

Forever Wild



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park Summer 2012 Vol. 11 No. 3

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

A recent college reunion in the Green Mountains of Vermont found me enjoying a swim in a lake with a number of classmates, many of whom thought they were having a "wilderness experience" despite the wall-to-wall cottages, many speed-boats, and several clear cuts to the shore. Granted, I've spent most of my vacation time over the past 12 years in Baxter State Park, where streams and lakes are clear; the shorelines, pristine; and the visitors, discreet. But wilderness? In contrast to their urban lives, maybe.

This experience underlines for me the importance of our mission to educate the next generation of wilderness stewards. As the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program participants embark on this year's program in August, they will be the 4th class of ten Maine high school students to do so. Some graduates have told us that the program has changed the way they think about their roles as volunteers, community leaders, and wilderness stewards.

We are currently embarked on a strategic planning process to determine how best we, as an organization, can serve the Park. As an all-volunteer Board of Directors, we enjoy contracted administrative and bookkeeping support. But, having

Continued on pg. 2



L to R: Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program graduates Kate Pontbriand and Jimmy Kenyon recounted highlights of their summer 2011 experiences in the Park
— Photo © Jym St. Pierre

Annual Meeting Celebrates Friends' Accomplishments

Over sixty people attended the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) held at the Viles Arboretum in Augusta on Saturday, April 21st, and heard reports from President Barbara Bentley, Committee Chairs, and a number of guest speakers about the many projects and programs supported by Friends. Early arrivals enjoyed a birdwalk in the Arboretum with Howard Lake and Glen Hodgkins. Lunch was the usual fabulous fare provided by Anne Huntington. A hardy group went on a hike with Milt Wright after the meeting.

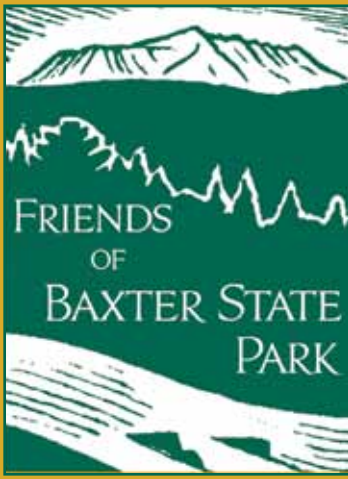
Members elected Lindsay Bourgoine, Milt Wright, and Jym St. Pierre for their second 3-year terms on the FBSP Board of Directors; Sean Mahoney and Jaime

Renaud, for their first 3-year terms; and Anne Huntington, for a one-year term to fill a vacated seat.

Bill Bentley showed selections from over 400 photos submitted for the 2013 Baxter State Park calendar photographs showing the richness and diversity of the Park. (*Submissions for the 2014 BSP Calendar are due October 30th; see FBSP website for details.*) Barbara Bentley recognized a number of people for their contributions to the organization: Ralph Pope, Denise Clavette, Roxanne Quimby, Holly Hamilton, Jym St. Pierre, Sarah Holland, and Mary Tolles.

Baxter State Park Resource Director Rick Morrill reviewed results of the trail inventory that FBSP funded last season.

Continued on pg. 2



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Friends of Baxter State Park is a 501(c)(3) organization working to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park in the spirit of its founder, Percival P. Baxter.

President's Column *Continued from pg.1*

greatly expanded our membership and variety of programs and projects in recent years, we may have reached a critical point in our growth. I firmly believe in the gift of volunteerism and the important role it plays in our organization and in communities in general. As Board Member Dick Klain said, "Civic mindedness should lead to civil discourse, best discovered as a volunteer." We can put volunteers to work – for the Park as well as for our organization. Your time, talent, and financial backing are all valued. Feel free to contact me for details about opportunities. And thank you for your support of Friends.

Membership Report

by Sarah Holland

We continue to be amazed at the support and interest in Friends of Baxter State Park from around the country. We currently have 712 active members from Alaska



to Hawaii and every region of the nation – even several in Canada. A big thank-you to all! While many of you have renewed your membership since our Spring renewal mailing, we have not heard from everyone. If you are unsure about your membership status, check the mailing label of this newsletter for your expiration date. Every dollar is appreciated and used to support programs that benefit the Wilderness of the Park. And as always, we welcome new members anytime.

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Annual Meeting *Continued from Pg.1*

The data collected, now posted on the BSP website, will be a valuable tool for trail planning, restoration, and reconstruction on the 221 miles of 115 different trails within the Park. Two of last year's Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program participants, Kate Pontbriand and Jimmy Kenyon, talked about their 9-day backpacking trip in the Park, highlighting the thunderstorm on N. Traveler, the trail maintenance work at Russell Pond, and the "team building" experience overall. They offered a hint for program participants in the future: travel with less than you think you will need.

BSP Visiting Artists Evelyn Dunphy, Michael Boardman and Michael Vermette displayed paintings of scenes in the Park; authors John Neff, Howard Whitcomb, and Andy Vietz offered books for sale; and Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps Manager Holly Hamilton was on hand during the meeting.

Reports on other FBSP supported projects followed. Over the next five years, Glenn Mittelhauser is leading a project entitled *The Plants of Baxter State Park*. This work will culminate in a plant inventory for the entire Park, an annotated database for Park staff, and the publication of a floral guide for BSP. To volunteer to work on this project, go to www.mainenaturalhistory.org

As part of the Maine Natural Areas Program (MNAP), Don Cameron will conduct a pilot vegetative mapping survey of Baxter State Park. He is scheduled to complete the draft map of 36 square miles this year with a final map due next summer. John Neff and Howard Whitcomb have completed a new pictorial history entitled *Baxter State Park and Katahdin*, reviewed in this newsletter on p. 4.

Dan O'Leary presented Roxanne Quimby's National Park proposal. Ms. Quimby has been inspired by Acadia, BSP, and Thoreau to set aside a land for a north woods national treasure for all. Questions centered on changing the perceptions of the people in the area, and Dan noted that people resisted and questioned Governor Baxter's proposal for a park, too.

To close, Al Howlett described the full day of activities planned for Governor Baxter Day on August 22, 2012 in Portland. Tickets are limited, and anyone interested is encouraged to make reservations soon. We have much to celebrate on this Golden Anniversary of Baxter's Wilderness Legacy.

In Memoriam
Vitauts Janis Knuble
 1948-2012

Our Readers Write...

We welcome letters and photos from our readers. Please give us your name and address and aim for 100-word limit. See How to Contact Us on p. 2. You can read letters and trip reports not included here at friendsofbaxter.org. Thank you. – *Editor*

Nature in Balance - Photo ID needed

Where is this balancing rock located in Baxter State Park? Hint: It is quite a walk from the nearest parking lot. Send us your ID, and please tell us when you last saw it.

– *Mike Arsenault, Bradford, NH*

Maine Remote Spot

My organization, Remote Footprints, has an endeavor, Project Remote, that is designed to bring attention to the extent of roads in our country and the importance of remote and roadless areas to both humans and wildlife. ... We hope to instill in the general public the value and importance of Wilderness Areas, Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, Parks, and other public lands within which most of the country's Remote Spots are found. ... The Maine Remote Spot is within the Park. ... It is a great accolade to have the remotest location in the state to be within your Park! For more information go to www.remotefootprints.org/project-remote

– *Rebecca P.M. Means, Tallahassee, FL*

North Peaks Trail Open

I think I had heard correctly that the North Peaks Trail had reopened all the way to the Wassataquoik. Is that right? I will have to hike the whole thing next time I get to Katahdin. I am wondering what you call the north section of that trail, as it leaves the Wassataquoik and heads up that valley to the west of Russell Mt. In some of the 19th-century accounts, the valley or the stream is called "Tumble Run." None of my maps give any names to that stream or valley. What do you call it? I am trying to match some of the old names of places with the most current ones, and there are a few places, like this one, that I am unsure about.

– *Stan Tag, Bellingham, WA*

Lasting impression

First, belated thanks for the stunning photo. I well remember my hike to Katahdin Lake a couple of years ago. What a place! Katahdin and BSP have been on my mind recently. I am finishing work as a social activist overseas (South Korea) and have been reflecting on the people who have passed through my life – however briefly – and left an impression. Though it was 47 years ago, Chimney Pond Ranger Laurel Bouchard was one of those people. It was August 1965, and our teen camp group had hiked up the Hunt Trail, crossed Baxter Peak, and descended

Answer to Trivia Question in the Spring newsletter is c) Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas. Winner is Jym St. Pierre.



Where is it?

– *Photo © Michael Arsenault*

the Saddle Trail to Chimney Pond. We met Laurel, his wife, and young children. ... Sometime around nightfall, Laurel received a radio message that two young boys had wandered off from Roaring Brook Campground. He asked if we would be willing to join the search in the morning. While I don't remember the details, I do recall that I was impressed beyond learning about an urgent (and ultimately tragic) situation. For me, it was a meaningful – and teachable – moment; Laurel quickly became a role model – husband, father, professional – with the understanding that we would conduct ourselves as adults the next day, searching for the Mott brothers.

– *Rick Boas, Wilton CT*

Note: Rescue crews were based at Avalanche Field and the boys were found in the vicinity of Sandy Stream.

Fishing with bears on Webster Stream

My friend from Portland and I hiked into Webster Lake for a few days this past weekend and had a great time. On the way in, we saw a sow with two very little cubs; and on the way out, we saw another bear, so the bear population must be quite healthy. We also saw lots of moose sign, but no moose. We spent the night at the very nice lean-to at the lake, and the next day hiked down to the lean-to part way down the stream. Unfortunately they had opened up the dam at Telos, and the river was very high, although the fishing was still surprisingly good. At the outlet, we caught a number of good trout; and even along the edges down the first stretch of river, we caught some nice fish. That section of the Park is beautiful, and we plan to return when the river is a little lower.

– *David Williams, Rockport, ME*

Kittery to Ft. Kent Self-propelled

In August, I'll be doing a self-propelled trip from Kittery to Fort Kent, and I am looking for company during this grand tour of the state. If any Friends would like to join me for a leg of the trip, they should feel free to contact me. I've written about it for the *Bangor Daily News*:

<http://selfpropelledtravelsinmaine.bangordailynews.com/>

– *Jim Andrews, Farmington, ME*

Continued on pg. 4

Inspiration Katahdin

I will have a month-long exhibition of images, ideas and events honoring the vision of Governor Baxter, the insights of Henry David Thoreau, and the Wabanaki connection to Maine's most sacred mountain at the LaMarche Gallery, David Saul Smith Union, Bowdoin College on August 1 - August 31, 2012. The exhibition includes **photographs** from my book *Greatest Mountain: Katahdin's Wilderness* with quotes from the writings/speeches of Percival Baxter and Thoreau's Essay "Ktaadn"; **screenings** of my film series *THE AMERICAN EVOLUTION: Voices of America* featuring little-known aspects of the life and work of Thoreau, a visionary Thoreau scholar, Penobscot Elders, Katahdin and others; a **presentation** by Maria Girouard, former director of the Penobscot Nation Historic Preservation Dept.; and a **performance** of THOREAU THE FUTURIST AND THE EMERGING HUMAN. Find more info at www.TheAmericanEvolution.com and www.YouTube.com/TheAmericanEvolution.

– *Connie Baxter Marlow, Sedona, AZ*

Annual Meeting Highlight

The Annual Meeting was swell. The highlight for me was the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program with the two young people showing images and speaking off the cuff. It was so candid and honest, and you could see the enthusiasm there. Hope we can do this more often. Bravo. That inclusion made my day. And folks like that are our future as an organization and hopefully would become members, honorary, temporary, or paying.

– *David Little, Portland, ME*

Motives for National Park Proposal

I'd like to make reservations for the Governor Baxter Day events on August 22nd. I'd also like to thank you for planning and executing another great annual meeting – informative and fun. ... Dan O'Leary gave good insight into Roxanne's motives for proposing the national park. I found the image of the Great Basin painting online this AM:

<http://www.the-athenaeum.org/art/detail.php?ID=26475>

– *Jill Ippoliti, Winthrop, ME*

Poet inspired

In light or dark
it's a wild wood park
that fuels my passion
that ignites my spark

In a world awash
with sprawl and Twitter
spare us the fools
save space for the critters

Thank you, Oh Lord,
for your gentle mercy
And thanks, for your park,
Governor Percy

– *Jym St. Pierre*

Note: The poet read this poem to a very enthusiastic crowd at the Annual Meeting in a April.

BOOK REVIEW

Baxter State Park and Katahdin by John W. Neff and Howard R. Whitcomb, Arcadia Publishing Co., 2012, \$21.99.

Reviewed by David R. Getchell, Sr.

Those who think Baxter is just another state park with a lot of trees and biting bugs will get an eyeful, and then some, when reading this fine little book by two experts on Katahdin history.

The book is short on text and long on fascinating photographs (well over 200 of the latter), nearly all of which were taken in the late nineteenth and first half of the twentieth century. Here is history you can see, and it will hold surprises even for those familiar with the mountain and the park.

In those early days, it sometimes seemed that man was bent on subduing the wilderness with buildings, towers, dams, and roads. Sprawling woods camps housing scores of lumbermen were built in what is now the very heart of the park. These were reached by horse-drawn wagons over roads so rough they would challenge a modern ATV. Later, visitors drove their cars through deep mud and forded brooks and streams to reach sporting camps or tent sites. Packhorses and mules carried sportsmen's gear as high as Chimney Pond.

Early on, woodsmen probed far back in the forest and high on the mountainsides to cut the pine and spruce, hauling logs to streamside yards or sliding

Update from the Park

by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

Park management is frequently a careful balancing act between the often-opposing pulls of human design and natural environments. This is especially true in wilderness-embedded campgrounds of Baxter State Park such as Kidney Pond Campground, where a group of Canada geese have made a summer home over the last 5 years. The pond setting provides a relatively safe habitat for these large beautiful birds as well as ready access to a large mown lawn for grazing. At first, campground visitors and staff found the geese to be interesting and exciting newcomers, but as the goose droppings accumulated in traffic areas of the mown lawn and campers tracked the droppings into the cabins, the romance faded.

Kidney Pond Campground is well within the wildlife sanctuary zone of the Park, and the geese are wild animals that reached Kidney Pond through completely natural means. They are as welcome in the Park as any other animal, humans included, but their grazing of the un-natural lawn created an unpleasant result for Park campers. Park staff experimented with a variety of devices such as reflective ribbon barriers, cut-out life size photos of canid predators, and decoys to deter the geese from feeding on the lawn. Geese are adaptable, intelligent, and very mobile. Over time, the geese became accustomed and unafraid of the employed deterrents. In the end, we concluded that the only long-term remedy would be to remove the attractive habitat – the mown lawn.





L to R: John Neff and Howard Whitcomb keep good company as they document in photos the rich history of *Baxter State Park and Katahdin*, including the days of Thoreau and Baxter himself.

– Photos © Jym St. Pierre

them down chutes into ponds where they were stored until melting snows and spring rains filled the streams with enough water to float the logs to mills far downriver. Where brooks were too small to carry logs in their normal flow, crib dams were built to store a head of water large enough to flood the brooks and drive the logs. Called “squirt dams” by the loggers, the barriers were considered temporary and were abandoned once they had served their purpose.

Even before the woodsmen left their stumps and camps behind, early visitors to the Katahdin country were blazing trails to the peaks and camping in rough lean-tos and tents wherever conditions seemed favorable. Nearly all were impressed by the wild beauty of the area. Preservation of one sort or another was proposed, includ-

ing the establishment of a national park.

Enter Percival P. Baxter and his determination to create a park for the people of Maine (even if they didn’t want it!) and a refuge for its wildlife. The reader watches the park grow and sees legendary personages such as Keep, Avery, Day, Taylor, Dudley, Douglas, Fendler and others in their prime. Expanding on the photos are unusually informative captions, not always the case in pictorial books. (I do take issue with the authors’ description of “then-named Moose Bosom Mountain” in the caption on page 70. Its real “then name” was “Squaw’s Bosom,” and while one can understandably see why the name was changed to accommodate the feelings of Native Americans, the state legislature showed no imagination when it decreed that all brooks, hills, and mountains with “Squaw” in their names be changed to “Moose”.)

This book is the latest in Arcadia Publishing’s Images of America series of local histories, now in the thousands. A powerful benefit of a picture book is that one can go back time and again to study its images and find something new and interesting. I highly recommend this one to supplement the authors’ impressive Baxter Park histories: John Neff’s *Katahdin: An Historic Journey* and Howard Whitcomb’s *Governor Baxter’s Magnificent Obsession, A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931-2006*, both available from Friends of Baxter State Park.



Kidney Pond Campground has new look that invites fireflies and deters geese. – Photo ©Park Staff

You see in the photo the un-mown Kidney Pond lawn today – now a meadow with various wildflowers and likely soon – fireflies. This is without question a change in the look and feel of the campground. As anticipated, the geese have been reluctant and unwilling to walk through the higher, heavier grass. Some people like this change and welcome the wildness it brings to the campground; others absolutely detest the meadow as a scruffy, unkempt lawn. These differing opinions from knowledgeable and thoughtful people embody the difficult conflicts inherent in wilderness

and natural area management. Take a look at the photo, or better yet, take a drive to Kidney Pond – what’s your opinion?

Park operations so far this season are going very well. We are working on an assimilation plan for the 143-acre parcel on the southeast shore of Katahdin Lake donated to the Park by the Huber Corporation and the Huber family this past January. We should have a draft plan for consideration by the Baxter State Park Authority at their October meeting. We are also nearing completion on the restructuring effort at the Foster Field Group Area. This campground is now completely on the eastern side of the Park Tote Road and not split by the Tote Road as in past

years. If you visit Park Headquarters in July, you are likely to see a lot of construction going on as we convert the Headquarters and Garage complex from oil to pellet heat. We will also be installing an emergency power generator near the Headquarters building.

Reservations for Park campsites have been up so far this season. Reservations for any campsite in the Park for any date through the remainder of the 2012 summer season can now be made on-line through the Park’s website.



This Monument Line marker in the Northwest Basin was photographed in the 1930s.

– Photo © Appalachian Mountain Club Library and Archives

Sleuthing about Katahdin...

by David Little, Art Detective

Caught up on the ridgeline of Katahdin’s Pamola Peak on August 10th, 1849 in a sudden weather shift that turned day into night, Elizabeth O. Smith questions her motives, her plight, and manages to find inner strength and resolve.

There was one grand moment of exultation, of wild sympathy with this savage inhospitable height... And now with much difficulty the tent was held to the ground by huge stones...the intense cold and heavy rain promised to be more than we could endure...I said internally ‘it is one of those ugly Friday nights’...

– From “Correspondence of the Advertiser”, Sept 26, 1849, Portland Daily Advertiser, written by Elizabeth Oakes Smith

Smith (1806-1893), native of Yarmouth, ME, mother of six sons, with a growing reputation as fiction writer, editor, poet, lecturer, and women’s rights activist, would leave her home in New York City to fulfill a childhood dream of climbing Katahdin (from the East) and in doing so (camping out eight nights and walking more than fifty miles) become the first woman on record to ascend the mountain to Pamola Peak* (only three years after Thoreau’s attempt from the South).

*Note: the letter she left in a bottle on Pamola dated Aug 11th and found by the Rev. Marcus Keep on Aug 20th and subsequently published was written on the morning of Friday the 10th. The Smith party had intended to camp overnight on Pamola to experience a glorious sunrise.

Look for this illustration in a forthcoming book by Portland author David Little on the art of the Katahdin region, to be published by Down East Books.

Looking back...

A Boundary Marker Puzzle

by John Neff, Author of *Katahdin, An Historic Journey*

When Maine achieved statehood in 1820, a Maine Boundary Commission was formed to survey the northern lands and their boundaries. The first step was to establish a base Monument Line between the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick. The line had to cross an area of very rugged terrain roughly three miles north of Katahdin’s summit. In fact, the surveyors had considerable difficulty negotiating the extremely steep face of Harvey Ridge to reach and cross what is today the Northwest Basin.

This writer is not aware that the locations of any of the Monument Line markers are known today. A cairn and wooden marker near Lake Cowles in the NW Basin was found and photographed in the 1930s, but its location is no longer known today. There are some history buffs seeking to locate at least some of those Monument Line markers in the Katahdin area. If anyone has information that might shed light on this intriguing mystery, please let me know at jhneff@fairpoint.net.



This Jared Flagg Portrait of Elizabeth Oakes Smith, ca.1851. oil on canvas, 77 x 65 cm, is from the collection of Maine Historical Society.



Pitchin' In and Steppin' Out

by Laurie Rich, Volunteer Coordinator

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Changes can be unsettling, but in our case, the change to the Volunteer Program within the Park is all-good. Bruce White of Katahdin Stream Campground fame is now a year-round ranger who has the task of coordinating the Volunteer Program for the Park. I will be working with Bruce as he identifies projects and contacting potential volunteers for these projects. First up in June is a two-parter with sheet rocking at Trout Brook Farm and wood splitting at South Branch Pond. If you have a specific time you would like to volunteer, please let me know, and I will advise Bruce so a project may be worked out for you. See the insert in newsletter for schedules, and there will be more information coming out shortly for the July VIP (Volunteer in the Park) weekend. Here's what two of our volunteers have to say about their experiences.



Clearing blowdowns on Doubletop Trail has rewards like this view from Deer Pond.
– Photo © Rosemary Hastings

I thought I would give you a little report on the first trailwork day of the season. There were 5 of us: Steve Ellis, Doug Rich, Charlie Jacobi, myself, and a gentleman from Pennsylvania named Bernie. We split into two groups. Charlie and I did most of the Doubletop trail. The other 3 did several of the satellite trails. Not a lot of clearing to do, but it was a great day for a hike. No black flies yet!! More recently, I volunteered at the gate with Laurie Nale and her daughter when the Park crew had their spring meeting. It was fun.

– Rosemary Hastings,
Millinocket, ME



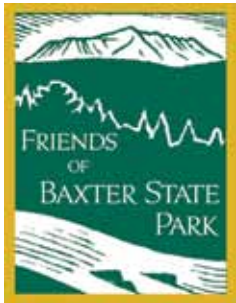
Kidney Pond Cabins Still Available for August 2, 3, & 4 Take a Paddle and Hike to Windy Pitch Pond

Explore this sweet and secretive corner of the Park from one of the Kidney Pond Cabins that Friends reserved on opening day just for you. We have Doubletop and Sentinel cabins, room for 12 people for three nights, August 2, 3, & 4 with departure on August 5th. A cabin costs \$130 per night, cost shared among its occupants. In three short paddles and two short hikes, you can be afloat on Windy Pitch Pond, rimmed by the hills and resounding with quiet isolation. On the way, you'll enjoy a panorama of Katahdin from Lily Pad Pond, see the Niagaras of the Nesowadnehunk from the other side, where you'll be the envy of AT hikers and Daicey Ponders wondering how you got there, and pass through a deep, vibrant, mossy-green spruce forest. Don't wait twenty plus years (like me) to see all this in a steady drizzle on a trail-clearing mission. I'm planning my return trip now, sans the loppers. **Contact Mike Stillman at poepaddy@hotmail.com or call us at 207-763-3014 right now to get a cabin for yourself and friends.**

– Charlie Jacobi, FBSP Board Member and BSP Trail Steward,
Bar Harbor, ME

See the Big Niagara from the "other side" when you hike/paddle to Windy Pitch Pond.
– Photo © Charlie Jacobi





Friends of Baxter State Park

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Thank you!

Please see insert in newsletter for information about Governor Baxter Day in Portland on Wednesday, August 22, 2012 and for schedule for Volunteer Opportunities and Walks in the Park. To buy tickets, make reservations, purchase books, or sign-up to volunteer in the Park, see Contact Us on page 2 of the newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you!



From the summit, the hiker enjoys expansive view to the east. – Photo © Bill Bentley

Leroy Dudley, long time ranger at Chimney Pond, died when he:

- A) was run over by a truck.
- B) tried to rescue a climber in the Chimney.
- C) was swimming in Florida.
- D) was sleeping in the Chimney Pond Ranger Cabin.

Send us the correct answer, and we'll send you a FBSP patch.

Baxter State Park Trivia
– Puzzle Master Al Howlett

Mountain Profile ID in Spring newsletter: No correct answer was submitted, so please try again. Send us the correct answer, and we'll send you a FBSP patch.