

# Forever Wild

Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Winter 2013

Vol. 12 No. 1

## President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

In August, the 5th class of Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership students will go to the Park. Reading books by Guy and Laura Waterman, Roderick Frazier Nash, and Jim Dale Vickery, I find myself wondering what the MYWLP students will learn about wilderness. And what is the "wilderness character" of the Park that we pledge to "preserve, protect, and enhance"?

One thesis, that "wildness" is a state of mind, not a place, seems contradicted by the call to manage/protect wilderness areas. In their 1993 book *Wilderness Ethics*, the Watermans trace the evolution of their personal wilderness experiences over many years – applauding efforts to limit human impact by keeping people on designated trails while describing their own off-trail adventures. A disconcerting dichotomy emerges. You tame/develop wilderness, you lose it. You manage it, you destroy the experience. Nash, in the forward to Waterman's book, says, "It is not really wilderness that needs management (it has been doing quite well, after all, for a couple of billion years), but people."

"Katahdin is not just Central Park 400 miles removed," say Guy and Laura Waterman, (*Wilderness Ethics*, p. 215) Amen. And all the rules and regulations won't teach the Park

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## Search for Executive Director Begins

At its December meeting, the Board of Directors approved a 3-year Strategic Plan that they had drafted during a retreat on Clark Island in Baxter State Park with the help of consultants Caroline Pryor and Marla O'Byrne. Inspired by the beauty of the venue, the Board defined a bold vision of what they would like Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) to look like in 2020 and created a "trail map" for the next three years to begin to implement the plan. They also worked through upcoming leadership transitions and made the decision to hire an executive director. (See p. 5 for Job Posting and go to [friendsofbaxter.org](http://friendsofbaxter.org) for details. Review of applications begins on March 1st.)

Baxter State Park will continue to face a variety of challenges and controversies inside and outside the Park that, if unchecked, will degrade its wilderness character and resources. **As the only nonprofit organization with the preservation, support, and enhancement of Baxter State Park as its sole mission**, the work of Friends is increasingly important to the long-term protection, en-



L to R: Consultants Caroline Pryor and Marla O'Byrne worked with FBSP Board members at the retreat on Clark Island to forge a 3-year Strategic Plan for FBSP.

– Photo © Bill Bentley



Nestled in the recovering wilderness is a remnant, still productive, of the days when Trout Brook Farm was just that, a farm. Is this apple tree one of the "invasive species" being monitored in the Park?

– Photo © Mike Martin

joyment, and support of this iconic Maine park. To meet the challenges ahead, FBSP has developed an ambitious vision for the year 2020, when Friends marks its 20th anniversary and the State of Maine celebrates its bicentennial.

In this vision, the **wilderness values and character** of Baxter State Park remain true to Baxter's original intent. FBSP is well known as a **strong and vigilant advocate** for the wilderness values of the Park; works

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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*

visitors what fending for themselves would do. In the 1950's, young girls at camp were regularly turned loose in the North Maine Woods – armed with personal axes, knives, a lot of binder twine, as I recall, and no small amount of government surplus foods (impossible-to-mix powdered milk among them) – to create a campsite for each night's stay. We felled trees, raised ridgepoles, dug fire pits and latrines – all of which we cut down/filled in before leaving in the morning for our next destination. A graduate of even a short course in *Leave No Trace* today would be appalled (and rightfully so) at our then-acceptable practices. Using our compasses, triangulating from familiar peaks, we pressed on for week-long trips, confident in our ability to survive in the wilderness on our own.

But how to protect the land while providing opportunities for visitors to enjoy the Park in Percival Baxter's "right unspoiled way" is an ongoing challenge that the Park deals with on a regular basis. Pressure from the Park's peak number of visitors in years past has subsided; Park rules regarding winter and summer use have evolved. The number of visitor days in the Park now approaches the average of the last 40 years. George Smith, in an article in the *Bangor Daily News* on January 26th, cites a dramatic drop in numbers of campers in Maine's North Woods during the last 14 years. Why? Many factors are involved, but that's for another discussion. Friends of Baxter State Park remains committed to educating visitors about the value of wilderness – not just to those of us who hike and paddle, but also to those who never get there themselves.

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### Answers:

Mountain Profile ID in the Fall newsletter is Doubletop at the right (North and South Peak) and Moose Mountain on the left. Congratulations to Al Howlett for the first correct answer.

Trivia Question in Fall newsletter asked where Thoreau spent the night before his attempted ascent of Katahdin. Anne Huntington correctly identified a) just below tree line near what is now Abol Trail.

## Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Admin. Manager

Welcome those of you who recently responded to our "Invitation to Join!" And thank you to those who recently renewed in response to our phone call reminders. We hope



you get a chance to participate in some of our member activities such as volunteering in the Park, Walks in the Park, and training programs listed in this issue. We enjoy seeing the memberships come in from such a wide variety of geographic areas. We even have members in Hawaii and Alaska! Here is where you are:

Maine: 542

Other New England States: 107

Other States (26 States plus DC): 120

Canada: 7

Total: 776

We are always looking for more Friends so if you know of someone near or far, who loves Baxter State Park, please let them know about us. **Attention myfairpoint.com users.** We have recently had a large number of "bounce backs" from email we sent out to myfairpoint.com users. Please check your spam filters, junk mail box, or other settings so you can get our emails and alerts about upcoming activities. Thank you!

## Special Campaign a Blazing Success

For the first time ever, Friends conducted a special late fall campaign, Blazing a New Trail, to raise funds to begin implementing our 3-year Strategic Plan and hiring our first Executive Director. Your contributions totaled over \$9,200 and provided a significant jump-start to other fundraising efforts, which include applying for grants and approaching private and business donors for support. We are excited about taking these big steps and, with your continued support, will accomplish all our goals. Over the next year and beyond, we will keep you informed about our progress. **THANK YOU** for channeling your passion for Baxter State Park and enabling us to sustain and expand our work.

– Charlie Jacobi, Development Chair

In Memoriam

Timothy J. Vrabel

August 13, 1949 – January 13, 2013



L to R: Jeff Pidot presents Howard Lake with a Restoration Leadership Award, and Ken Spalding does the same for Barbara Bentley.

– Photos © Bill Bentley

## Restoration Leadership Awards go to FBSP Members

Howard Lake and Barbara Bentley, both members of Friends of Baxter State Park, each received Restoration Leadership Awards at the annual gathering held by RESTORE: The North Woods in Brunswick on December 6, 2012. Howard was recognized for his years of outstanding work on land conservation in Maine. Barbara was honored for her long-standing contributions to wildlands protection in Maine, especially her tireless efforts for Friends of Baxter State Park. A third award was given to the Stop the East-West Corridor Coalition for leading the charge on thoughtful opposition to this massive development project. Well done, everyone!

## Search *Continued from Pg. 1*

to **raise public awareness, understanding, and appreciation** for the Park; **engages a corps of motivated volunteers of all ages** to help meet Park needs; and strives especially to **nurture the next generation** of wilderness and Park enthusiasts. FBSP continues to be a **strong and effective supporter** of the Park, working with the Park to promote the highest quality stewardship based on solid scientific research and monitoring. FBSP helps **facilitate discussion with adjacent and nearby landowners** to foster conservation and stewardship of resources that impact the Park and **nurtures ties to communities** and counties in the region to support their efforts toward sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation. FBSP **sustains itself** as a well-established, volunteer-based, professional organization.

Based on **three strategic goals**, the Board has devised and approved a detailed **Work Plan and Budget for 2013**, approved at the January Directors meeting. In doing so, they will **preserve, restore and enhance Baxter State Park’s wilderness character**

and recreational resources through advocacy, education, volunteerism, funding, and partnerships; **engage an active corps of outdoor advocates, conservationists, recreationists, and volunteers**, including the next generation, in using, appreciating, and stewarding the Park “in the right unspoiled way;” and **strengthen the organization** by effectively engaging and expanding board, staff, and volunteer resources so Friends of Baxter State Park has greater capacity and leadership to carry out its work.

Friends of Baxter State Park is now at a crossroads and must recruit and train the next generation of organizational leaders while building its core capacity to work on behalf of the Park. It is well positioned to do just that by virtue of a growing and supportive membership, an active and involved Board, a firm financial foundation, and a well charted trail map to success.

*(Full text of the Vision Statement can be viewed at [friendsofbaxter.org](http://friendsofbaxter.org) or contact us if you would like us to send a hard copy.)*

## Our Readers Write...

*Trip reports and photos should be sent to Sarah Holland at [admin@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:admin@friendsofbaxter.org) for posting on the FBSP website. Please aim for 150 words or less and include date of trip, your name and contact information.*

### Looking for new owners at Camp Phoenix...

It is with twenty years of wonderful memories that the ten families who have held title to Loafingsite Lodge on Nesowadnehunk Lake are ready to relinquish the stewardship to another generation. We would be grateful if you would consider notifying your membership. Interested parties could contact me at 207-266-6468.

– Sandie Silver, Brooksville, ME

### Where to cut saplings and brush....

We have a wish for the Kidney and Daicey camps which we fear will not come to fruition in our lifetime because of what we feel is a too stringent adherence to the “Forever Wild” rule. One can argue that there are any number of appropriate tasks carried out in the Park that infringe upon the rule. A principal one is the cutting and maintaining of trails, done primarily for the pleasure of those who use them. One of the great pleasures of the Kidney and Daicey experience is (was) sitting on the porch with these magnificent views before you - especially at Daicey where the Mountain seems so close as to be sitting in your lap. These views unfortunately are basically obliterated because of the growth of saplings and brush that can be cut on the trails but cannot be

touched in front of the cabins. Obviously, our wish is that the rule can be eased in this case. And, the older one gets, more is the time spent on the porch.

– Sam and Shirley Davenport, Jefferson, ME

### Most Remote Russell Pond

We have finished documenting *Maine’s Mainland Remote Spot* in Baxter State Park. *The Spot* is located within 1.5 miles from Russell Pond Campground, and we had a great 2-day, 20-mile backpack into and out of the Spot (we camped at Russell Pond). For more details, visit <http://remotefootprints.org/project-remote/expedition-blogs/maine-mainland-remote-spot>

– Rebecca P. M. Means, Remote Footprints, Tallahassee, FL

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## Most remote spot in Maine...

I read with interest the recent article in the *Bowdoin Daily Sun* on Project Remote's identification of the most remote spot in Maine. More than a half-century ago, U. S. Supreme Justice William O. Douglas did not need an elaborate research protocol to identify the same location in Maine's Baxter State Park. Douglas, a great admirer of both the Park and its benefactor, Percival P. Baxter (Bowdoin, A.B., 1898), wrote the following:

When one climbs the Traveler from Lower South Branch Pond, he looks south to Roaring Brook. In between are Pogy Pond, Weed, and Russell; to the west is Wassataquoick Lake, out of which Wassataquoick Stream flows. This area, all drained by Wassataquoick Stream, is known as the Valley of the Wassataquoick. It is Maine's last retreat. Here are about twenty miles of unbroken wilderness. . .

None of the noise of civilization penetrates this wilderness. It is the only piece of Maine saved from motorboats and planes. That is why it is filled with a wondrous solitude. (Douglas, W.O., *My Wilderness: East To Katahdin*, 1961 – Howard R. Whitcomb, *Georgetown, ME*)

## BSP in Top 10...

Baxter State Park finds itself in the Top 10 US travel destinations for 2013. According to Robert Reid, *Lonely Planet* author, "The woody interior, on the top half of the Maine 'thumb' reaching north to the Canada border, makes for a wilderness adventure. The Appalachian Trail begins/ends atop Mt Katahdin (which literally means 'Mt Great mountain') in primitive Baxter State Park, with 200,000 acres of lakes and mountains to reach by hiking boot." Are we surprised?

– Editor

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## Looking back...

### The Cairns of Katahdin

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



Author of *Cairns, Messengers in Stone*, David P. Williams has travelled many a trail in search of cairns worldwide.

– Photo courtesy of David P. Williams

Recently, I came across a little book entitled *Cairns: Messengers in Stone* by David B. Williams. It is a most interesting read, exploring the variety of cairns used across the world and through the ages and tracing the meanings conveyed by ancient and modern cairns. After the author asked me to provide some of the information he used in telling

that earlier Katahdin summit cairns were built to the height of 13 feet so the top stone would be exactly a mile above sea level, I got to thinking of the interesting cairns in other parts of Baxter State Park. Consider the simple cairns hastily built across the Tableland by a native guide in 1837 during geologist Charles T. Jackson's ascent. Those stones helped the party to safely descend Katahdin in a blinding snowstorm. Consider the welcome sight of the prominent cairns that have guided climbers up the Cathedral Trail over the years. Consider the markers or cairns built to identify the Monument Line surveyed in the 1830s across the rugged areas north of Katahdin. Though we have a photograph of one of them in the North Basin, the others have never been found. Consider the metal cylinder that once was a part of the Katahdin summit cairn, containing a register to be signed by those who reached the summit.

Today, Katahdin adventurers are more likely to be reassured that they are on the right trail by painted blazes on trees or rocks. But cairns still reign supreme above treeline – large or small, pointed or rounded, many stones or only a few, artistically or haphazardly built. As in ancient times, those messengers in stone still help us find our way as we explore the wilderness places.

## Sleuthing About Katahdin...

by David Little, Art Detective



The painting by Jake Day of Bowlin Camps conveys the winter atmosphere one experiences today at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps in BSP.

– Photo of painting © Charlotte McGill

While checking the captions for my book *Art of Katahdin*, I made an intriguing discovery I had missed the date for one of the illustrations, a watercolor by artist Maurice "Jake" Day (1892-1983) titled *The Bowlin Camps*. (1) Upon examination, there appeared to be a date in the lower right-hand corner.

Investigating further, the date, 1935, was confirmed by the painting's owner. To my delight, 1935 was the same year as the spring snowshoe trip mentioned in my text. (2) The reference to the trip appeared in an article in *Ford Times* illustrated by Day. (3)

However, the watercolor of the Bowlin Camps was not illustrated in the article, perhaps because it was given as a gift [to whom?] with inscription years earlier along with a sketch Day drew on location. I had seen both works while staying at the Bowlin Camps in the early 1990s.

- (1) The Bowlin Camps, operated as a sporting camp since 1895, are located thirty-five miles from Patten along the East Branch of the Penobscot River.
- (2) The seventy-five-mile trip in March 1935, with Caleb Scribner acting as guide, went from Shin Pond over to the Penobscot East Branch, downriver to the Hulling Machine Falls, and back via the Bowlin Camps. The trip is recounted in *Katahdin Comrades:*

*The Journals of Lester Hall*, edited by Charlotte Hall Kirkpatrick. The subjects of Day's snow scenes correspond with Hall's journals.

- (3) The article, "Along Thoreau's Canoe Trail," written by Edmund Ware Smith, was published in March 1959.



Today, a cabin at Katahdin Lake provides a comfortable refuge for the Park visitor willing to ski there.



# Friends of Baxter State Park Executive Director Position Opening

*Friends of Baxter State Park is an independent citizens group working to preserve, support and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park in the spirit of its founder, Governor Percival Baxter.*

**Friends of Baxter State Park is seeking a full time Executive Director.**

We are searching for a dedicated and visionary leader who will provide needed support as we seek to grow our financial capacity, involve our membership, and fulfill our mission.

**General Responsibilities:** Implement Board policy and decisions; grow Board and organizational capability and professionalism; grow financial capacity through development of grant and funding options; monitor and oversee reporting and financial management of FBSP; grow membership and member involvement; develop, plan, deliver, and evaluate programs and services.

**Qualifications:** Bachelors Degree or higher; demonstrated history of leadership; proven record of successful fundraising; excellent oral and written communication skills; knowledge of Baxter State Park and a passion for wilderness.

**Salary and Other Details:** This is an exempt position under the Fair Labor Standards Act and offers an annual salary that ranges from \$36-\$42,000 depending on experience and qualifications. Benefits include: a flexible work schedule; paid time for holidays, vacation, and illness; and a contribution toward health insurance. The Executive Director must be able to work efficiently and independently from a home office with part time administrative support located in Union, Maine. The position requires statewide travel in your personal vehicle with some night and weekend obligations. Review of applications will begin on March 1, 2013, and interviews will be scheduled for selected candidates as soon as practicable. Friends anticipates introducing the new Executive Director at our Annual Meeting on April 27th.

For more information about Friends of Baxter State Park, a full position description, and application details see the Friend's website at [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)

## Friends of Baxter State Park – 2013 Schedule of Volunteer and Training Opportunities

### Volunteer in the Park (VIP) Activities:

These dates are subject to change depending on weather and other conditions. Please check with Laurie Rich at [volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org) or 207-862-6580 to confirm final dates.

May 4	Earth Day Litter Patrol
May 7-14	Opening Kidney, Daicey and other campgrounds as assigned
May 7-14	South Branch Pond scraping and staining
June 7-9	Various projects at South Branch Pond
July 12-14	Nesowadnehunk...
Aug 9-11	TBA
Sep 13-15	Abol and Katahdin Stream campgrounds
Oct 16-26	Campground closing and various projects

### Chainsaw Trainings:

If you would like to be a sawyer for the chainsaw crews in Baxter State Park, you must be certified by a course such as listed below. FBSP offers scholarships for this training. If you have at least a current level B certification and your certificate runs out this year, you may attend the course for recertification. The re-certification course will be one day only, the Saturday of the noted weekend. Contact Laurie Rich at [volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org) or 207-862-6580.

- April 13 & 14 at the MATC Base Camp property in Skowhegan
- October 5 & 6 at Larry Clark's tree farm in Windham

### Leave No Trace (LNT) Training:

Friends of Baxter State Park offers scholarships to individuals who work with young people in the outdoors for the Leave No Trace training offered by Baxter State Park staff in the spring. Contact [admin@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:admin@friendsofbaxter.org) for information about scholarships. LNT training this year will be on June 19 & 20 in the Park. Contact Interpretive Specialist Marcia Williamson for more information at [marcia.williamson@maine.gov](mailto:marcia.williamson@maine.gov)

### Trail Steward Training:

On National Trails Day, June 1 (rain date June 2), BSP Trail Supervisor Paul Sannicandro will conduct training in the Park for Trail Stewards. If you'd like to learn about being a BSP Trail Steward, contact him to sign up at [paul.sannicandro@maine.gov](mailto:paul.sannicandro@maine.gov)

### Plants of Baxter State Park

Contact Glen Mittelhauser at Maine Natural History Observatory at 207-963-2012 or [purplesandpiper@gmail.com](mailto:purplesandpiper@gmail.com) about volunteer opportunities working with the teams of botanists doing plant inventories in the Park or about Citizen Scientist opportunities to work on your own in support of the project.

Late June – Daicey Pond/Kidney Pond

Early July – South Branch Pond areas

Late July – Wassataquoik Lake areas

Early August – Matagamon Lake

Early September – Togue Ponds/Abol Pond area

The Owl, a splendid hike on its own, is seen here from the Hunt Trail on Katahdin. – *Photo by Bill Bentley*



## Pitchin' In and Steppin' Out

by Laurie Rich, Volunteer Coordinator  
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207-249-5023 (C)  
volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org

### Spring is coming!

Can you believe it? We are already well onto our way to Spring, and the planning for the new camping season in Baxter State Park has begun.



We need one (1) certified sawyer and three (3) able-bodied strong backs on each FBSP chainsaw crews. Contact Laurie Rich if you are interested in joining a team during May and/or early June.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

jobs to be done, so there IS something you can do. Don't think "I can't really do the trails" or "I don't have any special skills." We can't find that special opportunity for you unless you let us know who you are and that you are willing to help. We have had volunteers as young as four and as senior as 86. So age is not a factor, nor is a specialized skill.

Now that is not to say we can't use people with special skills. This year there is a big project that will need carpenters, sawyers, brush cutters, etc. scheduled to start as soon as the rangers are back in the Park this May.

Also in May, we need chainsaw crews and sawyers. If you are interested in being a sawyer, there is a certification training session April 13 & 14 at the MATC Base Camp property in Skowhegan. FBSP offers scholarships to pay for this training and for First Aid training. Sawyers are required to provide all the necessary personal protection equipment (boots, chaps, helmet, eye and ear protection).



L to R: Rosemary Hastings, L to R: Rosemary Hastings, Doug Rich, Barbara Bentley, and Bill Bentley (not shown) made a formidable FBSP chainsaw crew in the north end of the Park. It is no secret that headnets are de rigueur in May.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

Have you considered being a volunteer? **Now** is the time to download the Baxter State Park Volunteer Application Form, fill it out, and send it in. With your form in hand, we can notify you of upcoming volunteer events that might just suit you. There are truly all types of

of upcoming volunteer events that might just suit you. There are truly all types of

Check schedule on p. 6 for Volunteer and Training Opportunities and keep an eye on the website for upcoming events. You may find something that tickles your fancy.



The Plants of Baxter State Park Project enters its 2nd year with opportunities for volunteers on many of the field trips planned for 2013 season. Contact Glen Mittelhauser at 207-963-2012 or purplesandpiper@gmail.com

– Photo © Bill Bentley



A Warm Winter Weekend can include snowshoes if conditions permit. John Neff leads the way on the Blueberry Ledges trail, followed by David Little. Sign up for this year's gathering by calling New England Outdoor Center at 207-723-5438 or online at info@neoc.com

– Photo © Bill Bentley

### Our Readers Write *Continued from pg.4*



Views from ponds are among the few treasured vistas that remain in the Park as the forest regains its former stature.

– Photo © Blanca Rodriguez

### Best in the country

I've been to the Park several times during the last few years, and I've found it to be the best camping/hiking/climbing experience I've ever had in this country. It's an extraordinary place indeed. We thoroughly enjoyed our lean-to at Nesowadnehunk, hiking to Center Pond via the Wassataquoik trail, kayaking at Daicey, and watching the rabbits.

– Rick Hogan, Fairhaven, MA

### Why hike the AT...

We recently put together a list of 75 reasons to hike the Appalachian Trail, and #73 includes a stop at Baxter State Park! You can view the list here: <http://news.hikingboots.com/75-reasons-to-hike-the-appalachian-trail/>. – Jeanette Kozlowski, Cherryfield, MO



## Update from the Park

by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

Winter season activities are now in full swing in the Park. Park Rangers are working on several annual supply projects and have broken out trails and started hauling supplies to Russell Pond, Center Pond (materials for a new lean-to), and of course, Chimney Pond. Most of the new materials for planned bridgework on the Sandy Stream Pond Trail have been hauled.



We welcome Attorney General Janet Mills to the BSP Authority, for the second time.

– Photo © BSP Staff

time made her the second woman to serve as Attorney General for Maine. In her talk, she also completed another rare event in Maine history by including her role as a member of the Baxter State Park Authority in her list of the important duties of the Maine Attorney General. We welcome Attorney General Mills back to her seat on the Baxter State Park Authority.

The Park's administrative team is busy now with policy, budget, and operations issues that should be considered before the busy summer season, including completing work on management guidance for vistas and open areas in the Park, the development of a response plan for invasive plant and animal species, and updates to the Park's Management Plan, website, and on-line reservation system.

Recently, we have completed the process to revise the Park Rules and Regulations. In 2013, hiking groups in the Park will be limited to a maximum group size of 12 persons. Affiliated hiking groups must be at least 1 mile apart. The limitation on hiking group size is consistent with other wilderness areas in the U.S. We are working hard to get the word out to Park visitors about this important rule change – especially university, college, school, church, scout, and other outdoor groups – before the start of the hiking season.

This is also the time of year that we work on the annual report for the 2012 calendar year and bring our statistics files up-to-date.

Chimney Pond has been busy with hikers and climbers, although the very cold weather of mid-January has limited the summit opportunities for many groups.

On January 7, Janet Mills was once again sworn in as the Attorney General of the State of Maine. Janet previously served as Attorney General from 2009-10 and was the first woman elected to this post in Maine history. In her address at the State House, Attorney General Mills wondered if accepting the post a second

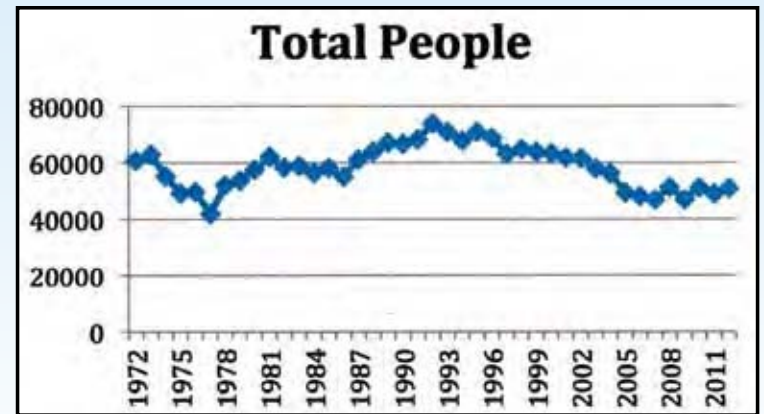


Campers at Chimney Pond in the winter have splendid views of the Great Basin.

– Photo © Jensen Bissell

Along with the annual and some 10-year comparative data that we publish in the annual report, we also keep longer statistical records on aspects of Park use. The graph of Total People reflects the number of people who registered to enter the Park during the summer season. Although the depth and slopes differ, the shape of this line is reflected in most other use statistics, including camper-nights and vehicles. The changes in use

numbers mirror changes in overall outdoor recreation experienced across the U.S. After a general decline in use spanning about 13



years, use numbers have been gradually increasing since 2005. From a wilderness perspective, an argument can be made that the higher use rates of the early to mid-1990's posed great challenges in the protection of the wilderness resources of the Park.

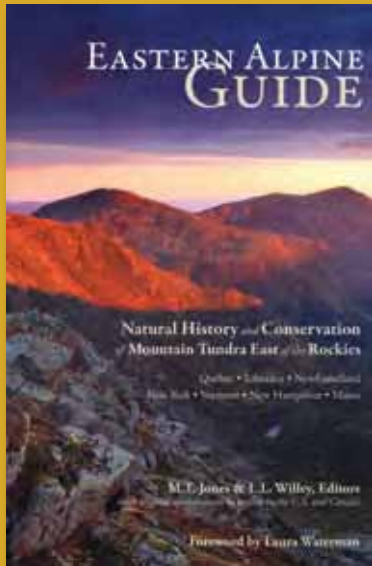
The next scheduled meeting of the Baxter State Park Authority will be on Friday, March 22nd, at the Maine Forest Service Bolton Hill facility in Augusta. The agenda and any relevant meeting materials will be posted on the Park website [baxterstateparkauthority.com](http://baxterstateparkauthority.com) prior to the meeting.

As we approach the spring season, we are also preparing to fill a number of intern positions and two seasonal positions (Abol Campground Ranger and Trail Crew Leader). Reviewing applications and preparing for interviews is a sure sign of spring!





The world paints itself in splendid color of alpenglow, even in the dead of cold winter at –20 degrees, as seen here in this untouched-up photo of the view from Katahdin Lake.  
– Photo © Steve Winter, W. Bath, ME



## Book Review

### *Eastern Alpine Guide, Natural History and Conservation of Mountain Tundra East of the Rockies*

by M.T. Jones & L.L. Willey, Editors  
Reviewed by Don Hudson, FBSP Founding Member

First things first: buy the *Eastern Alpine Guide*. You won't regret the decision.

Mike Jones and Liz Willey of the University of Massachusetts

have written and edited a masterful volume on the natural history and conservation of alpine tundra east of the Rockies that includes an informative introduction to the eastern alpine zone. The book also has chapters on the mountains south of the St. Lawrence, Newfoundland, and the Canadian shield.

I especially enjoyed the discussion on mountain building in the introduction (Chapter 2; p. 15). The authors, Jean-Phillipe Martin and Dr. Daniel Germain of the *Université du Québec à Montréal*

provide a clear and precise explanation of the tectonic events that built our iconic mountains. Those of us who work on the International Appalachian Trail enjoy every opportunity to celebrate these events that contributed most dramatically to the present day shape of the North Atlantic Basin and the mountains that ring it. It's our *raison d'être*! Martin and Germain provide us with an accessible reference that we'll share with others on both sides of the pond.

Turn next to Chapter 8: Katahdin (p. 119). The principal authors, Mike Jones and Liz Willey, provide a full portrait of our favorite mountain. One cannot include every species – plant, insect, bird or mammal – in a guide like this. This is not a guide for identification in the field. However, the reader will find in 11 full pages a comprehensive overview of the exploration and ecology of Baxter's alpine area.

The volume brims with similar information on the major mountains from the Adirondacks to the Northern Long Range Mountains of Newfoundland and the Groulx and Mealy Mountains of Quebec and Labrador.

Read the *Eastern Alpine Guide*. You won't regret the decision!

*Botanist Don Hudson is happiest gadding about the North Atlantic Basin on IAT explorations and in pursuit of his passion for Arctic/alpine plant ecology.*

## Land Conserved on Park's Eastern Border

In December 2012, conservation philanthropist Roxanne Quimby acquired another 8,315 acres on the east side of Baxter State Park. The land is being held in the Quimby family's foundation, Eliotville Plantation Inc., to protect it from development. This parcel

in Township 4, Range 8 is one of the last pieces on the eastern border of the Park to come into public or private conservation ownership. A snowmobile trail on the property to a popular destination called "The Lookout" will remain open.



**Friends of Baxter State Park**

**P.O. Box 609**

**Union, ME 04862-0609**

Visit us on the web [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)

Email us at [info@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:info@friendsofbaxter.org)

### **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:

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*Thank you!*



*Author David Little enjoys a winter view on Pockwockamus Pond during Warm Winter Weekend 2012. He will be a featured speaker at the FBSP Annual Meeting this year talking about his soon-to-be-released book, Art of Katahdin.*  
– Photo © Bill Bentley



Sculptural in the early morning light, Katahdin makes a bold impression at sunrise as seen from Sunday Pond. Warm Winter Weekend will be at New England Outdoor Center on March 21, 22, and 23. Make your reservation soon. You will never get a better deal! And the views look like this.

– Photo © Philip Sturman

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Friends of Baxter State Park ANNUAL MEETING • April 27, 2013, Augusta, Maine**

### **Baxter State Park Trivia**

– Puzzle Master Al Howlett

**When you head north out of Millinocket toward the South Entrance of Baxter State Park there is a vertical black and white town line sign marking your entrance into:**

- a) Indian Purchase   b) Misery Gore   c) North Millinocket   d) Camp Phoenix

**The first person to send in answer gets a prize!!**