



Friends of Baxter State Park

Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SPRING 2011 VOL. 10 NO. 2

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

This season, how about exploring a part of the Park that you have never visited? With 210,000 acres to explore, there are lots of possibilities. And perhaps could you take along a young friend for an introduction to the wilderness? It's a great way to foster *Wilderness Stewards for the Next Generation*.

When I volunteer as a BSP Trail Steward or work with a FBSP Chainsaw Crew, I see places I've never seen – and see them up close and personal, too. Volunteering is another way to explore new places in the Park, and Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Rich has many opportunities for you. See p. 5 for details on how/when to volunteer. I also encourage you to join members of Friends for a *Walk in the Park*. You can read Dick Klain's account of the *Warm Winter Weekend 2011* on p. 7 to see what fun we had on that one. There's a schedule for this summer's *Walks in the Park* on p. 6, and you just contact Board member Mike Stillman to reserve a spot for yourself.

If a trip to the Park is not on your agenda, I'd invite you to join Lester Hall in his travels to the Katahdin region by reading *Katahdin Comrades, The Journals of Lester Hall* edited by his daughter Charlotte Hall Kirkpatrick. You will be captivated by his accounts and observations. (See book review by Jensen Bissell on p. 7.) FBSP member Gary Boone is writing an article on the history of the Wassataquoik, and I certainly hope he is reading this book! Hall's accounts of his explorations in

Continued on p. 2



Seated L to R: BSP Authority members William Schneider, Chandler Woodcock, & Douglas Denico are shown here at their first scheduled meeting on March 15, 2011 in the Cross Building at the State House in Augusta with BSP Director Jensen Bissell. (standing.)
– Photo © Park Staff

Preserving Park's Wilderness Character Friends Provides Valuable Resources

2011 marks the first time since the establishment of the Baxter State Park Authority that there has been a complete turnover in the Authority's membership. At their first scheduled meeting on March 15th, the three new members – Attorney General Bill Schneider, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Chandler Woodcock, and Director of the Maine Forest Service Doug Denico – elected Denico as Chair. As these new Authority members assume their *ex officio* responsibilities, there are resources about the Park and its history that weren't available as recently as a decade ago when Friends of Baxter State Park was formed as a 501 (c) (3) organization.



Percival Proctor Baxter c.a. 1962 viewing his first and last purchases. – Photo © Avery Collection at Maine State Library

Some items that the new Authority members have at their fingertips to consult when orienting themselves to their responsibilities includes two works published under the auspices of Friends, namely, *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources* (4 volumes, 2005) and *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary*
Continued on p. 3

After consulting with several of the leading judges and lawyers of our State a definite plan has been adopted under which I am to deed a considerable area to the State at each Legislative Session, each deed to be accepted in the form of a separate State law carefully worded into a binding and unbreakable Trust Deed. In this manner a long list of precedents is being established; precedents which, as time passes, will show that eight or ten different Governors and as many Legislatures, by laws duly passed and signed by these Governors, have entered into solemn pacts that create a succession of irrevocable trusts. These trusts, beginning with 1931, are printed in the Laws of Maine, and as each session enacts them they become public documents.

– Percival P. Baxter
in a letter of January 12, 1942 to the Honorable Sumner Sewall, Governor, and the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the 90th Legislature



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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*

the Northwest Basin and Wassataquoik valley, not to mention his photos, give us a wonderful picture of what things were like in the region back in the 1930s and 40s. How I wish I could tell Hall how the trees he mourned are growing back. I've quoted Jensen Bissell before saying, "If you leave a patch of ground alone in Maine, it will grow up to trees." That is just what's happening everywhere in the Park although it will be a long time before tree stumps "big enough to turn a team of oxen around on" are formed again.

Please join us for the FBSP Annual Meeting this year on Saturday, April 30th. We'll hear about what Friends has accomplished in 2010 and what our plans are for this year. We'll also be announcing some very significant donations Friends has just received. In addition to being "membership renewal month," March has been a very exciting one for us with extraordinary financial support from our members, grants from foundations, and donations from conservation supporters.

At the Annual Meeting, we'll also devote time to an Open Forum to discuss whatever issues interest those in attendance. Have your questions and suggestions ready. It is important to us to hear from all our members so please let us know what you are thinking. Contact us if you need your own copy of *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession*, and we'll send one right out!



2012 BSP Calendar due out in May

There are 42 color photos in the 2012 BSP calendar produced by Friends in collaboration with the Park. Members of Friends and Park staff, 14 in all, donated photos that are accompanied by BSP Naturalist Jean Hoekwater's educational captions. Thanks to all! Calendars may be purchased from FBSP for \$11.95 plus postage.

Please help us to update your contact information and save paper and postage by sending us your email at info@friendsofbaxter.org
 Note: We do NOT share email lists with other individuals or organizations.

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Sarah Holland is Administrative Manager for Friends of Baxter State Park. – Photo © S. Holland

New Admin. Manager Sarah Holland

It is with great enthusiasm that we welcome Sarah Holland to the FBSP team. A partner in Holland and Foley Architecture L.L.C. specializing in green building designs, she's also interested in environmental stewardship and non-profit management. Sarah is undaunted by the challenges of converting to a new membership database, and her expertise and enthusiasm have already made a huge difference to us! Thank you, Sarah!

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Membership Matters

Membership renewal notices are sent out on March 1st each year. We appreciate your responding quickly but welcome your contribution at any time of the year. Renewals we have already received so far for 2011 from just over half our members total \$26,600. We look forward to hearing from the rest of you.

- 6- Governor Baxter Society @ \$1000
- 7- Katahdin Club @ \$500
- 11- Knife Edger @ \$250
- 47- Hamlin Peaker @ \$100
- 88- Sponsor @ \$50
- 103- Family - \$30
- 78- Individual - \$25
- 347- Current Members
- 340- yet to renew
- 687- Total Membership

Thank you for being a Friend!

Friends Rallies Support

(Continued from p. 1)

History of Baxter State Park, 1931 -2006 (2008). Both of these works were assembled by Howard R. Whitcomb, a Founding Member of Friends and currently Vice-President of the Board. In these volumes, one finds definitive annotations of the Deeds of Trust for the 28 parcels gifted by former Governor Baxter from 1931-1963 as well as details pertaining to the acquisitions of additional land in 1992, 1997, and the 2006 Katahdin Lake parcel. The *Vision* volumes also include annotations of judicial and Attorney General opinions, Baxter's speeches, and his voluminous correspondence pertaining to the Park's origins and management. Collectively, these volumes are essential to the understanding of Baxter's concept of a wilderness park at Katahdin. Copies of these volumes are available to the Authority members in their respective offices and to the general public at the State Library, the Law and Legislative Reference Library, and more than a dozen libraries across the State.

Founding President of Friends John Neff is the author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey* (2006), a widely-acclaimed recounting of the rich history of the Katahdin region from Native American tradition, to the creation of Baxter State Park and the extension of the Appalachian Trail to the summit of Katahdin. It is must reading for anyone who considers Katahdin a special place.

Finally, Friend's quarterly newsletter, *Forever Wild*, has provided for the past decade a rich mix of current developments within the Park and the collaborative efforts of Friends' to enhance its wilderness character through volunteer activity, unrestricted grants, and education outreach. New features of *Forever Wild*, include book reviews, occasional guest columns, and extensive space devoted to hearing from its readers.

The aforementioned items are not just of potential interest to the new members of the Baxter State Park Authority. Members of Friends need to acquaint themselves with the region's rich history and the extraordinary insight of Baxter State Park's benefactor, Percival P. Baxter. The recent threat to the sanctuary status of the Katahdin Lake lands (see lead article in Winter 2011 issue of *Forever Wild*) is reason enough for all members of Friends to educate themselves as to the Park's unique legacy. The more informed members are, the greater the likelihood of perpetuating Baxter's vision as expressed in the Deeds of Trust and protecting the Park from threats to its wilderness character. There is no better way of doing so than acquiring copies of Whitcomb's *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession*, available directly from Friends, and Neff's *Katahdin*, available at bookstores. Both are excellent reading choices. And, of

course, all members receive the quarterly newsletter *Forever Wild*. Back issues of the newsletter are available to everyone on the website at friendsofbaxter.org

Our Readers Write...

International Appalachian Trail Annual Meeting ...

Just got your note. You are so great and doing wonderful work. Look forward to seeing you at Shin Pond in May.

— Dick Anderson, Portland, ME

Note: The 2011 Maine Chapter IAT/SIA Annual Meeting, May 12-14, 2011, is at Shin Pond Village Campground at Shin Pond, Maine. Go to internationalatmaine.org for info on the meeting or contact Carol Gay, PO Box 916, Gardiner, ME 04345, 207-458-8421

Map Adventures prepares Park's new map...

Thanks for sending text my way so fast. (FBSP reviewed draft of, and provided some text for, a new map of BSP.) BTW, I hung up the Baxter Friends calendar on the wall above my map packing and shipping bench. It's already inspired a number of daydreams. Thanks again for the stellar calendar and Howard Whitcomb's authoritative Park history. I'll keep you posted on the map project's progress. We would like to send it to the printer within four weeks.

— Steve Bushey, Portland, ME

Research on Katahdin's history...

We met in 2004 up on Hamlin Peak. You talked about Friends of Baxter State Park, and I told you about my research on Katahdin's history. I read all the FBSP newsletters and have been delighted by the Katahdin Lake addition to the Park. I am still working on my Katahdin Lake research and will come to Maine in the fall for several months of research and writing. I certainly want to get to Katahdin but would also like to find a place to rent and live in Bangor for Sept., Oct., and Nov. 2011, preferably within walking distance of the Bangor Public Library. I would also like to talk to you about doing a research project in the Park. I would appreciate any leads, contacts, or suggestions about where I might stay in Bangor.

— Stan Tag, Bellingham, WA

Friendly visitors and staff...

I just received the *Forever Wild* newsletter, and I enjoy reading all I can about my favorite place to be — BSP. I have many pictures from the Park in my house. I keep a scrapbook of any newspaper articles and pictures, too. We try to get into BSP whenever we can when the weather is warmer. It's like seeing Mt. Katahdin for the first time every time we go. Working long days and many Saturdays keeps us busy. It is really wonderful that many help in ways they can. Really dedicated, that's for sure. I have seen many visitors and staff that are so friendly. A

Continued on p. 6



L to R: Matt Polstein made a day trip of the 18-mile round trip ski to Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps to join Barbara Bentley, Bill Bentley, and Mary Cooke on their trip out after a wonderful couple of winter days of touring at the lake.

— Photo © Holly Hamilton



John Neff snowshoes by Katahdin Stream on a glorious sunny day during Warm Winter Weekend. – Photo © Bill Bentley

Looking back... The “Other” Saddle Slide

– John Neff,
Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*

Not many who nowadays ascend the Saddle Trail to reach Katahdin’s iconic Tableland realize that there was once a route up a different nearby avalanche slide to reach the plateau. The present Saddle Slide was first reported in 1899 by Dr. Lore A. Rogers when he ascended the northern peaks from the Wassataquoik valley and saw the new avalanche from the saddle. For years up to that time, the earlier rock slide, slightly north of the present slide (toward Hamlin Peak), was used to ascend to or descend from the plateau. One can still clearly see the old slide when standing at the edge of the saddle or from the floor of the Great Basin. Some early explorers named it the “Basin Slide” and in 1887 the Appalachian Mountain Club during its famous August Camp marked a trail up the old slide. The new avalanche provided a slightly less dangerous ascent and began to be used soon after it tumbled into the basin. Roy Dudley finally marked a more formal trail up the slide in 1927.

Sleuthing about Katahdin....

– David Little, *Art Detective*

Mystery and conjecture envelop the subject, location, and meaning of *Twilight in the Wilderness* (1860)*, a large studio painting by artist Frederic Edwin Church. (See detail of painting below.)

Franklin Kelly’s brilliant analysis of the artist’s North American landscapes delves into aspects of this painting’s evolution.** He is very convincing in his thesis that the landscape is a composite, with a summer sky that is borrowed, a foreground that is a variation of others, and a season that is shifted to autumn. Church in his studio practice was known to improvise using borrowed passages from smaller studies.

However, when writing about its subject and location, Kelly describes the scene as non-specific – a summary depiction of a Northern New England landscape. Could be almost anywhere!

He’s probably not far off, unless you add in the opinion of Myron Avery.** Here’s what Myron surmised about the location in 1940:

At first glance it is perhaps difficult to orient this painting and one might be disposed to query the accuracy of the statement that this ‘was painted in 1860 by Church and represents the wilderness about Katahdin’ (Lockwood de Forest).” (de Forest was a colleague and accompanied Church and others on the infamous ‘Katahdin Tea Party’ trip of 1877). Avery continues, “Closer

study, however, will identify the area. In the central background is a portion of the ridge of The Katahdinauguoh, showing Barren and The Owl, and the long ridge that the Appalachian Trail follows to the highest point of the mountain, known in those days as Monument Peak. The locality may well have been some outlying pond, close to the Penobscot West Branch that was, on a number of occasions, the route of Church’s approach to the mountain.

Kelly lists the Avery article in his selective bibliography but never mentions it in his text. No matter who is right (and I invite the reader to investigate), *Twilight in the Wilderness* is without doubt one of the most powerful, complex paintings of the New World. Kelly notes that “Church never surpassed this achievement (a tour-de-force of meteorological drama) in any subsequent work.”

– David Little, *Art Detective*

* Frederic Edwin Church. Detail from *Twilight in the Wilderness*, 1860, oil on canvas, 40 x 64in., The Cleveland Museum of Art, purchase, Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt Fund (65.233)

** Kelly, Franklin. *Frederic Edwin Church and the National Landscape*. Smithsonian Institution, 1988

*** Avery, Myron. “Artists and Katahdin” from *In the Maine Woods*, Bangor & Aroostook RR, 1940

Editor’s note: David Little is a landscape painter living in Portland. He is currently working on a book about Katahdin and the artists who have been inspired by the mountain and the region.



Detail from *Twilight in the Wilderness*, painting by Frederic Edwin Church, might represent the wilderness of Katahdin, or does it? – Photo by David Little

Pitchin' In and Steppin' Out

Laurie Rich,
BSP Volunteer Coordinator

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Park's Summer Season Opens Soon...

We are less than a month away from the opening of the Baxter State Park Summer Camping and Hiking Season. There is a lot to do to make the Park ready to receive visitors, and we invite you to be a part of it. Many volunteer opportunities are already scheduled; see list of these events on this page and on the web for details.

Before visitors arrive, we have about a week (May 10-15) to clean up campgrounds, repair buildings, put canoes and equipment in place, put a coat of stain on a wall, clear out the blowdowns on trails, to name but a few. We need three helpers for each FBSP chainsaw crew. Your help, whether for a day or the week, can make a difference. It can make a visitor's stay more enjoyable. So be sure to send in your 2011 BSP Volunteer Form so it will be on file, and let me know when you are available.

As we go into the season, if you have an interest in working on a project and you can't make one of the scheduled events, just contact me. We'll try to work a project around your timeframe. My goal for this year is to increase volunteer time in the field and meet your desire to volunteer. I would like to see that everyone who has sent in a BSP Volunteer Form has the opportunity to spend some time in the Park working on a project they will enjoy doing.

And don't forget to bring a friend. Let's introduce others to the Park, not only as a place of recreation, but as a place to give of themselves. Working side by side with friends and family is a sure way to build unique and wonderful memories. Where else could you be holding a broom sweeping out the winter cobwebs just as a moose wanders by, splish-splashing at the water's edge as she goes past?

Looking forward to renewing friendships, getting to know new Friends, and working with you this season.

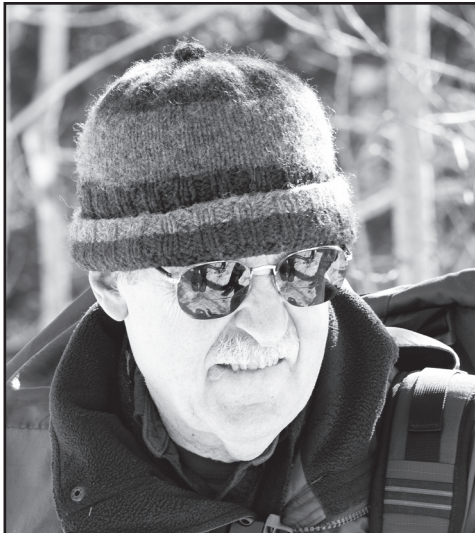
Volunteer and Training Opportunities for 2011

Please contact BSP Volunteer Coordinator Laurie Rich at friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com for all volunteer and training opportunities listed here unless another contact is given below.

Note: BSP Volunteer Forms must be filed anew each year and are available at the Park website baxterstateparkauthority.com

*VIP = Volunteer in the Park Event

- May 14 – Earth Day Litter Patrol
- May 10-15 – VIP* for Campground Opening & Painting Visitor Center
- May 14-15 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #1
- May 21-22 – FBSP Chainsaw Crew #2
- May 28-30 – FBSP Chainsaw Crews #3 & #4
- June 4 – National Trails Day – Trail Stewards Training – contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov
- June 11-12 – VIP*
- June 12-16 – BSP Trail Team #2 – contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov
- June 22-23 – Leave No Trace (LNT) Training – contact BSP Interpretive Specialist Marcia Williamson @ marcia.williamson@maine.gov
- July 9-10 – VIP*
- July 16 – Loon Count – contact BSP Interpretive Specialist Marcia Williamson at marcia.williamson@maine.gov
- July 17-21 – BSP Trail Team #3a – contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov
- July 31 - Aug. 4 – BSP Trail Team #3b - contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov
- August 6-7 – VIP*
- August 31 - Sept. 7 – BSP Trail Team #4 - contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov
- August 17-18 – VIP*
- October 1-2 – Chainsaw certification at Larry's Tree Farm in Windham
- October 16-22 – VIP* for Campground Closing



Clockwise L to R: Howard Whitcomb, Anne Huntington, Sally Daggett continue to explore the Park.
– Photos © Bill Bentley

Three FBSP Board Members Retiring

After two terms on the FBSP Board, Howard Whitcomb and Anne Huntington are "termed out"; Sally Daggett, having returned to the Board after a year off to fill an unexpired term, is also leaving the Board. We are thankful that all three have agreed to remain on committees and will continue to share their expertise on specific FBSP/BSP projects. Please join us to recognize them at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 30, 2011!



Our Readers Write...

Continued from p. 3

common bond is the love of the Park! We are very fortunate it is here in our state! Hope to be able to get involved to help at the Park. We know it is important to be there.

—Carolyn Howes, Pittsfield, ME

Wonderful weekend...

Thank you so much for all that you did in organizing and carrying out the wonderful weekend. Because of the ongoing work that you do with Friends, there is such an inclusive and welcoming feeling at the weekend and all activities. I hope that you got a chance to take at least a deep breath before you launched into all the work of preparing for the Annual Meeting.

— Shirley Ellis, Old Town

James Phinney Baxter remembered...

On Sunday, May 8, 2011 at 8 AM at the Baxter Monument in Evergreen Cemetery, Herb Adams will read a eulogy, an 18-page document that was read at James Phinney Baxter's funeral, to celebrate the 90th anniversary of the death of J. P. Baxter. Dick Anderson came up with the idea and the Friends of Evergreen Cemetery will participate. Neil Rolde, an authority on the Baxter family, will also attend and say a few words.

— David Little, Portland

National Park a threat to serenity ...

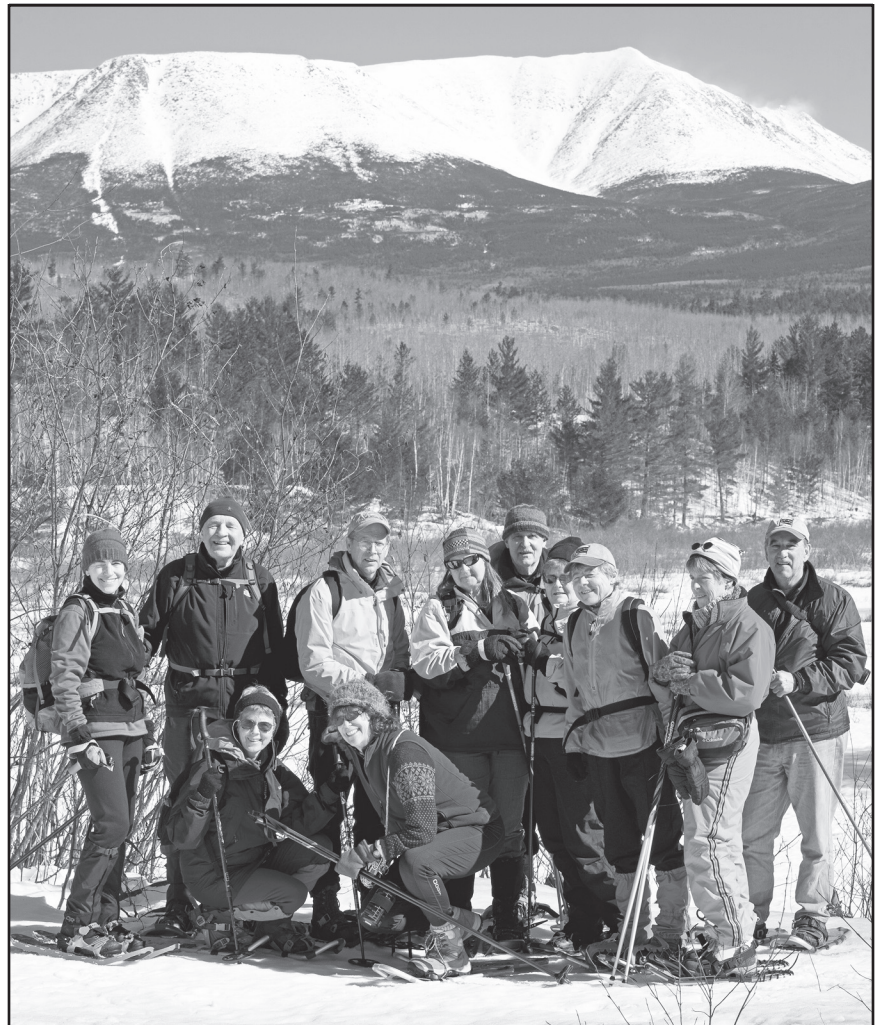
I am curious as to your views on the Quimby 70,000 acre land acquisition abutting BSP and her idea to form a National Park. Sounds to me as this would pose a threat to the serenity of BSP by attracting too many visitors.

— Patricia Tierney, Southwest Harbor, ME

Editor's note: Lots of land has changed hands around the Park in the last 20 years, and the Park gets along well with its neighbors. The Park has policies and practices in place to manage visitor use and doesn't anticipate any problems.

Continued on p. 7

Panoramic view (pp. 6-7) of Matagamon from Trout Brook Mountain shows the expanse of lands explored and celebrated by Lester Hall and his companions during the 40s and 50s. See review on p. 7 of *Katahdin Comrades*, Hall's recently-published journals of his trips to the park.



L to R standing: Barbara Bentley, John Neff, David Little, Anne Huntington, Howard Whitcomb, Shirley Ellis, Ellen Klain, Rosemary Hastings, & Dick Klain; kneeling: Mikki Little & Ellen Pariser; not shown: Bill Bentley

Warm Winter Weekend participants set out for Blueberry Ledges for lunch in the sun by Katahdin Stream.

— Photo © Bill Bentley

FBSP Walks in the Park for 2011

We invite you to get together with other Friends while you are in the Park. To make arrangements to join us and reserve a space, contact FBSP Board Member MikeStillman at poepaddy@hotmail.com or see *Contact Us* on p. 2.

- **Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps:** Cabins available on June 23 - 26 (3 nights)
- **South Branch Pond:** Lean-to space for 12 on August 11 - 14 (3 nights)
- **Chimney Pond:** Bunkhouse space for 6 on September 2 - 5 (3 nights)



Book Review

by Jensen Bissell

Baxter State Park Director

Katahdin Comrades

The Journals of Lester F. Hall

Edited by Charlotte Hall Kirkpatrick

What a gem is this book, *Katahdin Comrades!* Beginning in 1928 and ending with his final trip to Baxter Park in 1958, *Katahdin Comrades* is a compilation of the journal entries of Lester Hall as he sampled, explored, and quickly fell in love with the lands we now call Baxter State Park. In assembling the journal entries of her father, Charlotte Hall Kirkpatrick has given anyone who feels the magnetism of wild places a real treasure.

In 1928, Nobleboro native and Damariscotta sawmill owner Lester Hall joined with his friend Harry Knowles for a fishing and exploring trip to the Katahdin region. After a stay at York's Twin Pine Camps and some serious fishing in the surrounding ponds, Lester tackled the Hunt Trail and reached Baxter Peak. His journal entry for this first trip ends with the expectation, "A fine trip, and if all goes well there will be many more to follow." For many of the following thirty years, Lester Hall made summer and winter trips to various areas in the Park, eventually enlisting Maurice "Jake" Day to accompany him in 1933. The importance of Lester's enthusiasm and experience as Jake Day's guide are now clearly a part of Maine history.

Lester's writing beautifully depicts the Park in its formative years, and his words paint a vibrant and clear picture of the personalities that lived and worked in the Park as well as the wild-

ness of the Katahdin area in the days when Percival Baxter was actively working to acquire the 28 parcels that would eventually form the Park. Reading this book, I felt I could see the Park through Lester's eyes – I couldn't put it down and you won't be able to either.

Katahdin Comrades is available at the Maine Coast Book Shop in Damariscotta and will be for sale at FBSP Annual Meeting for \$20 plus \$1 tax.

Our Readers Write... (cont. from p. 6)

Warm Winter Weekend 2011...

I watched the light play on Katahdin

As Monet watched the same in Rouen.

He had his cathedral, and so do I.

Beauty and more is in the beholder's eye.

I must admit I had a problem visualizing a "warm" winter weekend in Millinocket with the Friends of Baxter State Park in March. I remember trying to climb Katahdin one Memorial Day weekend and having to turn back because the leantos at Chimney Pond still had six feet of snow in and around them. How much worse would March be in the same general area?

I was wrong to be so apprehensive. The long weekend of March 17-20 was incredible and very warm. My wife and I arrived mid-afternoon at the Twin Pines Campground of the New England Outdoor Center on Millinocket Lake. As frequently as I had been to Baxter I never realized that this place existed. That's what you get for being so focused on getting there; you miss all those other special places along the way. As others arrived, we put together a snowshoe expedition across the ice and snow clad lake to one of the many islands. It was great to be out

of the car and into the air. Katahdin in all its snow-covered glory was our backdrop as we crunched our way over the lake. After this appetite building activity, we enjoyed a bit of the Irish with our first meal of corned beef and cabbage with all the fixings on this St. Patrick's Day. Of course this was supplemented by hors d'oeuvres, salads, bread and dessert. As things slowed down in the evening Ellen and I were treated to a wonderful discussion by Howard of the finer points of the Watergate era and the precedence of the Roosevelt courts' impact on soon to be heard arguments before the Supreme Court. His enthusiasm made these arcane issues come alive.

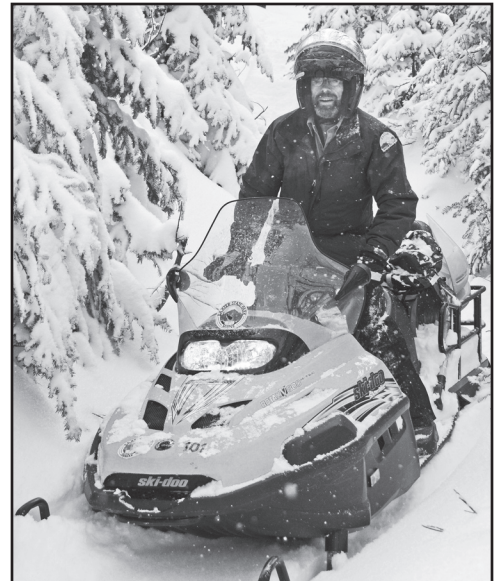
The predicted rain on the 18th failed to materialize. Instead, our snowshoe/ski up Hammond Ridge from the "camp" was absolutely delightful. The fast moving scudding clouds were blowing enough to offer great views of the lake and mountains. The temps were such that most of us just had on windbreakers by the time we made it to the top. The ski back down to "camp" was a cinch over the wet, corn snow. As we skied through sunny areas in the woods we felt the very warm breath of late spring on our cheeks and hands. Our group traveled to the River Drivers Restaurant for supper to find the place in darkness. They had lost their power in the early afternoon and were cooking using headlamps in the kitchen. They assured us that the quality of the menu would not be compromised as they cooked with gas. This restaurant is highly recommended. Everyone enjoyed, by candlelight and moonlight, everything that was ordered. We didn't know until the next morning that Twin Pines had been under generator power all afternoon and most of the night.

Continued on p. 9





Park staff enjoy a view from the snowy summit during regular winter operations in the Park.
 – Photos (above L & R) © Rob Tice



Snowmobiles are winter workhorses for BSP staff like Brendan Curran at Chimney Pond.

Update from the Park

by BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell

On March 15, 2011, a new Baxter Park Authority – Attorney General Bill Schneider, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Chandler Woodcock, and Director of the Maine Forest Service Douglas Denico – held its first scheduled meeting at the Cross Building in Augusta. Authority members elected Denico to chair the committee. (See photo on p. 1.) The Baxter Park Authority was established in 1938 and has provided oversight and policy directives for the management of Baxter State Park for over 70 years.

The winter camping season at Baxter Park ended on March 31, capping a good winter of recreation and maintenance efforts in the Park. It was a good season with relatively strong use in the Park. After a slightly slow start, snow levels were sufficient for winter recreation in the Park, with especially deep snows in the northern half of the Park. In the waning weeks of March, winter came back strong with cold temperatures and additional snow. This extended winter provided the time to complete the placement of materials for a new summer day-use shelter at Chimney Pond. We have been considering the addition of a day-use shelter for hikers at Chimney since we removed the former bunkhouse in 2007. The shelter construction will blend well with the Chimney environment and will provide protection from the elements while still affording an open view of the Great Basin headwall. Construction should be completed this coming summer.



The winter season was accented by the search and rescue of Chris Dubois. Mr. Dubois became separated from his hiking companions on the Keep Ridge late in the day on Saturday, February 19. Search and rescue volunteers who were at Chimney Pond for training were engaged in the search effort and additional resources were scheduled for Sunday. Search teams located Mr. Dubois early in the afternoon of Sunday, February 20th, and unusually favorable conditions allowed the 126th Army National Guard Medivac helicopter to evacuate Mr. Dubois to Millinocket. Mr. Dubois suffered moderate frostbite to his feet but was expected to fully recover. Along with Park Rangers, the search and rescue effort included assistance from several volunteer SAR teams, as well as IF&W personnel and the National Guard. The effective and efficient conduct and successful resolution of this incident is a credit to all involved.

We are now turning our attention to the start of the summer camping season on

May 15 – just around the corner. As the next step in our steady evolution of the Park’s reservation system, we are planning to offer an on-line reservation option with the start of the 2011 season. Folks wishing to secure a reservation within 14 days of projected arrival at the Park, and planning to stay at the same site for up to 7 days, will be able to secure their reservation on-line through menu options added to our existing campsite availability screens. Visitors from outside of Maine will also be able to pay their entrance fee at the same time, thus saving time at the Gatehouse check-in.

We are also planning to continue the Day Use Parking Reservation System (DUPR) launched in 2010. After a productive review and evaluation of the program’s performance last year, we will be instituting a few changes including the establishment of a vehicle waiting lane in the mountain view area about 200’ from the Togue Pond Gatehouse and moving the cut-off time to 7:00 AM for the entire

Continued on p. 9

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.

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

Day Use Parking Reservations are now available on Park website or at Park HQ by calling 207-723-3877 (DUPR).



This sleepy snow-covered kiosk in the Scientific Forest Management Area belies the flurry of activity that's gone on there this winter during a very productive season under the management of Resource Director Rick Morrill.

– Photo © Park Staff

Update from the Park

Continued from p. 8
summer season.

Much of the administrative team's efforts this winter have focused on completing a major revision of the BSP Management Plan. This work is now nearing completion, and the Baxter State Park Authority will be reviewing the draft during the month of April. The draft plan includes over 60 action items that will drive most of the Park's management efforts over the coming decade. I expect the draft to be posted for public review sometime in May, beginning a long process toward final adoption late in 2011 or early in 2012.

We have completed our planning for the fiscal year 2012 (July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012) Park budget. Recent strengthening of the economy, combined with the fiscal improvements we have initiated over the past three years, has eased the difficult budget process. We are again planning to continue an expanded effort in trail maintenance and improvement in the Park. The contributions of the Friends of Baxter State Park have been an important component in our expanded trail work, and I would like to thank the Friends for their shared commitment to the improvement of Park trails. The improvement work we have started is just that – a start. Real accomplishment in this area can only be achieved with continued effort over a long period. I look forward to continuing to work with the FBSP in the years ahead to maintain and improve Park trails for the generations to come.

Photo to R: The island in Katahdin Lake was home to a seasonal temporary structure constructed by Paul Cartwright and crew during their annual winter trip to the Park. Others on the trip included Bill Michaud, Steve Cartwright, Ted Mohlie, Andrew Lackoff, John Lichtman, & Ted Becker.

– Photo © Steve Cartwright

Our Readers Write.... (cont. from p. 9)

The first waffle came off the waffle iron at 7:30 the next morning. By 9:15, we car-pooled to the Abol Bridge parking area and strapped on our snowshoes for a terrific hike to Blueberry Ledges. The trail follows the AT for a bit then branches north through the site of the 1977 fire which still affords some great views not normally seen from other perspectives in the park. We continued a little bit further into some of the unburned area noting the radical change in vegetation. It was a sunny clear day. (See photo on p. 6.) After the trip out, we got together at the Abol Bridge Store for ice cream and conversation about the history of the area and the price of fuel in this last gasp of civilization before the Golden Road on the far side of the bridge. Back at Twin Pines, many of us worked on a jigsaw puzzle that Bruce Hancock had brought to do during the rainy weather that never occurred. This was a high end puzzle with a six layered plywood backing. Some of the individual pieces were signed. It was a monument to the puzzle makers craft from *Elm Tree Puzzles* located in Harrison, ME. Despite our best efforts, we were not able to master this monster. What fun we had trying. Dinner was lasagna from Orvieto Deli in Millinocket, with fabulous hors d'oeuvres, salads, and bread provided by the group. The "piece de resistance" was the lime/almond cheesecake with blueberry topping. What a decadent, delicious blend of flavors!

To finish the night, John Neff gave a description of a new book entitled *Katahdin Comrades*. This new work privately published by Charlotte Hall Kirkpatrick recounts the journals of her father, Lester Hall, and his trips to the area in the 1920s through the 1950s. Lester accompanied Jake Day, who was sent by Walt Disney back to Katahdin country to study white tailed deer that would become the cartoon critter "Bambi." John also mentioned the work that he and Howard Whitcomb are doing to compile photographs of the Katahdin area from the eras of the 1850s forward. David Little then gave us a status report on his book concerning how others have visually captured the spirit of the Katahdin area on canvas since the early 1800s to the present. Major artists from around



L to R: Dick and Ellen Klain enjoy the ski trails designed by John Morton at New England Outdoor Center's Twin Pine Camps on Millinocket Lake. – Photo © Bill Bentley

the world have traveled to Katahdin for its inspiration. David is collecting many of these works into one volume that will be interwoven with a descriptive narrative bringing these all together. Look for this book in late 2012 or 2013. It is obvious that the spirit of Pamola continues to inspire.

Sunday dawned a little cooler than normal with another cloudless sky. The rosy dawn tinged Katahdin with its highlights that has to be seen to be appreciated. After breakfast, everyone pitched in to clean our camps. With this completed and adieu swapped, some of us headed back up towards Black Cat and Hammond Ridge for one last ski. With this kind of warm weather and a busy schedule in southern Maine, it might have been my last ski of the season. We met Barbara and Bill Bentley and Anne Huntington on the trail. Bill and Barbara finally got their picture together on the trail. We are all appreciative of their efforts to make WWW so successful.

So, let's see – Warm Winter Weekend. Warm weather, terrific company, comfortable accommodations, a candlelit dinner, delicious food, a more than challenging puzzle, and making new friendships and renewing old acquaintances. The only way to improve it is for more people to join us. When you see the notice in our newsletter, email Barbara and sign-up for a great time at Warm Winter Weekend 2012.

Friends of Baxter State Park
P.O. Box 609
Union, ME 04862-0609

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 609, Union, ME 04862-0609

Visit us on the web at www.friendsofbaxter.org
Email us at info@friendsofbaxter.org

Thank you!

Please join us for the
Friends of Baxter State Park

**11th
ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, April 30, 2011

9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Viles Arboretum
Augusta, Maine

- 7:30 - Bird Walk at the Arboretum led by Jay Adams and Ted Allen
 - 8:30 - Muffins and Coffee
Poetry, Art, and Books on Display with Readings throughout the Morning
 - 9:00 - FBSP Business Meeting
 - 9:40 - Preview of 2012 BSP Calendar
 - 9:45 - Recognition & Awards
 - 10:05 - *State of the Park Address* by Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell
 - 10:45 - Break
 - 11:10 - *Keynote Address* by Earle G. Shettleworth, Jr., Maine State Historian
Personal Recollections of former Governor Percival P. Baxter
 - 12:00 - Open Forum on Issues of Interest to Those in Attendance
 - 12:20 - *Katahdin Waltz* (1855) performed by Rosalea Kimball
 - 12:30 - Complimentary Lunch by FBSP Board Member Anne Huntington
RSVP for lunch count to anne.huntington@att.net
 - 2:00 - Guided Hikes (your choice) on trails at Bond Brook Recreation Area or a Woods Walk at Wilson Pond followed by optional hike up Mt. Pisgah
- Questions? Contact Barbara Bentley at 207-763-3014 or barbarabentley@tidewater.net

Doubletop from OJI
- Photo © Bill Bentley