

Forever Wild

Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Spring 2014

Vol. 13 No. 2

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

Baxter State Park is a place that deeply inspires people. Visitors return year after year to find calmness, satisfaction, challenge, and focus in the wilderness. There is nothing quite like it... except, perhaps, the feeling of giving back to a place that has given all of us so much.

As spring approaches, Friends of Baxter State Park is working hard to find new ways to connect our members with volunteer opportunities in the Park. We are hiring a new volunteer coordinator to fill the position held for several years by our loyal member and supporter, Laurie Rich. Park staff will define the projects, and Friends will help recruit and organize volunteers to maintain trails, paint buildings, rake leaves, or whatever needs to be done. We hope to support and inspire Friends members, and everyone who loves the Park, to new levels of effectiveness in their volunteer service.

Nancy and Abbott Meader, featured in the article about Pockwockamus Rock on this page, epitomize the dedication, generosity of spirit, and persistence that make for great volunteers. Although "Pock Rock" is outside the Park, the rock itself – and the spectacular view of Katahdin from where the glaciers dropped it – has welcomed visitors headed to the Togue Pond gate for decades.

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Nancy and Abbott Meader, stewards of the iconic Pockwockamus Rock, after their most recent round of painting and restoration work in 2013.

- Photo © Jensen Bissell

A History of the Painting on Pockwockamus Rock

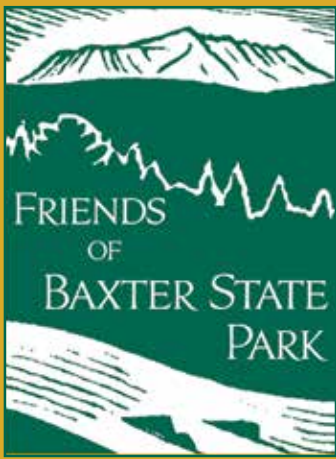
by Nancy Meader

Back in the summer of 1989, while Abbott and I were doing volunteer work painting cabins in the Park "Baxter Brown," Chief Ranger Chris Drew approached us about restoring the images on the Pockwockamus Rock near the approach to Togue Pond gate. The "Keep Maine Beautiful" lettering and animal imagery of the fresco had become tattered and flaked. Hearing this, I wondered what Abbott might say, since for years, during the 1980s when we'd pass the Rock on our way into the Park we'd both remark, "Yes! Keep Maine beautiful. Don't paint on rocks!" So it was no

surprise that Abbott's initial playful reply was "Sure Chris, give me a few cans of grey spray paint and I'll make it look like a rock again."

But then Chris explained the background of the painting – that the rock had become an eyesore and an embarrassment, having become a destination for graffiti, many of them obscene – and that it stood there, stark and unavoidable, just before a major entry into the Park. He went on to say that faced with this problem, a young girl in the Baxter YCC (Youth Conservation Corps) had come up with a project to paint a scene

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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.

Executive Director's Column

Continued from pg. 1

Nancy and Abbott's stewardship of the rock since 1990 is a great example of how the skill and effort of a few people can benefit so many.

If you'd like to find your own equivalent of Pock Rock – perhaps a roof to shingle, building to paint, or trail to steward – we can help. Please get in touch with Friends anytime, and we can help match you up with a project that fits your skills, interests, and schedule. Maintaining a 209,000-acre wilderness park takes a tremendous amount of work. With a little time and effort, you can help ensure that Governor Baxter's vision remains intact, valued, and utterly extraordinary.

Growing Needs

Friends is growing, and will soon be moving into a small, rented office space in Belfast. Currently we are operating in four different locations. By having one office we will be able to consolidate various work functions and storage spaces into one location. We are seeking donations of items to furnish the office. It doesn't have to be pretty – anything in good, functional condition is fine! Please contact Aaron at 207-975-3787 or director@friendsofbaxter.org if you have an item you would like to donate.

Wish List of Items:

Large rectangular dining or conference table, chairs for conference table, work desk, printer or utility tables (2), office / computer chairs (2), desk lamps (2), floor lamp, wooden bookshelves (2), track lighting (plug-in), storage shelving unit, letter trays, mini refrigerator, drip coffee maker, cleaning supplies, file cabinets, artwork featuring Baxter State Park, wireless router with WPA2 capability, runner rug (roughly 2.5 ft x 8 ft).



Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Admin. Manager

As the daylight expands and the ground softens to allow for a new cycle of growth, here at Friends we find it's time for some spring cleaning. That includes tending to our email lists. We have accumulated a number of bounced-back emails over the past year. I think of these as the equivalent of dust bunnies in cyberspace, and it's time to sweep them out of the system. You can help us by adding admin@friendsofbaxter.org and info@friendsofbaxter.org to your list of approved senders, checking your spam filter, and giving us your most current email address. Gmail users may find our messages under the 'Promotions' tab. To see our messages in your primary inbox, simply drag any message from us to the 'Primary' tab, and select 'Yes' when prompted to do this for all future messages.

If you signed up for the electronic version of *Forever Wild* but have not been receiving it, please get in touch to make sure we have your correct email address. If you have not given us your email address before, this is a great time to do so! We now have a monthly e-newsletter, sent via MailChimp, to share with our members. This colorful new format allows us to share upcoming activities and stories of interest on a more regular basis. For events that are planned in the months between editions of *Forever Wild*, this is our primary method of getting the word out to our members.

Thanks to all our members who renewed during our spring renewal campaign, and to those who recently joined – welcome! We look forward to seeing you at some of our events or on the trail. We continue to seek more Friends to support and participate in our work on behalf of Baxter State Park. We are working very hard to reach our goal of 1,000 members by the end of this year. If you know someone who might be interested, please encourage him or her to join. Happy trails!



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Pockwockamus Rock covered in graffiti prior to its initial restoration by the Youth Conservation Corps in 1979. – Photo © Dot Lamson

on the rock that would cover the graffiti, become a source of pride, and hinder further defacement. The YCC was a federal program that hired 15 to 18 year olds to do conservation work.

In 1979, Dot Lamson, then Dottie Roberts, was Environmental Awareness Coordinator for the Baxter group of the YCC when these concerns about the graffiti on the Rock peaked. She reports that the YCC staff and enrollees discussed things at length, with her suggestion being, as was Abbott's, to simply paint the rock grey. She tells of how the teenagers insisted that doing so would only invite a new generation of graffiti with yet more trash strewn round and about. Then one or more of the kids asserted that only an attractive picture, something to instill some pride and respect, would deter their peers, and who would know better? The kids put their heads together and created the design for the Rock. Lamson recalls that she and about a dozen of her group executed the work itself, but it was a full collaboration. The original YCC design developed by this group of Maine teenagers, and painted in 1979 with house paints, held up for a decade. Bit by bit, it became a valued part of the community.

Once Chris had shared the history of the Rock, he won Abbott over immediately – which is no wonder if you know Chris Drew.

Together Abbott and I have restored the Rock either partially or completely four times – in 1990, 1998, 2007, and most recently in 2013. We have used acrylic paints – water base and quick drying – and have made some incremental alterations here and there along with one major addition (the kids forgot to put in a trout!), but overall we have tried to keep the look and especially the heartfelt spirit of the painting alive and true to the kids' original design. We get our water for painting from a nearby stream – and while we are told that Pockwockamus is a Wabenaki term that likely means something like “little muddy pond”, Abbott is convinced that Pockwockamus actually means “great home of black flies and mosquitoes.” We have found, during our restorations, that local people now take great pride in the Rock, bringing visiting friends and relatives to see it and be photographed. It is interesting to note that some of these people who come to see the Rock have never actually visited the Park. The Pockwockamus Rock is now a destination in itself!

During all our years of involvement, Abbott and I know of only one time when graffiti reappeared, and that was after a big sports victory by a Medway team. Kids were spray painting victory phrases here and there in the area and someone started to spray the bear. We're told that the others hollered for him to stop. Not on the ROCK! The Park alerted us, and when we came up we painted out the damage and restored things. Abbott recalls that perhaps the big letters “MED” were found on the bear. Rather cryptic, we expect, for visitors arriving before we got to it...

Of course the Rock is subject to nature's intervention as well. The result of time's natural wear and tear on the image is uneven, but inevitable. A partial restoration about every seven years seems appropriate. It is a challenging undertaking physically, requiring ladders and a lot of scrambling. Abbott and I are in our seventies and don't plan on doing the restoration again, so let this serve as a call for new volunteers. There are numerous artists devoted to the Park, and we can promise them that the satisfaction derived from protecting this unique monument is considerable. We look forward to seeing who steps forward next.

In Memoriam: Thomas L. Hilton

by Howard R. Whitcomb, FBSP Historian

FBSP lost a friend with the death, on November 15th, of Thomas L. Hilton, 89, of Boothbay Harbor. Tom, an MIT graduate and Harvard doctorate, was a noted researcher, teacher and author in the field of educational psychology. He spent most of his career as a Senior Research Psychologist at Educational Testing Service in Princeton, where he contributed to the early development of the Scholastic Aptitude Test. He also was a B-29 pilot during WWII, based in the Mariana Islands in the Pacific.

His father, William Hilton, was the long-time Vice President of the original Great Northern Paper Company with whom Governor Baxter negotiated many land deals as he built Baxter State Park. The elder Hilton was present, as a brand-new VP, at the corporate headquarters in Boston on June 2, 1931 when Baxter acquired the first parcel consisting of 5,960 acres, including much of the Katahdin massif that lies above timberline.

Tom attended a number of Friends annual meetings, including the grange hall gathering in Oakland in 2007, when he spoke of his childhood memories of coming home from school multiple times and seeing a black limousine in the driveway of their Bangor home and immediately knowing that his father and Governor Baxter would be sitting at the dining room table, surrounded by maps, negotiating a deal.

The obituary that appeared in the *Boothbay Register* and the *Bangor Daily News* stated that Tom “took great pride in the fact that his father, as vice president and director of woodlands for the Great Northern Paper Company, worked closely with his friend, Percival P. Baxter, in the creation of Baxter State Park on formerly Great Northern land.”

Letter from the President

by Charlie Jacobi



The EPI lands east of Baxter State Park, now known as Katahdin Woods and Waters Recreation Area, feature spectacular views of the eastern side of Katahdin, visible here from a viewpoint on the Katahdin Loop road. — Photo © Dick Klain

Friends has taken an active interest in the lands east of Baxter State Park since Dean Bennett urged that a conservation buffer be established around the park in his address at our Annual Meeting in 2004. We eagerly supported and contributed to the Katahdin Lake Campaign that added over 4,000 acres to Baxter State Park in 2006. A few years ago, we supported a feasibility study for the Elliotsville Plantation Inc. (EPI) proposal for a national park on lands adjacent to Baxter State Park, but local resistance proved too formidable then.

As you may have read or heard in the news lately, EPI is proposing to create a Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park and National Recreation Area spanning about 150,000 acres. The East Branch of the Penobscot River would separate the two units, with the National Park west of the river - and bordering Baxter State Park - and the National Recreation Area east of the river. There are significant differences in how National Parks and National Recreation Areas are managed. National Parks have a higher level of protection, while National Recreation Areas allow hunting and a greater variety of motorized uses. Establishing these will require an Act of Congress, and the details of this legislation will be very important.

Roxanne Quimby's son Lucas St. Clair leads this effort. As President of EPI, Lucas has been reaching out to conservation organizations and a multitude of recreation and business interests throughout the state. The Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over 140 businesses in the Katahdin region, recently endorsed the proposal. Slowly but surely Lucas is building consensus for the concept by explaining, answering, and listening to the many people with an interest in the future of the area. In October, many members of the Friends board took a tour of the new Katahdin Loop road on EPI's land. Lucas gave our Board of Directors an update at our January meeting. Lucas also heard from us then, as we voiced

concerns about how this proposal might affect the wilderness values of Baxter State Park.

In the long run, the idea of a National Park along the eastern boundary of the Baxter State Park is a good one because it will solidify the conservation ownership there. We believe that the needs of Baxter State Park will be carefully considered in the design and creation of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Park and National Recreation Area, and that having these conservation lands for a neighbor will be a net benefit for the Park and local communities.

As part of our continued interest, we recently sent a letter of support to Maine's congressional delegation urging serious consideration of the Katahdin Woods and Waters proposal. We welcome your thoughts about this, and will continue to track new developments.



The Katahdin Loop provides public access to the interior of the Katahdin Woods and Waters Recreation Area. Maps and more information are available at <http://katahdinwoods.org>

— Photo © Aaron Megquier

Looking back...

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

I'm Glad The Lady Didn't Follow Up On This One

The July, 1925 edition of Scribner's Magazine included an article by Walter Prichard Eaton recounting one of his trips to Katahdin. A drama critic and professor of playwriting at Yale, Eaton spent a great deal of his personal time in outdoor pursuits and writing about them, including this stirring account of climbing Katahdin with some friends via the Abol Slide. A special highlight of the trip was spending two nights at the recently abandoned firewardens cabin near the top of the slide. He reports that while the group gathered around the fire the evening after reaching the summit, their guide, in a reminiscent mood, informed them that he had once given Katahdin away.

"I give it to a woman from Buffalo," he said. "I was taking her down the West Branch, and when we come opposite Pitman's [Katahdin Stream Campground today] it was one of those nice, clear days when [the mountain] stood up there big and handsome, and she says: 'My goodness, I never seen nothing so beautiful; I wish I had it in my back yard back home!' I was feeling sort of generous that morning, so I said: 'Lady, take it right along. It's the biggest pile o' rocks we got in Maine, but if you want it you can have it. We boys'll get together this fall and pile up another one.' "

He poked his pipe. 'She's been kinder dilatory about takin' it,' he added.

Answer: Trivia Question in Winter Newsletter

We stumped all respondents with our trivia question in the Winter 2014 newsletter! We asked: "In the early 1990s a controversial 'A-frame' that slept three was built at a campground in Baxter State Park. When Director Buzz Caverly learned of this, the A-frame was soon gone. That A-frame was located at _____." The answer was A, Chimney Pond.



Update from the Park

by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

Despite the enduring cold of this winter, it has been a fairly typical season for winter visitation in the Park. Park staff has made good progress on our typical winter duties including patrol, transport of materials and supplies, policy and procedure development, training and the hiring of seasonal employees and interns. We initiated a trial program of permitting bicycle use on a limited section of the Abol Pond Trail between Abol Pond and Abol Bridge to provide shorter access for "fat bikes." These bikes can be thought of as mountain bikes with very oversize tires, allowing a rider to pedal successfully on snow-covered trails in certain conditions. We will evaluate the program this spring and decide if a continuation is warranted.



In February 2014, BSP Rangers took an AIARE Level 2 avalanche course that included significant time in harsh winter conditions above treeline. – Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park photo files

Here's a short list of other changes Park visitors can look for in 2014:

- We recently implemented online purchasing of Park items including trail guides, maps, and more. We expect the ease of access of this system will increase our sales volume to Park visitors.
- We will be extending the camping season at a limited number of sites at Katahdin Stream and Daicey Pond Campgrounds for approximately 10 days this coming fall. Check the Park website for details.
- We expect to be testing some revisions to our registration process at Togue Pond Gate this season. Don't be surprised if you see a Gatekeeper collecting data with a tablet device. We expect the changes will streamline the registration process and our record keeping at this critical gateway to the Park.
- Rick Morrill, the Park's Resource Manager, will be leaving us this fall to pursue an exciting opportunity in forestry in Vermont. Rick has been a tremendous asset to the Park. While we are very sad to see Rick leave, we are thrilled and happy for the opportunity he has. Our process for securing Rick's replacement will start in April.
- We will be opening the relocated OJI trail early in 2014. We will also begin the relocation work on the Marston and Freezeout Trails.



BSP Ranger Greg Hamer takes notes on snow characteristics during the AIARE Level 2 avalanche training.

– Photo courtesy of
Baxter State Park photo files

This winter, our Rangers participated in a four-day session on Avalanche Hazard training at Chimney Pond. Ranger Isaac Needell submitted an interesting summary of the training:

Baxter State Park Rangers train in many disciplines throughout each year. This February, six Rangers attended a four-day American Institute for Avalanche Research and Education (AIARE) Level 2 course hosted at Chimney Pond Campground. This course builds upon a foundation set by the AIARE Level 1 course, which familiarizes students with avalanche terrain, hazards, trip planning, and basic companion-rescue techniques. The AIARE Level 2 class focuses on the science of how the snowpack forms, how it changes over time, and what these changes mean for snow stability. The course also builds upon the rescue techniques covered in the Level 1 class by introducing more complicated avalanche burial scenarios.

Over four full days, Rangers trained in multiple locations spread across the Great and South Basins on Katahdin. Snow pits were dug on Saddle Slide, on the Cathedral trail, at the base of Waterfall Gully and Cilley-Barber technical routes, and in the Chimney Pond Campground. Complex avalanche beacon search simulations involving multiple buried victims were conducted daily by both groups and individual rescuers. Many hours were spent observing, evaluating, and recording the characteristics of the different layers of the snowpack present on Katahdin.

Snow pit evaluations allow Rangers to provide information to park users regarding the stability of the snowpack and the avalanche hazard present on Katahdin and in Baxter State Park. The snow conditions can be used much like weather observations to give visitors a piece of information to help them make safe decisions while enjoying the park. Winter visitors who are planning to enter possible avalanche terrain must be able to recognize avalanche risks and are responsible for their decision to enter such terrain. The observations made by park Rangers are one important piece in a much larger decision-making process that lies with each winter visitor.

Volunteer Opportunities for 2014

Friends is looking forward to a fun and rewarding season of helping Baxter State Park with all manner of projects. By early April, our new Volunteer Coordinator will be able to assist you with signing up for any of these assignments. Please get in touch if you would like more information, or are interested in helping out. Many opportunities are in the Park, but Friends also recruits volunteers to help with festivals, events, and special projects throughout Maine. Please stay tuned as our calendar of volunteer opportunities grows this spring!

May 3: Spring Cleanup Day

May 17 – 18: FBSP Trail Crew #1, Kidney Pond Area

May 24 – 26: FBSP Trail Crew #2, Trout Brook Farm Area

June 7: National Trails Day, Trail Steward Training (rain date June 8)

June 19 – 20: FBSP Chainsaw Volunteer Training, Skowhegan

July 6 – 10: BSP Trail Team #2, Hunt Trail

July 13 – 17: BSP Trail Team #2, Hunt Trail

July 14 – 17: BSP Trail Team #3, Howe Brook Trail

July 20 – 24: BSP Trail Team #2, Hunt Trail

July 20 – 24: BSP Trail Team #4, Maintenance & Corridor Definition

July 27 – 31: BSP Trail Team #2, Hunt Trail

July 27 – 31: BSP Trail Team #4, Maintenance & Corridor Definition

August 24 – 28: BSP Trail Team #5, South Turner

August 24 – 28: BSP Trail Team #6, Sentinel Mountain

September 12 – 14: FBSP Booth at Trails End Festival, Millinocket

September 19 – 21: FBSP Booth at Common Ground Fair, Unity

Chainsaw Training Available for Volunteers

Friends of Baxter State Park will be sponsoring a two-day chainsaw course on June 19 – 20 in Skowhegan, Maine. This course is for individuals who would like to become certified to use a chainsaw for volunteer trail work in Baxter State Park. Our instructor will be Lester Kenway of Trail Services LLC, a nationally recognized leader in trail building and maintenance techniques. Lester is the President of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, a former board member of FBSP, and served as the Trail Supervisor of Baxter State Park for 22 years. The course has a maximum enrollment of six students. Please contact Aaron at director@friendsofbaxter.org to sign up. The cost for the two-day course is \$140. Some scholarship funds are available.

Friends provides scholarship funds for Rigging for Rescue course

In partnership with the Maine Association for Search and Rescue, Friends of Baxter State Park provided scholarship funds for a specialized high-angle rescue course offered on Mount Desert Island in October 2013. Scholarship recipients included BSP Rangers Rob Tice and Mike Winslow, Melissa Shea of Franklin Search and Rescue, Mike Avery of Lincoln Search and Rescue, and Jen Sinsabaugh of Wilderness Rescue Team. Along with other course



Melissa Shea of Franklin Search and Rescue works to secure a patient during the Rigging for Rescue course.

– Photo © Steve Mitman

participants, they worked with expert trainers to practice rope rescue skills in extremely challenging, vertical situations. Many thanks to these dedicated Rangers and volunteers who provide search and rescue in the Park!

Call for photos for the 2016 BSP Calendar Deadline October 30, 2014

We're looking for photos for the 2016 Baxter State Park Calendar! Park staff and FBSP members donate all photos in the calendar each year. Each photographer may submit up to 10 digital photos on CD or DVD. For detailed entry instructions, visit www.friendsofbaxter.org.

Our Readers Write...

Katahdin Is Waiting by Jim Andrews



From the frozen expanse of Katahdin Lake, the peaks and cirques of the Katahdin massif wait for us on the western horizon. – Photo © Bill Bentley

I recently sent off a reservation form for a winter camping trip to Baxter State Park. The anticipation of these journeys is one of my favorite things in life.

Because Katahdin is waiting for us.

From the moment we last went through the park gates – headed south towards a shower, clean clothes and other civilized things – the mountain has been there...waiting.

We associate waiting with animate objects of course – not mountains. But we also know that some mountains have an aura of consciousness. Native Americans attributed Katahdin's special character to their god named Pamola.

And yes – we are far beyond the days of believing Indian legends about part-human, part-moose and part-eagle giants who inhabit mountain tops. In our modern, objective minds we know that Katahdin is merely an interesting rock outcrop – part of an ancient range of towering peaks that were worn down to their present form by the tides of time.

But if you have climbed the mountain – even once – you know that Katahdin is more than the sum of its geological parts. And it is no huge leap to imagine the huge bulk of it standing there silently waiting for those who will inevitably come to admire it.

No mountain waits with a sense of anticipation. Katahdin maintains its natural indifference – to whether we come or go; whether we live or die.

Instead the mountain waits for us in the sense that the only changes over time will be those wrought by nature itself and not the hand of mankind. We can safely turn our backs for a week or a year or twenty years – the mountain and the land around it will remain almost completely unchanged.

This is the value of wilderness – even for those who don't go to it.

Because it has been set aside from society's vast powers of getting and spending, we can go to this mountain any time in confidence that it will remain undiminished. The mountain doesn't wait for the next road to be built or the next tree harvest.

Instead, it waits for us.

Sleuthing About Katahdin...

by David Little, Art Detective



Charles Hubbard. Untitled (Witherle Ravine and the Owl), ca. 1930's, oil on canvas. (The Hubbard Collection, Reading Room, Guilford Free Library)

"...Presently we arrived at the Baxter State Camp Ground, located on glorious Ktaadn Stream. This open space afforded us our first opportunity to observe the mountain at intimate range, with its vast and imposing bulk standing high above stream and wood and cabin, above all the State of Maine, its Baxter Peak first point in the United States to receive homage from the rising sun. From the camp ground the mountain may be ascended by way of the Hunt Trail, which forms the last link in the Appalachian Trail, reaching from Georgia to Maine. I feel sure that it must be the best link. The trail is about five miles long and affords views of Witherle Ravine, The Owl, and the mountains to the north. (1)"



Charles Hubbard. Untitled (Car Camping), pen and ink on paper. *Camping in the New England Mountains*, 1952. Falmouth Publishing House, Manchester, ME.

by a small window was his large canvas of Witherle Ravine and the Owl, completed in his Guilford, Connecticut studio ("Hobgoblin Hall") after the summer outing.

(1) Hubbard with his beautiful calligraphy writes this text free-hand in pen and ink on master sheets 18 x 14 1/2 in. for his book *Camping in the New England Mountains*, 1952. Falmouth Publishing House, Manchester, Maine. p. 91. He and his companions had been car camping in the park since driving the Great Northern Paper Company Road from Greenville and crossing Ripogenus Dam.

The artist Charles Daniel Hubbard (1876-1951) picked up his pen, dipped it in the ink well, and began to draw a small illustration of a scene he remembered while hiking the Hunt Trail in Baxter State Park some years back. (2) On the easel to his right lit

(2) Hubbard did not label or date his paintings, but the combination of text and small pen and ink drawings he made while revisiting his outdoor sketches and studio paintings help us identify their location in the Katahdin region. He had made five trips to Katahdin from 1935 to 1941.

David Little is the author of *Art of Katahdin*. (2013, Down East Books)

Friends to offer wilderness speaker series in Millinocket

This summer, Friends will offer a speaker series in Millinocket exploring themes of wilderness and nature-based tourism. Thanks to a generous grant from the National Environmental Education Foundation, we will bring four guest speakers to the Katahdin Region to share ideas and foster discussion. Each speaker will give an engaging, one-hour presentation on wilderness or nature-based tourism, followed by plenty of time for questions and discussion. The venue for each event will be the BSP Headquarters building, located at 64 Balsam Drive in Millinocket. Please look for a complete schedule in your mailbox and email inbox later this spring.

You can mark your calendar now for the evening of Thursday, July 24, when we will be joined by Scot Miller, award-winning nature photographer and the author of *Thoreau, The Maine Woods: A Photographic Journey through an American Wilderness*. A regular visitor to Baxter State Park, Scot hails from Texas and speaks frequently about photography and wilderness. This May will mark the 150th anniversary of the publication of *The Maine Woods*, and what better way to celebrate than an evening with Scot. Hope you can join us!

2014 Annual Meeting

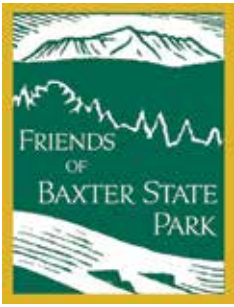
You are cordially invited to join us on Saturday, April 12th for the 2014 Annual Meeting of Friends of Baxter State Park. The meeting will be held at the Viles Arboretum, located at 153 Hospital Street in Augusta, Maine. We'll gather for coffee and muffins at 8:30am, and begin our meeting at 9:00am. Members will elect new Directors to the Board, get updates on progress during the past year, vote on changes to the bylaws, and hear from many guest speakers about the Park. We invite all members and guests to join us for lunch and an optional group hike following the meeting.



On the morning that Henry David Thoreau made his attempt to reach Baxter Peak, he reported that his breakfast included:

- a) Fat of bears
- b) Musquash
- c) Raw pork
- d) Granola bars

Send Trivia answers to admin@friendsofbaxter.org



Friends of Baxter State Park

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Visit us at www.friendsofbaxter.org

Email us at info@friendsofbaxter.org



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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

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Thank you!

Annual Meeting on April 12th! Details inside.

2014 Walks in the Park

FBSP is once again offering a full schedule of overnight trips, day hikes, and educational events for our members this summer! Advance sign-up is required for all events; please RSVP to Sarah Holland at admin@friendsofbaxter.org.

Family Hike of South Turner: July 19

South Turner has great views for only a four-mile round trip hike, with wildlife watching at Sandy Stream Pond along the way. You may want to get a day use parking reservation or camp the night before. Capacity: 12 people. Host: Aaron Megquier

Plant Exploration with Glen Mittelhauser: July 26

Join Glen Mittelhauser, lead botanist on the Plants of Baxter State Park project, for an exploration of plant communities on Matagamon Lake and Horse Mountain. An incredible opportunity to spend a day in the field with one of Maine's finest botanists. Capacity: 12 people.

Mount OJI: August 3

Come check out the new trail up Mount OJI! Supported by FBSP, and built by the Maine Conservation Corps, the new trail climbs to the saddle between OJI and West Peak, and then approaches the OJI summit from the west. Capacity: 12 people. Host: Carla Ritchie

Chimney Pond: August 22 – 24

Join other FBSP members at spectacular Chimney Pond! We've reserved the entire bunkhouse for two nights. You can coordinate with other participants or plan your own itinerary. Capacity: 10 people. Host: Henry Beeuwkes

South Branch Pond: September 5 – 7

Enjoy two nights at South Branch Pond, with wonderful opportunities for hiking, swimming, canoeing, and relaxing – as well as attending the SFMA Forestry Tour. Host: Jill Ippoliti.

SFMA Forestry Tour with Rick Morrill: September 6

Join BSP Resource Manager and licensed forester Rick Morrill for a tour of the Scientific Forest Management Area in the north-western corner of Baxter State Park. The 30,000 acres of the SFMA are managed as working forest, providing income for the Park while protecting wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Photo © Pedro Guimaraes