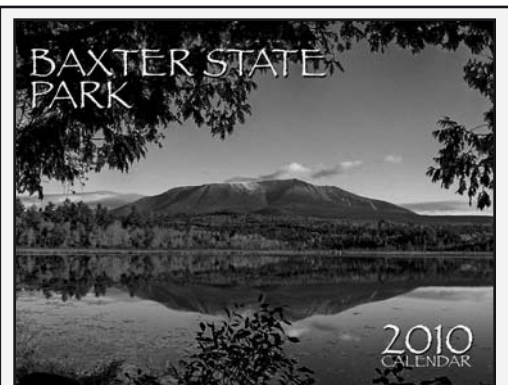
Laurie Rich, Volunteer Coordinator
 friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com



Donn Fendler signs one of his books at the FBSP booth. — Photo © Bill Bentley

Wilderness Experience Formed Fendler's Life

Donn Fendler, author of *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* and FBSP Honorary Director, volunteered at the FBSP booths at the Trails End Festival and Common Ground Fair. Donn told his story to attentive and sometimes emotional audiences and spoke with countless very appreciative individuals, inscribing and signing books old and new. He told audiences of his formative experience in Katahdin's wilderness, admonished young and old to properly equip and prepare themselves and then set out to explore the wilderness for themselves. He thanked those, including FBSP, for the support they give to Baxter State Park.



2010 BSP Calendar
 26 Photos by BSP Staff & FBSP
 See FBSP website for details.

well as the sponsoring Quimby Family Foundation's generous grant. Greg Shute, Director of Wilderness Programs at Chewonki Foundation with whom Friends partnered for the trip, also spoke to the group. Linda McKee distributed special journals and pens for writing in rainy conditions and discussed how nature journals can deepen one's appreciation for wilderness.

From there, the students, with two wilderness leaders, went by van to South Branch Pond where they began their journey. Here they hiked, camped, and participated in two workshops on the first morning. Rangers Marcia and Gabe Williamson introduced the group to the *Leave No Trace* guidelines, and photographer Bill Bentley conducted a digital camera workshop focusing on nature photography. The wilderness leaders taught the teens about backcountry backpacking and meal preparation.

On the second day, the group hiked 9.6 miles into remote Russell Pond for a two-night stay. Here they swam, canoed, and hiked. From there, it was on to Roaring Brook for a three-night stay. BSP Naturalist Jean Hoekwater spoke to the group about plants and flowers the group would encounter in the fragile alpine area on their next day's ascent of Katahdin. Geologist Rob Johnston, senior geologist at the Maine Geologic Survey, accompanied the leaders and the teens on the Katahdin hike and pointed out geologic features of the area, especially at Chimney Pond.

Upon return from Katahdin late that afternoon, the group was met at the end of the trail by Laurie Rich, "the cookie lady," who had brought chocolate chip cookies. "Those were gone in minutes," said one of the leaders. After supper that night, the group was entertained by former Chief Ranger Chris Drew, who regaled them with stories of both the wildlife of the Park and the "wild life" of some of its visitors. Harrowing tales of rescues, funny experiences with hikers, and the daily life of a ranger kept the teens asking for more. But then it was time for Doug Rich, an amateur su-



MYWLP participants sport new T-shirts at end of program in front of Park Headquarters. *L to R front row:* leader Ashley Nadeau, Laura Donovan, Anna Doyle, Audrey Cross, Katie Liscovitz, Jess Hoch. *Back row:* Alex Hadik, Keegan McGowan, Isaac Grindle, Eric Meyer, Nolan Dumont, leader Keith Crowley. — Photo by © Barbara Bentley

pernova hunter, to escort the group to Sandy Stream with headlights for a late evening of star-gazing, "a great addition to the trip," according to one teen.

The final day before departure was spent at Painter's Beach at Katahdin Lake with regional artist Evelyn Dunphy, who introduced them to *en plein aire* painting. One student remarked, "It was splendid. Everyone was nervous at first, but then we all went with it and had a great time. We'd been surrounded by all this beauty for so long, and we were able to channel all that we'd seen this week."

Their last night made a big impression on the group. Barry Dana — artist, wilderness guide, birchbark canoe builder, and former Governor of the Penobscot Indian tribe — talked about Native peoples' connection with wilderness and the Penobscots' connection with Katahdin. He taught them also about survival in the wilderness and told them some stories. Many listed his presentation as their favorite and wanted to know more about Penobscot culture. "Valuable," "interesting," "incredible experience," students wrote. "It was the perfect way to end the week. It made me think back on my experience and left me with the mission

of keeping the wilderness the way it is," one said. "He made us think about wilderness and our relationship with it over the past week," another said.

On Sunday, August 16, ten backcountry campers and their leaders came out of the wilderness to meet their parents at Headquarters. A changed group, we are certain. "It was a great experience," wrote one student. "It made me analyze and interpret my understanding of nature and leadership. I learned a lot and did things I never would have done otherwise."

Thanks to the renewal of the FBSP grant, Wilderness Preservation for the Next Generation from the Quimby Family Foundation, we now have \$15,000 for next year's second Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, a \$5000 increase over last year!

Our Readers Write...

Scouts at Abol...

I am looking for information on the Abol Scout Reservation. I stayed there many times as a scout in Troop 58 in Millinocket and brought my troop from Saco there back in '97 or so. I know the area is no longer reserved for scouts and can't be used by the public but I would like

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Looking Back ...

Guardian of the Sourdnahunk Valley

One early morning this past September, Bill and Barbara Bentley, Howard Whitcomb, Ray Anderson, and I began our trek up Doubletop Mt. (west of Katahdin), named by the venerable Myron Avery of AT fame "Maine's most perfect mountain." It was a steep and challenging climb, but we were amply rewarded by one of the most magnificent summit views in the State of Maine. Doubletop has many rich historical stories to tell, primarily due to its prominent location in the midst of the storied Sourdnahunk Valley. Early explorers along the lower Penobscot West Branch called it Sugarloaf because, from their vantage point, they could see only one of the two peaks (only .2 miles apart), and it reminded them of a giant cone-shaped loaf of unrefined sugar they saw frequently in their home kitchens. Beginning in the 1880s, logs were driven down Sourdnahunk Stream in the shadow of Doubletop all the way to the great boom in Old Town.

In 1913, the Maine Forest Service cut a trail to the north peak where a wooden fire tower was erected. That tower was later replaced by a steel tower but was abandoned in the mid-1930s. The tower eventually fell over and was finally removed by helicopter in 2000. Remnants of the steel bases and a few huge guy wires can still be seen at the summit. The trail was abandoned at that time and reopened by Baxter State Park personnel in 1960. A rough trail to the south

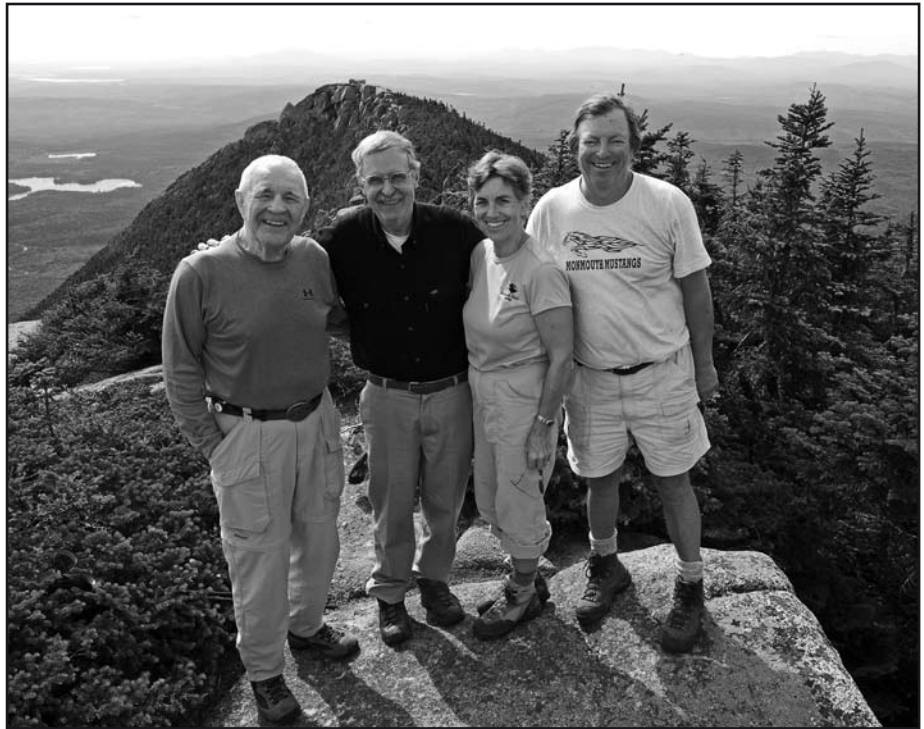
peak was cut in the 1940s by some of the guests at Kidney Pond Camps. A poignant metal plaque can be seen on a rock near the summit. It reads: "Keppele Hall. June 10, 1872 - April 25, 1926. His ashes were given to the winds at this place August 20, 1926, at sunset, by his wife. Love Only is Eternal".

One of the most dramatic sights from the summit is the geographic evidence of the great avalanches that fell from the slopes of South Brother and Mount Coe in the mid-1870s. The slides dammed up Sourdnahunk Stream giving rise to the name "Slide Dam", a picnic stop along the Tote Rd. Doubletop still presides over the Sourdnahunk Valley with great beauty

and dignity. I regret not having climbed it until this year. – *John Neff, Author of Katahdin: An Historic Journey, can be contacted at jhneff@fairpoint.net*



This plaque predates the establishment of the Park, where such memorials are no longer permitted. – *Photo © Bill Bentley*



L to R: John Neff, Howard Whitcomb Barbara Bentley, and Ray Anderson on Doubletop's north summit, with south summit in the background. – Photo © Bill Bentley



The view of Doubletop from OJI includes the Sourdnahunk Valley mentioned in John Neff's Looking Back ... – Photo © Bill Bentley

Pitching in and Stepping Out

Laurie Rich,
FBSP Volunteer &
Event Coordinator



friendsofbaxtervolunteers@gmail.com

Please send in your contact information update – the bright green sheet included in a recent mailing. Your email address saves us money and resources! And as you look ahead to 2010, consider volunteering in the Park. If you'd like to join others for a Walk in the Park, send us suggestions for time and place. We will be making reservations in January.

THANK YOU to all who volunteered this year. You made a difference.

September's Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond campground included Mike Prokosch, Becky Pierce, and Soledad Boyd from Massachusetts, Barb and Bill Bentley and Jon and Anne Huntington from



This new BSP Junior Ranger, 8 yr. old Susanna Mirick, donned her backpack and hiked the 7 miles from Roaring Brook to Russell Pond. She is the 4th generation of her family to do this for a week every August, a tradition now for 49 years. She proved to be an agile rock-hopper, fearlessly navigating stream crossings and exploring Grand Falls among other places. Material on the Park's Junior Ranger program is available at the Park's Visitor Center and from Park Rangers at campgrounds.

– Photo © Barbara Bentley



At the top of the Chimney, Katahdin's summit is framed by the Knife Edge and Pamola, and to the north is the Tableland.
– Photo by Bill Bentley

Maine. Jon arrived at camp with full backpack having come from Abol via the summit, Knife Edge, and Dudley! Conditions were at first brisk – with morning temps at 24 degrees – and then snowy and icy, but we warmed up as we hiked up into the sunshine. Several went to the summit and returned to camp via various routes. Others visited Blueberry Knoll in the North Basin. A fine time by all!

In July, members of FBSP gathered at South Branch Pond campground for several nights, braving unseasonably

hardy bugs and challenging wet, wet conditions. In spite of that, we enjoyed a variety of activities. Some hiked the Traveler Loop, others went to Howe Falls, and some to North Traveler. We participated in the Annual Audubon, very wet, Loon Count, and Charlie Jacobi worked one day as Trail Steward on the Center Ridge trail. Other participants included Julia McDonald and Christine Letcher; Rosemary Hastings with Nate Wyman, Josh Simmons, and Aaron Varney; and Barb and Bill Bentley.



The 10-mile Traveler Loop affords maximum time for the hiker to enjoy being above treeline for a long walk on top of the world. Fabulous 360 degree views came and went all day for this hiker headed north.
– Photo © Bill Bentley

Our Readers Write...

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to understand why it was closed. I heard it had something to do with the Penobscots.

– Bryan Courtois,

Scoutmaster Troop 310, Saco ME

In response:

Mr. Curtis,

Along with you, I also remember when Scout groups had several sites exclusively reserved for their use in Baxter Park, including the site that we now call Abol Narrows as well as a site along Webster Stream and one on Matagamom Lake. In the late 1990s, the Penobscot Indian Nation did ask for similar consideration – requesting an exclusive site be set aside for them for ceremonial use. Advice from the Park’s legal counsel was very clear – any site set aside for the use of an organized group would need to be available for any organized group. The Baxter State Park Authority considered this advice and concluded that the Park donor did not intend for the Park to provide this kind of specialized site outside of the organized campgrounds. In order to be fair and consistent with this policy, the relationship with National High Adventure that provided exclusive site use was discontinued. Since then, the National High Adventure has become the Maine High Adventure, and this organization still uses Park facilities by reserving Park campsites and group areas like any other group or individual. I hope this provides an answer to your question. If not, please don’t hesitate to contact me and thanks for your interest in the Park.

– Jensen Bissell,

BSP Director, Millinocket, ME

Knowing that the Park’s Daicey Pond and Katahdin were sources of joy and inspiration for him, many friends and family members have made generous donations to
Friends of Baxter State Park

In Memory of

Larry Alan Parks

February 24, 1946 - July 20, 2009

May visits to the Park restore the soul
and inspire all who go there.



Hauling materials to Chairback Mountain leanto, Trails End Hard Core volunteers pull together.
– Photo © Paul Renaud

Trails End Hard Core volunteers...

The 2,178 miles of the Appalachian Trail are maintained solely by volunteers. Hard Core groups along the Trail, one in Tennessee and another in Vermont, are volunteers who are “giving back” by working on the AT.

The Trails End Hard Core was sponsored by us at the AT Lodge and Lester Kenway of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC). The volunteers included 12 hikers and 5 MATC members. The group hauled materials and tools needed up Chairback Mountain to rebuild the leanto there. Everyone earned the first ever Trails End Hard Core patch. Lunch was provided by the Appalachian Trail Cafe, shuttle service to the work site by Appalachian Trail Lodge and Shaw’s Lodging in Monson. Many thanks to everyone! See you next year.

– Paul Renaud, Millinocket, ME

Barnard Mountain’s name....

At the annual meeting of Maine Chapter of IAT, somehow the subject of Barnard Mtn. (2 mi. E of Ktaadn Lake) came up, in connection with early lumbering in that area. A while later, I met and talked with Bob Ellis, O.D., of Houlton. He recalled that in one of Myron Avery’s publications, Avery claimed that the mountain was named after an African-American who had risen to become a foreman (“straw

boss”) in a lumbering operation there in the early 1900s. After some searching up to this week, Ellis couldn’t find the article.

Short of going through a lengthy web search, I wonder if you and Bill would know something about this story. . . interesting historical mystery. Many years ago (1940s – 1960s), I remember going through Stacyville on Rte. 11 a number of times, and seeing an old Negro who lived in a little cottage alongside the road. There were indeed the rare blacks who lived in that general area. Well, there’s a subject to pursue some rainy day.

– Gary Boone, Presque Isle

In response:

In the notes I used for my book, I recorded the following - “a black logger along the Wassataquoik in the early part of the last half of the 19th century.” Unfortunately I did not write down the source of that information so I cannot go back to it. It very well might be from one of Avery’s articles which are full of such information. I shall do a search of my copies of the Avery articles to see if there is anything further there. In the glossary of place names near the end of my book, I have identified Barnard pretty much in the words quoted above. I am aghast, however, that I did not identify him as possibly African-American. I know of no reason for that omission.

That’s about as much as I can contrib-

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ute. I would be most interested in receiving any further information that might be unearthed in the future. I keep an ongoing list of changes or additions that would be needed in case there is ever a revised edition contemplated.

– John Neff, Winthrop, ME

Old City is...

I am taking a class on Maine Studies, and I was using Mapquest while doing an assignment and noticed that there is a place near Grand Falls in Baxter State Park that is called “Old City”. Google Maps and Earth also have it in the same location. Except there doesn’t appear to be anything there, and there is nothing on any websites. I am very very confused and I would just like to find out what these sites are referring to. If you could help I would really appreciate it. Thanks,

– Blake Williams, Bangor, ME

In response:

Old and New Cities are remnants of the logging era, settlements that supplied the loggers with logistical support. When I was young (40 - 50 years ago), there were visible signs of the places. Today, there is no sign of Old City nor is there a trail that goes there anymore. New City is a clearing that is fast growing in on the trail from the Wassataquoik Stream lean-to’s to Russell Pond. For the whole story, see John Neff’s *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*.

– Editor



Maine Partners of the Americas unfurled flags at Baxter Peak to commemorate 40 years of partnership. See FBSP website for an account of the gala event celebrating the occasion.

– Photo © Al Howlett

Cooks’ Corner

Backpacking Recipes for the Trail

Got a good recipe to share? Please send it in and we’ll give it a try.

– Editor



Above L to R: Ken Spalding, Howard Whitcomb, Joe Wiegand as Teddy Roosevelt, Barbara Bentley, Ralph Pope, and Jym St. Pierre joined Katahdin Area Rotary at River Drivers’ Restaurant to celebrate the anniversary of TR’s ascent of Katahdin raising over \$1500 for the Jerry Pond Restoration Project in Millinocket. You can still contribute to the cause by buying a \$20 raffle ticket for a chance to win a miniature bronze “Reclining Moose” donated by sculptor Forest Hart. Winner will be chosen when 100 tickets have been sold.

– Photo © Gary Embrey

Below: A new sign for Katahdin was installed on July 25th. Seventeen volunteers from throughout New England, and even one from Florida, carried the new summit sign and framework up the Saddle to Baxter Peak. Shown here is Lester Kenway, MATC president and FBSP Board member, placing the sign he made. See details of the expedition on the FBSP website.

– Photo © Hui Yeng Chang





L to R: Park Carpenter Albert Richards, Rangers Jodi and Mac Browning, and Ranger Bob Howes all retire this year after long and dedicated service to the Park
 – Photo © BSP Staff

Update from the Park

by BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell

Vision is not enough, it must be combined with venture. It is not enough to stare up the steps, we must step up the stairs.
 – Vaclav Havel

As the fall colors peak and we prepare to end the 2009 camping season, we are facing some important transitions in the Park. On August 31, veteran Ranger Bob Howes retired although he will continue to work for the Park under acting status until mid-November, to assist the Park in supervision and seasonal maintenance activities. Long-time Park Carpenter Albert Richards left the Park service in early September to pursue his own carpentry business. By the end of 2009, we will be losing two additional veteran Rangers with the retirement of Mac and Jodi Browning. Mac Browning served as a Roving Ranger for several years before moving to work exclusively in the Scientific Forest Management Area. Jodi is the Park's first woman to work as a commissioned law enforcement Ranger in the Park. Each of these employees provided dedicated service to the Park and will be missed and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors. Although we hate to see good employees leave, each departure presents an opportunity

to bring skills, innovation, and motivated dedication on to our staff that can benefit the Park. We have posted the position announcement for two Ranger I vacancies and will soon be posting the announcement for a Park Carpenter as well as a Forester I to work with Resource Manager Carol Redelsheimer in the SFMA. We hope (and expect) that these hiring processes will be very competitive with significant numbers of qualified candidates. We find the Park is a great place to work, and we think others may agree.

July and August were very busy months in the Park highlighted by improving weather and the annual field tour of the Baxter State Park Authority and a Katahdin hike of the Baxter State Park Advisory. The Authority tour provided the opportunity to re-introduce Maine's new Attorney General Janet Mills to the Park and to visit points of interest and policy development with the Authority. In August, members of the Advisory Committee hiked from Abol to Roaring Brook via Baxter Peak to view and discuss numerous trail and resource management issues above and below treeline on Katahdin. These visits set the stage for more in-depth discussion during the winter months when most of the Park's policy review and development work is accomplished.

During the Authority and Advisory visits, we saw plenty of other Park visitors busy hiking, canoeing, fishing and recreating in the Park. This did not come as a surprise as the current statistics suggest that Park visitation will be up in 2009. After a very rainy June (20" of rain in 30 days at Chimney Pond), July saw improving weather and August and September were very nice – September in particular produced a long string of class one hiking days. As of the end of September, Park revenues were up about 5% for the year over 2008, and the additional revenue will be very helpful as we start the budget planning process for the 2011 fiscal year in January.

Our good summer weather hasn't been good for everyone. The early wet weather dampened the raspberry crop and wild blueberries didn't fare much better. Add a poor beechnut crop to that list, and you have a tough year if you are a Maine black bear. Perhaps in part due to the poor feeding opportunities in natural settings, we have had more problems with bears in the Park this year than in the last twenty. A bear with two small cubs has been a particular problem at Roaring Brook Campground, and Rangers have been working hard to educate the public regarding appropriate food storage and disposal. The Rangers have

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also been working at convincing the bears, especially the cubs, that humans and campgrounds are best avoided.

We have been continuing our efforts in trail and facilities development on the Katahdin Lake parcel and have to date rehabilitated over three miles of existing trail, established over four miles of new trail, and established canoes and a day use site for public use on Katahdin Lake. In addition, the Martin Ponds leanto was opened in August of this summer. The Park plans to construct two new leantos on the shore of Katahdin Lake in 2010, including a leanto at the former site of the AMC camp constructed by Clarence Peavey on the northwest corner of Katahdin Lake in 1887.

Henry Beeuwkes, Milt Wright, Barbara Bentley, and Denise Clavette of the Friends of Baxter State Park met with Park staff to propose a possible donation from the Friends toward trail work in the Park. The Friends has provided significant assistance in funding MCC crews for Park directed trail work over the last two seasons with great results. This recent proposal involves more substantial MCC directed work funded through a Recreational Trails Program grant applied for by the Friends of Baxter State Park. We have been working with the Friends to provide the necessary documentation for the grant application including the specific projects to be accomplished and are hopeful the process will be successful. Thanks to Paul Sannicandro and Ben Woodard for their help in refining the project descriptions and logistics requirements.

The Baxter State Park Authority met at Kidney Pond Campground for its annual October meeting during the camping season to accommodate the schedules of the Authority members with the unexpected benefit of peak fall colors. The highlight of the meeting agenda was the election of Maine Forest Service Director Alec Giffen as Authority Chair. IF&W Commissioner Dan Martin stepped down as chair in

service to a pre-arranged plan between Giffen and Martin to each serve a year as chairperson before the general elections of 2010. Dan has been an excellent Chair and a skilled administrator who made the time to address Park issues in a careful and deliberate manner and always with the intentions of Percival Baxter in mind. The Authority acted to extend the trial snowmobile re-route within the Park utilizing the former Perimeter Road location between Dwelley Pond and McCarty Field. This re-route was proposed to test the theory that removing snowmobile traffic from the Park Tote Road between the Dwelley Pond trailhead and the former Telos Gatehouse would reduce the frost in the road on the Morse Mountain hill and improve the chances of opening this road earlier in the spring. The spring of 2009 was too mild to test the theory, and the Authority unanimously agreed to give it one more try. In other discussions, it was noted that Park revenues through the month of September are up over 2008 by about 5% – a good indicator that use figures will be up as well. After adjournment, Park staff led a tour of the trails and viewpoints at Sandy Stream Pond to set the stage for winter discussions on use patterns in this popular wildlife viewing area of the Park.

Career Opportunities in the Park Baxter Park Ranger I

BSP Park currently has two vacancies and will be posting others in the near future. See full descriptions of jobs, salaries, and benefits on Park's website:
www.baxterstateparkauthority.com

Need reservations?

Go to the Baxter State Park website at baxterstateparkauthority.com Under Camping and Reservations, click on CAMPSITE AVAILABILITY to plan your trip. Then call or write Park HQ's.

You can check on up-to-date trail conditions by calling the newly established Hiker Info Line at 207-723-4636.

New day use parking reservations will go into effect in the Spring of 2010.

Bissell Recognized for Outstanding Forest Stewardship

This year's Austin H. Wilkins Forest Stewardship Award went to BSP Director Jensen Bissell for two decades of work in the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA). Family, friends, and colleagues gathered at the Blaine House in Augusta on September 10th as DOC Commissioner Pat McGowan described the purpose of the award – and Sherry Huber, its history – named for Austin Wilkins, who died in 2005 after a career of 50 years in the woods. Wilkins was a friend of Gov. Baxter and influenced his thinking about the importance of forestry practices. Alec Giffen said that forests can be many things and that there is disagreement about what they should be, citing Jensen's talent for bringing people together in a safe environment to discuss this. Jane Lincoln, assistant to Governor Baldacci, credited Jensen for carrying on the dream and vision of Gov. Baxter in developing the SFMA as a showplace for exemplary forestry practices. Jensen addressed the group saying the accomplishments in the SFMA are the results of a communal effort by a great number of people, that the SFMA will continue to evolve, and then quoted Baxter himself, "What is done in our forest today will help or harm those who follow in future generations." The full text of Jensen's remarks are on the FBSP website.



L to R: Jensen Bissell holds the hand-carved plaque he received at the Blaine House ceremony. He is accompanied by his old friend and long-time Park supporter Frank Trautmann. – Photo by Barbara 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!

FBSP GIFT ITEMS AVAILABLE

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A hiker on the North Peaks trail enjoys constant 360 degree views, and a splendidly solitary venture, accompanied only by the American Pipit. Shown here are two of Katahdin's triple cirques. Can you name them?

– Photo © Barbara Bentley