



Friends of Baxter State Park

Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
WINTER 2011 VOL. 10 NO. 1



Winter access to Katahdin Lake is by foot, snowshoe, or ski. The Park, as well as the staff of Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps, uses snowmobiles only for administrative purposes including hauling loads and patrolling the area. – Photo © Bill Bentley

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

A couple of things really stand out when I look back on FBSP activities of the last couple of months. One is our rapid and effective response to the threat to the Park posed by LD 55. (See lead article on this page.) Past FBSP Board member and former legislator Linda McKee said, "I was awestruck by the speed with which FBSP got the message out and the opposition campaign going. You definitely have an excellent template for further attacks. Great job." She is not alone in recognizing our success here. Thank you, everyone, and for FBSP Policy Chair Anne Huntington, a special gold star for her leadership (and hours and hours of time.) To FBSP members, you did a fabulous job!

Another is the immediate and generous response to our membership appeal in the fall. FBSP Membership Chair Chaitanya York mobilized us all to send reminder letters to those who had not yet renewed for 2010 and make follow-up phone calls. We also invited 1600 Park users to become Friends. Well, it probably comes as no surprise that we are not alone in regarding the Park as a very special place and that others are eager to contribute generously to protecting Baxter's vision of wilderness. This put us in an excellent financial position at the end of 2010 and enabled us to approve an ambitious work plan and budget for 2011. FBSP Finance Chair Al Howlett and Bookkeeper Mary Cooke have made sure we are on track here.

A very generous unrestricted gift from a FBSP member has made a number of very interesting projects possible. We

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Friends of Baxter Rallies Support Sanctuary Status at Katahdin Lake Upheld

In response to Rep. Paul Davis' LD 55, is an excerpt from testimony submitted "An Act to Restore Hunting Rights in the Katahdin Lake Region," Friends of Baxter State Park went into action. FBSP Policy Committee Chair Anne Huntington, in coordination with several other organizations and experts, rapidly rallied opposition to this bill. Friends sent out an action plan to 650 members, emailed supporters of the Park, and prepared testimony for the legislative hearing on the bill. Response in defense of the Park's sanctuary status and the BSP Authority's autonomy was immediate and widespread. And amazingly effective.

Individuals contacted their legislators, wrote letters to the editor, published Op Eds, sent in written testimony, blogged, used Facebook – all to say that LD 55 ought NOT to pass. At the hearing on February 3rd, many FBSP members were present to hear Rep. Davis explain that he introduced the bill to "get back for my people some of what has been taken away" and then go on to ask the Joint Committee on Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry to vote "ought not to pass" on the bill. Rep. Herbert Clark then criticized the Park's rules and regulations. Park Director Jensen Bissell gave a succinct and compelling testimony, followed by Baxter Park Wilderness Fund Commissioner and former BSP Director Buzz Caverly's heart-felt testimony. Because the bill's demise was already assured, much testimony was submitted for the record in written form. Included here

that summarizes well FBSP's position on LD 55. It was published in the *Bangor Daily News* on January 31, 2011.

– Editor

Baxter still a wildlife sanctuary

by Charlie Jacobi

While I am living I fear no encroachments on the Park, but as time passes and new men appear on the scene there may be a tendency to overlook these restrictions and break the spirit of these gifts. – Percival P. Baxter

These were the prescient words of Governor Percival Baxter about the gifts of land he made to the people of Maine to create his vision of wilderness in Baxter State Park that is legally held in trust for the people of Maine through various deeds. His words resonate today.

LD 55 is a blatant attempt to "overlook the restrictions" and "break the spirit" of the most recent gift, the gift of the Katahdin Lake lands from the people of Maine to Baxter State Park.

A carefully crafted, complex, and somewhat controversial deal was struck in 2006 to bring the Katahdin Lake lands into Baxter State Park as sanctuary. Most Maine people agreed and so did their Legislature.

The Baxter State Park Authority accepted the lands unencumbered. Main-

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of
Baxter State Park**

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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*

are currently collaborating with L.L. Bean to provide twelve (12) Naturalist Adventure Packs for the Park. Families with children camping in the Park will be able to sign out for the day a backpack filled with equipment and suggestions for fun activities in the Park. We'll fill you in about these later in the season. We are also collaborating with Union River Boat Company in Bucksport to make new models of the Park to be located at trailheads, at Park HQ, and at the Visitor Center. Unlike the present mountain model, this one will show the entire massif and allow hikers to see the whole trail system as they plan their hike. No leap of faith or stretch of imagination needed! And this summer, FBSP will collaborate with the Park in doing a comprehensive survey of the entire 215 miles of trails in the Park, laying the foundation for a long term plan for trail restoration, reconstruction, and maintenance. All three of these initiatives were made possible by one very generous FBSP member. If you have an interest in funding a special project, please contact me or FBSP Development Chair Charlie Jacobi. We have a number of projects on the drawing board, and we're open to suggestions you may have.

Applications for the 2011 FBSP Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program (MYWLP) are coming in as the deadline of February 15th approaches. Special thanks to FBSP Member Leslie Bird and the MYWLP Committee for their work on this very popular and successful program for Maine high school students. This summer completes the last of our three years of funding, and we are now looking for a new source of support for our next three. What better way is there to insure that there is a next generation of wilderness advocates than to "send a kid to camp"? Our camp, that is. I'd be glad to talk to you about how to do just that.

The 9-day MYWLP is just one way we support youth in the Park. We have submitted another Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant proposal that would send Maine Conservation Corps teams to work on trails in the Park for nine (9) weeks. We hear that federal funding for the RTP program may be tight this year; in which case, we'll need sponsors to enable the MCC crews to continue the great work they were doing in the Park in 2010.

So, keep in touch. And please join us for a Walk in the Park. Thanks for your support!

In Memoriam
Arthur F. Mayhew

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 Rockland, ME*



FBSP member Bruce Hancock reflects on this fall's volunteer efforts. – Photo © Bill Bentley

THANK YOU, Bruce!

Every organization treasures its volunteers, but Friends of Baxter State Park depends almost entirely upon the volunteer time, energy, and expertise of its members to accomplish its many projects and administrative tasks. This past fall, Bruce Hancock volunteered to help launch our new website friendsofbaxter.org as well as undertake the reorganization of our membership database. We are now in great shape, thanks to Bruce's many hours and considerable patience. Thank you, Bruce!

How to Contact Us:

info@friendsofbaxter.org
 for Website and Membership Matters

Barbara Bentley, President
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Laurie Rich, Volunteer Coordinator
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friendsofbaxtervolunteer@gmail.com

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.

Current Membership levels:
 8 - Governor Baxter Society @ \$1000
 7 - Katahdin Club @ \$500
 14 - Knife Edger @ \$250
 70 - Hamlin Peaker @ \$100
 126 - Sponsor @ \$50
 185 - Family @ \$30
 256 - Individual @ \$25

Total Membership to date: 666

Thank you for being a Friend!

Friends Rallies Support

(Continued from p. 1)

ers and Baxter Park lovers everywhere responded with their wallets based on that understanding. OLD 55 undoes all of that, breaking the trust of every donor, large and small.

Percival Baxter had a great love of animals, including wildlife. The Deeds of Trust that transferred lands to the State of Maine consistently stated that the lands:

...shall forever be used for public park and recreational purposes, shall forever be left in the natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for the wild beasts and birds, and that no roads or ways for motor vehicles shall hereafter ever be constructed thereon or therein. *Deed of Trust, March 3, 1931 (Private and Special Laws of 1931)*

Maine people have embraced this concept of wilderness and sanctuary for wildlife. There are millions of acres in Maine available for hunting, and that's terrific. The protection of 4,000 acres at Katahdin Lake, land that is remote, relatively inaccessible, and of marginal hunting value, was seen as a reasonable trade-off by most fair-minded people. In fact, the compromise arrived at by the Legislature carved out 2,000 acres as state land for hunting.

Yes, there are lands open to hunting in Baxter State Park. They simply reflect the practical realities facing Governor Baxter as he pieced together the Park. Let there be no doubt that he preferred sanctuary, and the bulk of Park lands are managed as such today.

In yet another example of amazing foresight, Governor Baxter also understood that his wilderness park would only stand the test of time if it were completely independent from meddling by state park officials or the Maine legislature. He set up the Baxter State Park Authority expressly for this purpose in 1939, and the Park has been managed independently since then under the guidance of the Deeds of Trust.

LD 55 seeks to undermine the autonomy of the Baxter Park Authority. It has arguable legal foundation and sets the stage for further conflict if approved.

Governor Baxter also once said, "Katahdin stands above the surrounding plain unique in grandeur and glory." Katahdin and Baxter State Park also stand above as iconic symbols of our values, especially independence.

And here is one final quote:

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Our Readers Write...

FBSP in Quebec

I have been meaning to write ever since we received the new Friends flyer and membership renewal form. The flyer is just so well done – everyone involved deserves congratulations. I thought the text might help me do something I've long wanted to do – that is, to try to get some Baxter fans here in Québec to become members. If part of the flyer was translated by Marcel and me, and posted with it, perhaps it would attract French-speakers to at least visit the website. There is a good outdoors equipment co-op store I belong to here, Mountain Equipment Co-op, and I could approach them with the idea, to begin with.

– Jane Macaulay, Quebec City, PQ, Canada

Memories of Katahdin

It is a pleasure to direct this check to you. I first hiked Katahdin in '64 -'65, returning a few years ago to BSP. My trips there – and the memories – hold a lot of meaning. And I hope to return next summer!

– Rick Boas, Wilton, CT

Wilderness in Nova Scotia . . .

You can imagine how I loved this quotation! Reminds me of a John Singer Sargent painting, in words:

Then away to the heart of the deep unknown,

Where the trout and the wild moose are –
Where the fire burns bright and tent gleams white,

Under the northern star.

by Albert Bigelow Paine

I have just returned from teaching a plein air workshop in a "wilderness" resort called Milford House, located in Southwest Nova Scotia, adjacent to Kejimikujik National Park and the Tobetic Wilderness area.

– Evelyn Dunphy, W. Bath, ME

Editor: for the full text of Evelyn's account of wilderness in Nova Scotia, please go the the FBSP website at friendsofbaxter.org

Three's a charm: a story about climbing and love

Maine has always been a very special place for me. My great grandparents emigrated to Waterville from Krov, Lithuania in the mid 1890's and were one of a few families who helped establish the Beth Israel Congregation at the turn of the 19th century in Waterville. I

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The Waterman Fund

Alpine Essay Contest

Wildness! Are you finding it where you least expect? Did you go in search and it wasn't there? Write about stewardship of wild places, whether through a scientific lens or an encounter with wildness. The Waterman Fund seeks the submission of essays about life in the mountains of the northeastern U.S. for its annual Waterman Fund Alpine Essay Contest. The winning piece will be published in *Appalachia Journal*. The winning essayist will be awarded \$1500. Honorable mention will receive \$500. The deadline for submissions is March 15, 2011. For more information and instructions on how to submit an essay, please contact Annie Bellerose at info@watermanfund.org or write to P.O. Box 1064, East Corinth, VT 05040.

Photo below: Winter climbers work their way up the Saddle during Winter Mountaineering School led by Guy and Laura Waterman in 1972. Laura is in the lead on the left. Current FBSP members Bill Bentley and Chris Brown were also part of the school that year.

– Photo by Bill Bentley



Looking back... The Eagle's Nest That Was Never Built

— John Neff,

Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*

For over 30 years beginning in the late 1920s, Lester Hall of Nobleboro and artist Maurice “Jake” Day of Damariscotta roamed throughout the area that is now Baxter State Park. Even before the Park was established, before most of the trails and roads were built, and in all seasons, they camped and bushwhacked from Togue to Matagamon, and points in between. When they first visited the South Branch Pond area, they were particularly excited and spent lots of time exploring its treasures. On one occasion, after dragging their canoe across the pebbly stream at the southern end of South Branch Pond, they discovered the hidden beauty of Upper South Branch Pond, a remote tarn with sheer cliffs rising abruptly from its western shore giving way to more moderate terrain leading to South Branch Mt. At that moment a dream was born.

The two decided that if they could build a small hidden shelter just away from the top of the highest cliff, it would make a desirable retreat location. It would be hidden from those canoeing on the pond and yet offer a superb view across it to the slopes of Center Ridge and the Traveler. They dubbed it *The Eagle's Nest* and began to figure how they could lug the necessary tools to the site and how the shelter could be constructed. Lester even drew a sketch of the plan and a list of the supplies needed. Within a few years, they had taken some tools to the site and, on one visit, cut a couple of sills. They discovered, however, in the years to follow, that their dream was always in contention with their desire to spend as much time as possible exploring more and more this great wilderness area that was a then-expanding park made possible by their friend Percival P. Baxter. The Eagle's Nest was never built, but they would, from time to time, still visit the site for a pleasurable day to recall a very sweet dream. Today, the cliffs that fall sharply to the shore of the pond still intrigue the visitor and make a visit to Upper South Branch Pond a memorable one.

Those who love the Katahdin area should be on the lookout this spring for the publication of the Lester Hall journals that recount his adventures with Jake Day across those years. Edited by his daughter, it's title is simply *Katahdin Comrades*. It contains the journals as well as several never-before-published Roy Dudley stories.



Above:

This painting by Jake Day of Leroy Dudley talking with Pamola is reminiscent of *Chimney Pond Tales, Yarns told by Leroy Dudley* assembled by C. Hall and J. Thomas with Elizabeth Harmon Hall, available for \$16 plus postage from Friends. See *Contact Us* on p. 2.

Below:

This painting by Jake Day of *Katahdin in Winter* is one of many paintings he did of the Park. A collection of his works given to the Park is on display in the conference room at BSP Headquarters. Question for our readers: where is the artist standing to paint this picture? Please send the answer to info@friendsofbaxter.org



Friends Rallies Support

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He would be a rash individual who in the years to come, even after I have passed away, would seek to take these lands from the State and would attempt to break these Trusts created not by one Governor or one Legislature but by several. While I live I can successfully oppose any such action; I seek to prevent it after I have gone. (To Governor Sumner Sewall and 90th Legislature, January 12, 1942)

Governor Baxter is gone, but I can assure you, the spirit of his gifts lives on, and the spirit of our gift of Katahdin Lake should live on as well. The deal and the Deeds of Trust must stand.

BSP Trail Friends

For the very able, this is an opportunity to work with BSP trail crews. See page 9 for details on BSP Trail Teams #1-4.

FBSP Chainsaw Crews

One certified sawyer and three helpers make up a FBSP chainsaw crew. Scholarships for sawyer training and certification are available twice a year. Helpers willing and able are needed to carry equipment for the sawyer and remove fallen timbers and brush as the crew clears blowdowns on trails early in the spring.

BSP Trail Stewards

See *Loppers R Us*, article on page 5, to learn what a BSP Trail Steward does for the trails in the Park.

Pitchin' In and Steppin' Out

Laurie Rich,
BSP Volunteer Coordinator

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What does it mean to be a Baxter State Park VOLUNTEER ?

For the Park, volunteerism means stretching every dollar just that much farther. The Park has over 50 buildings, more than 90 lean-tos, and lots and lots of outhouses – all needing maintenance. There are over 200 miles of trails and every foot needs upkeep. There is just so much the Park staff can do to cover all the needs of these facilities year in and out. Volunteers make it possible to do a lot more. From the individual with special skills to those with just a willingness to give of themselves, jobs and tasks can be found for each person to help keep the Park in tip top shape. Events such as National Trails Day, opening and closing campgrounds, trail projects, mowing, building lean-tos, painting buildings, repairing doors and steps, and chainsaw crews are just a few of the ways volunteers support the Park and its staff.

And why would an individual want to give time, energy, and skills to the Park? Some like spending time in the outdoors doing what they like doing: hiking a trail and clearing the brush, working alongside a ranger and sprucing up a building with a coat of paint, repairing a set of steps or a lean-to. And they never know what they might witness: a moose or fox walking by, a loon flying overhead, a black bear cub running by, or a group of deer grazing in a field. For others, it is a return on the commitment made by Governor Percival Baxter. A pay-it-forward, if you will. Giving your time, energy, and skills not only supports the gift given by Governor Baxter but also gives to all the other people who come to the Park to enjoy the unique wilderness experience.

So how can you help? The Park's website lists a wide variety of options. There is something for everyone. We urge you to sign up early to assure your first choice.

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

- April 16-17 – Chainsaw certification at MATC Camp in Skowhegan
- 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 at 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

Loppers R Us Reflections of a BSP Trail Steward

Question: When does a long commute get longer AND better every day?

Answer: When you are a Baxter State Park Trail Steward!

For the better part of the past two summers, I've been lopping and shearing (blueberries!) my way up the Center Ridge Trail in the north end of the Park. And I topped it off this September with multiple peregrinations of painting – four days of blue blazes, that is.

Of course, I could have hiked up, started from the top, and lopped my way down, but that's much less rewarding and anti-climactic at the end. How can you celebrate reaching the bottom? Going up, the views got better all the time, as did the breezes; and I could always look forward to my summit day. Another benefit (maybe) was the blissful ignorance of how far I had yet to go!

For six of the past eight years I've performed basic maintenance on Park trails between June and October: Howe

Brook, North Traveler, Five Ponds, Horse Mountain, and now Center Ridge. What I like most is that it gets me to the Park more often. Of course, not every trail assignment climbs a mountain with lovely views, but I see plenty of wildlife, wildflowers, and mushrooms. The clouds in the sky and the fall foliage can be amazing. The pothole pools in Howe Brook (or another swimming hole) are a soothing elixir at the end of the day (or is it a refreshing jolt?) I meet happy and grateful hikers, some of whom I try to recruit to be stewards. I also get to know the rangers in my area. They always thank me for my efforts. Always. It's been a lot of fun. And there is a certain satisfaction, too, when you hike out at the end of the day and see all that you have accomplished.

The Park asks for a not insignificant commitment from Trail Stewards. Training occurs on National Trails Day, the first Saturday in June, when you meet

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Our Readers Write...

Continued from p. 3

have spent every summer of my life at a camp on Lake Messalonskee that my grandfather bought my grandmother in 1951 so she could spend her summers near her childhood home. With my father's sudden death last winter, I have felt an even deeper connection to my Maine roots and a true desire to make sure Maine and places like Baxter State Park will be around for my children to cherish and enjoy.

– *Martin E. Colman*

& *Loren B. Fisher, New York, NY*

Editor: For the full account of their trip and what happened thereafter, please go to the FBSP website at friendsofbaxter.org

85 years, 8 months, and 1 day old . . .

Charlotte Fernald Frazier called to say she had climbed Katahdin this summer to meet her granddaughter as she finished the Appalachian Trail. Charlotte summited on Friday, August 13th, 2010, at the age 85 years, 8 months, and 1 day, and she found the whole experience exhilarating. "This is really living!" she said about hiking mountains. "We never get too old. The Lord gives us energy if we live right."

The "if we live right" merits a bit of explanation. Charlotte eats a vegan diet, exercises regularly, and has been walking daily for as long as I've known her. But the big thing – and a great lesson for everyone – is how she prepared for the trip to Baxter. This summer, she and her daughter climbed every trail in the Camden area; they hiked Mt. Blue, Tumbledown, and Table Rock in Grafton Notch, among others; she increased her daily walk from 2 miles to 4 miles; she did a treadmill test to please her dubious doctor, who then told her she could start jogging (which she decided not to do).

Once in Baxter State Park, she did a practice hike from Roaring Brook to Chimney Pond and back. The next day, she hiked back to Chimney Pond

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Trail Steward

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other Trail Stewards and work under the direction of Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro. You learn maintenance tasks and the standards to follow on the job. Then you agree to return on three more weekends to contribute a couple of days of work on one of the neediest trails (it's good to help the needy). "Luxurious" administrative lean-to or bunk accommodations are provided at no cost to you

2011 Walks in the Park with Friends of Baxter State Park

We invite you to get together with other Friends while you are in the Park. Cabin, bunkhouse, lean-to – we've got some of each lined up this year in the north and in the south of the Park. See details below. To make arrangements to join us, see *Contact Us* on p. 2.

February 11 - 13 (2 nights) – Winter "Walk" in the Park at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps (Cabins available; make reservations with Camp Manager Holly Hamilton at masterguide4570@yahoo.com)

March 17 - 20 (3 nights) – Warm Winter Weekend at Twin Pine Camps, NEOC, on Millinocket Lake (Sandy Stream and Bear's Den camps reserved; make reservations with New England Outdoor Center)

June 23 - 26 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps (Cabins available; contact FBSP Board member Mike Stillman at poepaddy@hotmail.com)

August 6 - 14 (8 nights) – Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program (10 selected Maine high school students & 2 leaders – applications due February 15th, 2011. See FBSP website.)

August 11 – 14 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park (includes hike w/geologist) at South Branch Pond (Lean-to space for 12; to reserve a space, contact FBSP Board member Mike Stillman at poepaddy@hotmail.com)

September 2 – 5 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond (Bunkhouse space for 6; to reserve a space, contact FBSP Board member Mike Stillman at poepaddy@hotmail.com)



South Branch Pond wears winter mantel of snow and ice, and Trail Steward Jacobi's Center Ridge trail on Traveler is visible in the distance at center right. – *Photo © Jym St. Pierre*

in exchange for your blood, sweat, and tears labor of love. They're a rustic but restful retreat. Tools and eye protection are provided, or you can bring your own.

Lopping the brush to clear and define the trail corridor is the biggest job. You become intimately familiar with spruce, fir, striped maple, blueberries, birches, and a handful of other species. Maybe you find a favorite one to loathe. You clean waterbars, paint blazes, and report on missing or dam-

aged signs too. (Don't be like me. Paint the trees and rocks, not yourself.) You submit reports to let Paul know what you've done. Best of all, you'll be out there. And you can invite friends to help as long as you supervise them and they sign up as Park volunteers. Any Friends members would be welcome to join me for a weekend.

– *Charlie Jacobi, BSP Trail Steward, FBSP Board Member, & Acadia National Park Resource Specialist/Visitor Use*

Book Review

by Don Hudson,
President Emeritus, Chewonki

A Guide to the Geology of Baxter State Park and Katahdin

by Douglas W. Rankin and Dabney W. Caldwell

No geologist on the planet can claim to know a place as well as Dabney W. "Dee" Caldwell knew Ktaadn* and Baxter State Park. His interest in the "Greatest Mountain" and its surrounding lesser peaks culminated in a doctoral dissertation at Harvard (1959) that explored, in particular, the geologic and geomorphic features of Pleistocene glaciation, and he spent the rest of his lifetime introducing the geological wonders of the Park to a generation of young geologists. Dee was a great teacher and writer. In 1972, he provided the general public with the first edition of the bulletin, *A Guide to the Geology of Baxter State Park and Katahdin*. Dee died in 2006 before being able to publish a complete revision of his famous bulletin. One of his graduate student colleagues at Harvard, Douglas W. Rankin, a student of the bedrock geology of Baxter State Park - notably Traveler Rhyolite, picked up the mantle and began the huge task of revising one of the most important texts in the popular scientific literature for the Park. With the backing and coordination of State Geologist and Director of the Maine Geological Survey Robert Marvinney, Rankin's revision of Caldwell's classic bulletin was published in 2010.

I recall sitting with Dee Caldwell at a lunchtime break in the Annual Meeting of the International Appalachian Trail in May 2004, hearing of his intention to revise the guide. Much had been learned about the geology of the Park since 1972, and he intended that the revision would capture and interpret the essence for students and the general public. Rankin, Marvinney, and their colleagues have done a remarkably thorough job, notably with an expanded treatment of the bedrock geology, Rankin's speciality. Updated bedrock and superficial geology maps will be the highlight for many readers. Rankin and Andrew Griscom, the third graduate student at Harvard with Caldwell and Rankin whose studies focused on the geology of Ktaadn and surrounding terrain, produced the map of bedrock geology. Thomas Weddle of the Maine Geological Survey has updated Caldwell's map of the surficial geology of



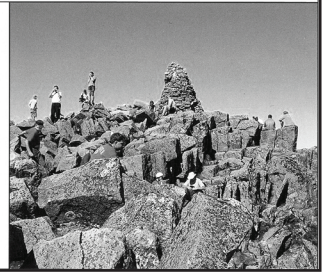
A GUIDE TO THE GEOLOGY OF BAXTER STATE PARK AND KATAHDIN



by
Douglas W. Rankin

and
Dabney W. Caldwell

Maine Geological Survey
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION



the Park.

From the detailed and well illustrated explanations of bedrock geology and glacial geomorphology to the final chapter on exploring the geology of the Park, this long awaited revision of Caldwell's famous bulletin captures the essence of a complex science and presents it to the reader with clarity, simplicity, and even a dose of Caldwell's famous wit. If you own a copy of the original bulletin, it is likely tattered and torn with the pages falling from the binding. I recommend that you buy two of this fine revision, one for your pack and one for home. If you haven't already made the four interpreted walks that make up the bulk of the last chapter, you will no doubt be inspired to make them - bulletin in hand - at the earliest possible opportunity.

* In his Dedication, longtime friend and colleague, Gary M. Boone, notes that Caldwell always preferred the spelling of Thoreau and early explorers that they believed better represents the pronunciation of the Penobscot's "Greatest Mountain."

Don first used Caldwell's bulletin with a group of students in Baxter State Park in September 1973. His copy of the original fits the description above.

The book can be purchased for \$10 plus postage by calling the Maine Geological Survey at: (207) 287-2801. For additional information about the book, go to www.maine.gov/doc/nrimc/mgs/baxter.html

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

for the night, then up the Saddle Trail to the summit and back the following day. Never too old, indeed! Congratulations, Charlotte!

– Barbara Bentley, Hope, ME

Baxter's wilderness vision...

I need to add a word of grateful thanks on behalf of all the members of the Friends of Baxter State Park and on behalf of all the citizens of our state who believe so strongly in the wilderness values of the Park as envisioned by Percival P. Baxter - AND that those values need to be defended whenever threatened. It was for this kind of moment that the Friends was organized in the first place, and I commend all who rose to the occasion and were prepared to speak out. You are right - the threats never seem to end. But we will still be there when needed. Thank you.

– John Neff, Winthrop, ME

My favorite place . . .

FBSP is my favorite group, and I have hopes of getting up there for some hikes. Remember those Natar-swi scrambles? We felt we owned the mountain! Thanks for being so energetic and persistent in protecting such a beautiful place.

– Carolyn Unger, Hamilton, VA

Paintings of Katahdin . . .

I have been visiting Baxter State Park

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In appreciation of their years of enthusiastic support of the Park, BSP Director Jensen Bissell (L) presented plaques to retiring BSP Authority members (L to R) Alec Giffen, Janet Mills, and Danny Martin at their December 2010 meeting. FBSP President Barbara Bentley (not shown) presented each Authority member with a framed print of Lou Mucci's painting of Katahdin that is the frontispiece of the 4-volume *Percival P. Baxter's Vision*.
 - Photo © Park Staff

Update from the Park

by BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell

After a bare and open early winter with only minimal snow, recent storms have improved the snow cover to more normal levels. Winter recreation in the Park is now getting up to full swing with the lengthening days and the warmer temperatures of February. Along with our regular Ranger staff, Greg Hamer and Brendan Curran are filling project positions as Seasonal Alpine Rangers at Chimney Pond as we test a model for future staffing at the hub of winter activity in the Park.

Earlier this month, the Park held a successful Opening Day of Reservations at Park Headquarters. Around 90 people made reservations within the daily availability limit of a maximum of 20% of any campground on any day. By 2 PM, all reservations for the day had been made and well over 90% of the space available for the 2011 summer season remained open for reservations. The start of the reservation season, regardless of how much winter is outside, signals that summer is coming. The Park's regular rolling reservation system is now underway with reservations taken by mail or in person 4 months or less from the date of the reservation. This summer, the Park plans to initiate on-line reservations through the Park's website for reservations made within



two weeks of the date of the reservation. Details about on-line reservations will be posted later this spring on the website at baxterstateparkauthority.com.

2010 saw the initiation of the Park's Day Use Parking (DUPR) Reservation system, providing the opportunity for day-use Katahdin hikers to reserve a parking spot at one of the Park's three Katahdin-access parking lots for \$5. This program, with some minor adjustments to improve operability, will continue in 2011. Details on DUPR system will be posted on the Park's website later this spring.

The Park's Administrative Team has been very busy this winter working on major revisions to the Park's Standard Operating Procedures Manual and a major rewrite of the Baxter Park Manage-

ment Plan. We hope to begin an expanding review process of this large, digitally linked document sometime this spring or early summer, along with more details on the planning and review.

The final details of the planning and review process depend on the input and consideration of the Baxter State Park Authority. With the change in Administration following the November election, former Authority members Janet Mills, Dan Martin and Alec Giffen all left State service in December or early January. The formation of a completely new Authority, replacing all three members at one time, is a first in the history of the Baxter State Park Authority. Cur-

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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).

2011 BSP Trail Crews Invitation to Trail Friends to Volunteer

If you are interested in participating in any of the projects described below, please contact BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro within the next few weeks to get acquainted and make arrangements. Leave a phone message at 207-723-9616, send a fax at 207-723-6381, or email at paul.sannicandro@maine.gov For full descriptions of the projects, go to the Park's website at www.baxterstateparkauthority.com

June 4 (rain date June 5) – National Trails Day – Helon Taylor Trail - Trail Stewards training. Space is limited so sign up early.
Challenge level = Moderate to Difficult – Must be able to hike a total of four (4) miles roundtrip with a daypack. Elevation gain is 2580' over two miles.

June 12-16 – BSP Trail Team #2 – Mixed Bag of Projects – Traveler Loop and Pogy Notch Trail. Room for four (4) volunteers.
Challenge Level = Moderate to Difficult – This project requires the lifting and handling of heavy loads. Hiking/working on the Traveler Mt. Loop requires a demanding hike of 10.6 miles.

July 17-21 – BSP Trail Team #3A – Alpine Reconstruction – Saddle Trail – Facilitated in partnership with the Maine Conservation Corps
Challenge Level = Most Difficult – Daily hike to worksite is three (3) miles round trip. Elevation gain is 1500 vertical feet over 1.5 miles. All participants must be in very good physical condition and able to climb Katahdin four (4) days in a row.

July 31 - Aug. 4 – BSP Trail Team #3B – Continuation of #3A. See above.

August 31 - Sept. 7 – BSP Trail Team #4 – Hunt Trail – Erosion Control – Labor Day Wkd. – 20th Anniversary and Project Finale. Room for 12 volunteers as winch operators, stone processors, stone setters, and rope handlers.
Challenge Level = Moderate to Difficult – Daily hike of three (3) mi. round trip.

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

most years since 1982. Although I was born in Houlton, my family moved to Connecticut in 1955. It remains my favorite place to bring family and friends. Photographs and paintings of BSP are throughout my house and studio. For all of the work you do as president of Friends of Baxter State Park, please accept the enclosed cards of some of my paintings.

– Scott Rhoades, Storrs, CT



Winter operations include hauling of supplies to backcountry sites. Shown here is the service bridge at Snub Pitch on the Chimney Pond trail. – Photo © BSP Annual Report

Below L: Moonset and sunrise at Chimney Pond can seem one in the same in deep winter at Chimney Pond.

– Photo © Mike Martin

Below R: Then nominee for Attorney General William Schnieder receives a BSP calendar from FBSP President Barbara Bentley at the December meeting of the BSP Authority with encouragement to visit the Park soon.

– Photo © Jym St Pierre



Update from the Park

Continued from p. 8

rently, Maine Attorney General William Schneider, Acting Forest Service Director Donald Mansius, and Acting Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Joel Wilkinson are serving as the Baxter State Park Authority. As Governor LePage continues to assemble his administration, we expect to welcome new Authority members in the coming weeks or months.



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
Friends Website: www.friendsofbaxter.org**

Thank you!

HELP US UPDATE OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

Please email us at info@friendsofbaxter.org with the following:

Your Name as it appears on your membership card

Type of email information you wish to receive:

- FBSP newsletter *Forever Wild* in electronic version only
- Special events: Walks in the Park, FBSP Annual Meeting
- Volunteering in Baxter State Park
- Volunteering for FBSP at booths/fairs, on committees
- Special alerts and announcements about the Park
- Other (please specify)

Note: We do NOT share email lists with other individuals or organizations. Thanks for your email. We look forward to keeping in touch.



Recognize this elegant friend of the Park?
Email us your answer. – Photo © Kiri Guyaz



At the FBSP Warm Winter Weekend in March, you could see for yourself a sunset like the one in this view of Katahdin over Millinocket Lake from Twin Pine Camps. The setting alone is worth the trip. You can drive to the door and tailor your outings to suit your own preference! And the price is right. We invite you to join us. Contact us now to reserve a place in a cabin. – Photo © Bill Bentley