

Forever Wild



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Winter 2014

Vol. 13 No.1

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

I spent some of the happiest days of my childhood exploring the hidden corners of Baxter State Park. Often with my Dad, and sometimes with newfound independence, I went bushwhacking up the headwaters of Wassataquoik Stream, wading through alder swamps on my way to Weed Pond, and scrambling up rock faces in Pogy Notch. I didn't pay much attention to identifying what I was looking at – that interest would come later, as I followed a path into conservation biology and botany – but my appreciation for what I saw was boundless.

I'm sure I walked right past some plant species that have yet to be documented in the Park almost thirty years later. That is about to change, thanks to the *Plants of Baxter State Park* project. Highlighted in our feature article on this page, this is one of the most important things to happen to the Park since Governor Baxter made his first gift of land in 1931. Think for a moment about how much plants impact your experiences in the Park. We hike through living tunnels of trees, pull ourselves up the Saddle Trail with birches worn smooth from generations of hands, and take shelter behind stunted spruces on the Tableland. From an ecological perspective, plants are the foundation of the

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Glen Mittelhauser, lead botanist on the *Plants of Baxter State Park* project, identifying bog plants in the Scientific Forest Management Area during a research expedition in July 2013.

- Photo by Aaron Megquier

The *Plants of Baxter State Park*: Year Two Update

*What would the world be, once bereft
Of wet and of wildness? Let them be left,
O let them be left, wildness and wet,
Long live the weeds and wilderness yet.*

Gerard Manley Hopkins

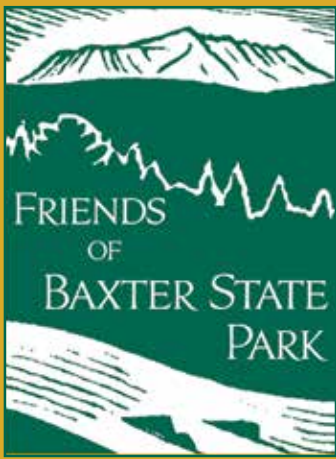
Baxter State Park is famous for its mountain landscapes, remote trout ponds, and miles of hiking trails. Many visitors appreciate its ecological values, but relatively few people know that the Park is a hotspot of plant diversity. Over 80 years after Percival Baxter made his first gift of land to the state of Maine, a complete

plant inventory of the Park has never been conducted. Many remote parts of the Park have never been surveyed at all.

The *Plants of Baxter State Park* project is changing that. Currently in year two of a five-year project, a team of professional botanists is collaborating with Baxter State Park staff to achieve an ambitious goal: a complete plant inventory of the Park. By using an innovative citizen science approach, the project is training dozens of volunteers to be stewards of the Park's resources.

Glen Mittelhauser of the Maine Natural

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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

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Park's ecosystems. They support every other living thing, from grey jays to moose. And yet our knowledge of them is incomplete at best. The *Plants of Baxter State Park* project aims to figure out what plants species are found in the park, where they grow, and how they are doing, and put this information in the hands of Park staff. It will also make this information accessible to the public through a beautiful, full-color field guide.

We would welcome your involvement and support on this project. I helped out with three days of field research in the north end of the Park last summer, and it's like being a kid on Christmas morning! Volunteers are welcome, but there are many other ways to help that don't involve hiking boots or hip waders. If you'd like to support this effort, or take part in it yourself, please get in touch.

Save the Date!

Annual Meeting of
 Friends of Baxter State Park
 Saturday, April 12, 2014
 Viles Arboretum, Augusta, Maine



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Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Admin. Manager

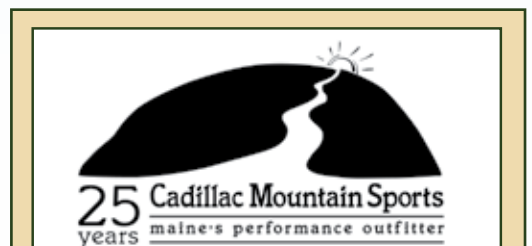
Thank you to everyone who joined and renewed in 2013! We are closer than ever to our goal of having 1,000 members. We know there are far more than 1,000 people who share a passion for wilderness, and Baxter State Park in particular. We just need to spread the word. Please help by inviting your like-minded friends to join us.



We are amazed by the far-flung influence this wilderness area has. As one new member from Italy shared: *"It's a great pleasure for me to enter (with my family) in your big International Family. ... Every year I visit Grand Canyon National Park, Yellowstone NP, etc, etc. beautiful Parks. But 'Baxter is Baxter'....!! The light, the colours, the wilderness, the special people. It's the best!!"* We agree!

No matter where you are from, when you join you become a member of the FBSP family of supporters. Here is a breakdown of where our members live: Maine 428; New Hampshire 15; Massachusetts 54; other New England states 23; Alaska 1; Hawaii 3; other US states 303; District of Columbia 3; Puerto Rico 1; Canada 6; Mexico 1; Italy 1; total 839 memberships and growing!

And now we have some great incentives for joining and renewing. All members renewing between November 1, 2013 and March 15, 2014 will be entered into a raffle with the winners announced at our annual meeting on April 12, 2014. Prizes include a day of sailing the Maine coast, two nights on Bell's Island on Nova Scotia's South Shore, and a canvas tote containing a 2014 Maine State Parks pass and many surprises to help you enjoy outdoors in Maine. Check out our website for more details!



We are thrilled to announce that Cadillac Mountain Sports has become FBSP's first business sponsor! We deeply appreciate their generous support of our programs during 2014.

Plants of Baxter State Park *Continued from Pg. 1*

History Observatory is the lead scientist on the project. FBSP member Alison Dibble, a botanist and conservation biologist, is playing a significant role as well. One of the most important results of the project will be a user-friendly, color field guide entitled *Plants of Baxter State Park*. This guide will be useful to park staff, amateur naturalists, park visitors, and anyone wanting to learn more about the north woods of Maine.

"A complete flora inventory of the park was really something I wanted to see happen, and I pushed very hard for it," said Baxter State Park naturalist Jean Hoekwater, who proposed the project to Mittelhauser a few years ago. "We're very enthusiastic about it, and really feel it's one of those things that's a long time in coming."

The project will also create a database of plant distribution, abundance, and status for Park managers. If a trail needs to be relocated, staff will be able to quickly see if any sensitive plants are found in the area, and make informed management decisions. The project will create a "snapshot" of the current status of the Park's ecosystems, which will serve as a baseline for monitoring the effects of climate change.



Round-leaved sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), a carnivorous bog plant, has captured several bluet damselflies with the sticky, glandular hairs that cover its leaves. — Photo © Anne Huntington

The project began with a successful field season in 2012. Twenty-two volunteers spent over 900 hours on the project. These citizen scientists documented over 750 plant species – including 150 never before found in the Park – and took over 4,000 digital plant photos that summer!

Friends of Baxter State Park contributed funds to hire a summer intern for the project in 2013. Abbe Urban, currently a senior at College of the Atlantic, was chosen and did an outstanding job. We deeply appreciate her contributions! During the 2013 season, re-



Indian cucumber root (*Medeola virginiana*), a member of the lily family, is found throughout the Park in deciduous and mixed forests.

– Photo © Anne Huntington

search teams spent over 40 days in the Park on eight expeditions. By the end of the season, the plant list for the Park climbed to a whopping 841 species representing over a third of the plant species found in the entire state of Maine.

Tracking down new plant species in remote areas is hard work, but is just the first step in the research process. After the field season ends in September, it's time to deal with mountains of photographs and data. Affectionately referred to by many ecologists as "winter work," this includes the data entry and analysis that turns raw data into useful information. In addition to these tasks, Glen is writing a first draft of the *Plants of Baxter State Park* field guide this winter.

Interesting results are emerging from the project, including species lists for each of the twelve townships in the Park. Any guesses about which one has the most plants? Let me give you a hint... it's not Katahdin! The highest diversity is found in the north end of the Park, in township T6R9 – the area around Trout Brook. This township contains an incredible 515 plant species so far – over two thirds of the species documented from the Park to date. This is likely the result of the unique bedrock geology of this portion of the Park.

There are many ways to support the project. You can make a donation, sponsor a plant species, or even sponsor a research expedition. You can join an expedition as a volunteer, or collect data on your own adventures using the Citizen Science Protocol developed in 2013. Please contact Glen Mittelhauser at 207-963-2012 if you are interested in volunteering.

Remembering BSP Ranger Ralph Heath, 1923 - 1963

In this issue of *Forever Wild*, we remember Baxter State Park ranger Ralph Heath, and commemorate the 50th anniversary of his death on Katahdin in late October, 1963. Barbara Bentley, past president of FBSP, shared some of her memories of Heath: "Ralphie was a favorite among us Girl Scout campers back in my Natarswi days. He used to take us around Chimney Pond, cut up dead trees with his chainsaw, and let us drag them back for firewood. [Editor's note: this is no longer allowed!] I remember rock-hopping around the pond behind him. He told stories to us around the campfire at night. Wonderful guy!"

Forty year-old Ranger Ralph Heath attempted to locate and rescue a lost hiker, Margaret Ivusic. Margaret had left her hiking companion and decided to make her own trail, a short cut, down to Chimney Pond from the north side of the Knife Edge. Heath was able to locate Ivusic. He made two heroic rescue attempts in unpredictable weather to save her. A powerful late season hurricane "Ginny" with rain, winds, snow, ice, and blizzard conditions made its way into Maine and Baxter State Park. Many attempts were made to rescue both Heath and Ivusic but the severe weather persisted and sealed their fate.



The gravestone of Ranger Ralph Heath in Sherman Mills, Maine. Ranger Heath perished in the line of duty in the South Basin on October 29, 1963.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

Sources: "A Tragedy of Errors on Katahdin", *Appalachia*, June 1964, pp. 178-181; John W. Hakola, *Legacy of a Lifetime*, TBW Books, 1981, pp. 311-313; and John W. Neff, *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*, AMC Books, 2006, pp. 297-299.

Letter from the President

by Charlie Jacobi

Channeling Aldo

"If the biota, in the course of aeons, has built something we like but do not understand, then who but a fool would discard seemingly useless parts? To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering." ~ Aldo Leopold

What are the cogs and wheels in Baxter State Park and who is doing the tinkering? Park staff are the tinkers-in-chief, and their M.O. has been to keep every cog and wheel they can, and keep tinkering to a minimum — another maxim Aldo might agree with. The cogs and wheels of course are the fauna and flora of the Park.

You might think that Park staff know a lot about species found there, including their proper names and general whereabouts, but consider this: in the Great Smoky Mountains, where an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory has been going on for 15 years, 923 species new to science and 7,636 species new to the park have been discovered. Lest you think the majority of these species are slime molds and invertebrates distinguished by a handful of genes, they include 104 vascular plants, 10 birds, 6 fishes, 2 reptiles, and one mammal new to the park. If you were on staff at Baxter State Park, how would you protect something or manage it effectively if you didn't know you had it, or where it is?

The *Plants of Baxter State Park* project is making significant progress in answering this question and helping Park staff better manage park flora. Two years into a five-year project, it's still exciting to think about what plants new to the park will be recorded this year as new geography and habitats are combed by experts and enthusiastic students of botany. Spearheaded by Glen Mittelhauser of the Maine Natural History Observatory, and some of the best botanists in Maine, the end result will be a database for park staff, and a comprehensive, colorful guidebook for all of us, modeled after the *Plants of Acadia National Park* guide published by Glen a few years ago. You can read more about all of this in our feature article, including some ways to help or get involved.

Funding this important project is an ongoing challenge. Friends will continue to work with Glen and park staff to seek grants and find other creative ways of meeting the annual project budget of about \$38,000. We just received a stunning \$5,000 contribution from one of our generous members who is inspired by what this project will do for the Park. Maybe you are a botanist of some sort, or appreciate the science, or just have an affinity for a particular cog or wheel (mine is mountain sandwort—it grows in amazingly sterile soil and rugged alpine habitat) or are a fan of Aldo Leopold. If so, please consider joining our generous member — and me — with a dedicated contribution to the project through Friends. We can't promise to name a new-to-science species after you, but a \$50 donation will get you a copy of the guidebook signed by the author, and we will find other suitable ways to recognize larger gifts.

Looking back...

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

Happy Birthday, Helon Taylor Trail

As we say farewell to 2013, let us recall that it was 50 years ago in 1963 that the Helon Taylor Trail which ascends the Keep Ridge from Roaring Brook to Pamola Peak, was dedicated by Governor Baxter himself. The trail's history has an interesting though sometimes confusing past. In 1923 (90 years ago) the proprietors of the Togue Pond Camps cut a trail from near Windy Pitch (the end of the road at that point) on what is now the road to Roaring Brook. That trail, named the St. John Trail, joined the old Keep Path cut in the late 1840s from the east side of Katahdin and ascended the East Slide avalanche to Keep Ridge and on to Pamola.

Later, in 1933 (80 years ago), Walter Leavitt of Orono cut the Leavitt Trail which began at Avalanche Field and joined the ridge at Bear Brook to provide a loop trail option to Pamola. Finally, in 1963 the relatively new Roaring Brook Campground became the trailhead for the trail up the Keep Ridge. Today the trail is often ascended or descended by those who hike the iconic trails to Chimney Pond, the summit, and the Knife Edge in a single day. More details about these trails can be found in H. Walter Leavitt's informative *Katahdin Skylines* and in John Hakola's *Legacy of a Lifetime*.



Viewed from Katahdin Lake, Keep Ridge rises steadily from the Roaring Brook area to Pamola and the Knife Edge beyond. — Photo © Bill Bentley

Baxter State Park tests extended camping season

Baxter State Park recently announced that the Park will be testing an extended camping season at several locations over the next two years. The camping season will be extended to October 25, 2014 and October 24, 2015 at the following locations:

Katahdin Stream: Sites 9-12, 16, 17, 20, and the Birches

Abol: Sites 9, 18, and 24

Daicey Pond: Cabins 4, 5, 7 and 10

This is not a permanent change, but is designed to give Park staff an opportunity to evaluate the interest in camping use during late October. For more information, please visit the Park website at www.baxterstateparkauthority.com.



Update from the Park

by BSP Director Jensen Bissell

The Baxter State Park Authority met at the Maine Forest Service Bolton Hill conference room on Friday, November 15, 2013. This meeting was rescheduled from the original October date. The Authority worked through an agenda that included an update from Investment Committee Chair Brian Noyes and fund manager Michael Janko from Bank of New York-Mellon on the status of Park endowment funds, a change to the membership of the Baxter Park Advisory Committee and operational reports from various Park senior staff.

The change in membership to the Baxter Park Advisory Committee is a reminder of the important service that the advisory committees provide to the Park. The Park advisory committees serve at the pleasure of the Baxter State Park Authority and provide knowledgeable advice and feedback in four areas: Endowment Management, General Park Management, Scientific Forest Management and Research in the Park. The terms of service and orientation of the committees vary, but all committee members share a dedication to the protection and sound management of Park resources combined with the willingness to provide many hours of service in the volunteer role of Advisor to the Park. We are fortunate to have the help of these individuals.

On the weekend of November 2-3, the Park was visited by a half dozen Blackhawk helicopters from the Army National Guard. The Guard conducted an extensive training mission in the Park connected with the movement of materials throughout the Park. The mission was successful in removing decommissioned lean-tos from Center Mountain, Little Wassataquoik Lake and Webster Stream as well as moving heavy materials such as bog bridging, lean-to construction materials, firewood and propane to various locations. The activities of this mission provided valuable training to Guard pilots and crew. The use of the helicopters will significantly reduce the need for snowmobiles to enter the backcountry this winter as well as providing materials to assist the trail maintenance crews next summer.



A Blackhawk helicopter landing in Baxter State Park during a training mission in early November.

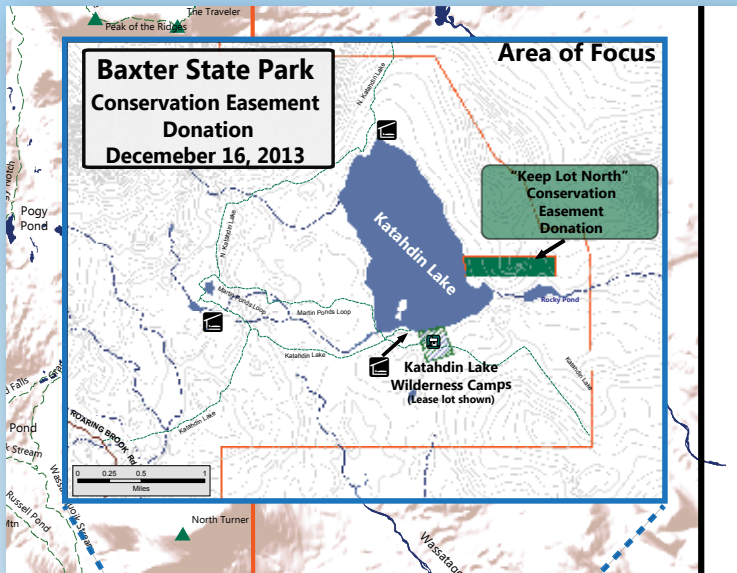
– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park photo files

After several site visits and careful deliberations, we will be making some changes to the backcountry camping options in the Wassataquoik Lake area next summer. In summary, the lean-to at Little Wassataquoik Lake has been removed and this site will be renovated as a tent site. A new 4-person lean-to will be constructed at a very attractive location on the northwest shore of Wassataquoik Lake. In order to provide more consistent protection to nesting loons, the Wassataquoik Island lean-to will not open to camping until August 15. In addition to Wassataquoik Lake, the lean-to at Webster Stream was removed. This site will be replaced with a new lean-to near Wadleigh Bog on the Wadleigh Brook Trail sometime in 2015.

Answers: Trivia Question in Fall Newsletter

Richard Young and Ryan Jones answered the trivia question in the Fall 2013 newsletter correctly. We asked, "What is the total height of the four volumes entitled Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park, compiled by Howard Whitcomb, when stacked one atop the other?" The answer is D, eight inches. Congratulations Richard and Ryan!

BSP Authority Accepts Conservation Easement on Katahdin Lake



Map courtesy of Baxter State Park

At a special meeting of the Baxter State Park Authority on Monday, December 16, 2013, Authority members voted unanimously to accept the Keep Lot North Conservation Easement. Granted by the heirs of James Sewall, the easement protects an historic parcel of land on the shores of Katahdin Lake. Tingey Sewall of Boston, Massachusetts, James Page of Old Town, Maine, and Thomas Gary of Mashpee, Massachusetts offered an unconditional gift of various conservation rights on the 43-acre parcel, including over 500 feet of shoreline on Katahdin Lake.

Over 4,500 acres of private land surrounding Katahdin Lake was gifted to Baxter State Park in 2006. The Sewall tract was not included in the gift and remains a privately owned "in-holding" surrounded by land owned and managed by the Baxter State Park Authority. An adjacent in-holding owned by the Huber Family and Corporation was



Douglas Denico, Chair of the Baxter State Park Authority, signs the Keep Lot North Conservation Easement while Janet Mills, member of the Baxter State Park Authority and Maine Attorney General, and Amy J. Oliver, staff member from the Attorney General's office, look on. – Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park photo files

donated to the Park in 2012.

The 43-acre parcel was originally part of a 200-acre lot provided to the Reverend Marcus Keep of Patten, ME by the Maine Legislature in 1860 in recognition of the work Rev. Keep had done in establishing some of the first hiking trails to access Katahdin. Keep Ridge on Katahdin is named after him. James W. Sewall purchased the Keep Lot in 1901. Although some of the original Keep Lot was sold, Sewall retained the 43-acre lot that includes stunning views of Katahdin.

The Keep Lot North Conservation Easement permanently protects the wildlife, ecological, and scenic values of the property. Park Director Jensen Bissell stated, "This generous and foresighted action by the Sewall heirs provides the final piece of protection needed on Katahdin Lake. Together with the Huber donation in 2012 this conservation easement ensures that Katahdin Lake will forever remain the pristine and beautiful Maine lake envisioned by Percival Baxter."

Term Limits Alert

By Charlie Jacobi, President

Friends of Baxter State Park is proposing to remove Board member term limits at the Annual Meeting on April 12, when members would vote to approve a revision of the Bylaws. Currently, members are elected for three-year terms, and can serve no more than two consecutive terms without a break in service. The Board believes that this limits our ability to retain talented and dedicated people who are passionate about the park. One argument for term limits is that electing new Board members brings new skills and ideas to the organization. Our experience for the past thirteen years is that turnover of Board members has brought new Board members in on regular basis anyway, as circumstances change, some must leave in mid-term, and others find that one term is all they can offer. The Board proposes to remove term limits from the Bylaws but continue to elect Board members to three-year terms. We welcome your thoughts at or before the Annual Meeting on April 12, where you can expect a vote. Please join us then.

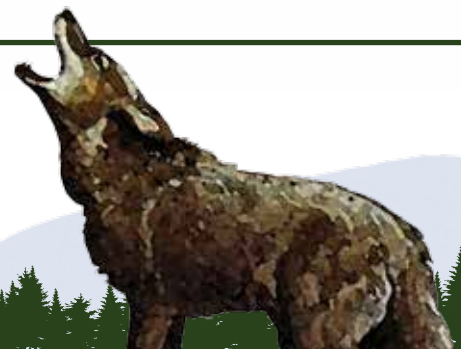
Help keep the park Forever Wild

Did you know that you can make a bequest to Friends of Baxter State Park in your will? Please contact us for more information.

In Memoriam
Alan Railsback 1941-2013



Friends of Baxter State Park is on Facebook!
Link up with us at www.facebook.com/bspfriends
for updates, photos, and more.



Sleuthing About Katahdin...

by Howard Whitcomb, FBSP Historian

A Maine Governor and a Secret Mission

On March 3, 1931, in formal correspondence accompanying the first Deed of Trust, Percival P. Baxter wrote Governor William Tudor Gardiner that it long had been his "ambition to have the State of Maine own Mt. Katahdin, for to my mind that mountain is the grandest and most beautiful of all the natural attractions of our State." This gift of 5,960 acres, that embraced the major part of Katahdin itself, would be the first of twenty-eight such gifts that resulted in the 201,000 acre-Baxter State Park at the time of Baxter's death. What isn't readily known is that a dozen years later, the governor who accepted Baxter's initial gift, would play a significant role in a secret military mission in the Allied campaign to liberate the mainland of Italy.

On September 7, 1943, Brigadier General Maxwell D. Taylor [later a U. S. Army four star general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff] and Colonel William T. Gardiner of the Army Air Force landed in a small boat on the Italian coast. They infiltrated downtown Rome to seek Italian assistance for an 82nd Airborne air drop to secure that city, which was cordoned by German troops. This mission took place in the immediate aftermath of the disposing of Benito Mussolini amidst diplomatic efforts to secure an Italian surrender to Allied forces. Taylor and Gardiner met with the Italian commander defending Rome's perimeter and the new Italian Prime Minister Marshall Pietro Badoglio. Neither Italian official was able to give the necessary assurances of assistance for the airborne attack. A flight was arranged for the two American emissaries to return to Allied headquarters in North Africa. While troop transports were already in the air, Taylor and Gardiner reported their information and the attack was scrubbed, thereby avoiding what would have been a suicide mission saving countless allied lives. Twenty-four hours after Taylor and Gardiner left, German forces occupied Rome.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower later said that the risks that Taylor [and Gardiner] ran "were greater than I asked any other agent or emissary to take during the [Second World] war."

Source: R. Atkinson, *The Day of Battle*, Henry Holt & Co., 2007, pp. 190-193.

Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program Applications Due February 8

Friends of Baxter State Park invites current Maine high school sophomores and juniors to apply to the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program. Ten high school sophomores and juniors have an extraordinary opportunity to spend eight nights immersed in the finest example of wild country in Maine. This wilderness education program sets in motion a journey that will last a lifetime. The participants also learn a very important message to share in their schools and communities: wilderness preservation is an essential value for humans as well as for all other species that rely upon this land.

Accompanied by experienced wilderness leaders from the Chewonki Foundation, participants work with a variety of specialists as they backpack from one end of Baxter State Park to the other,



Participants in the 2013 Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program enjoying the open ridgeline of North Traveler.
– Photo © Will Greene

camping at different sites, including three nights in the backcountry at Russell Pond.

This year's program is scheduled for August 2-10, 2014, with an application deadline of February 8, 2014. Participants and alternates will be selected in March, and will receive supporting materials to prepare them for their experience. For an application or more information, visit www.friendsofbaxter.org, email us at info@friendsofbaxter.org or write to us at PO Box 609, Union, ME 04862.



Barry Dana, former Chief of the Penobscot Nation, teaching native skills and culture to participants in the 2013 Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program.
– Photo © Ivy Enoch

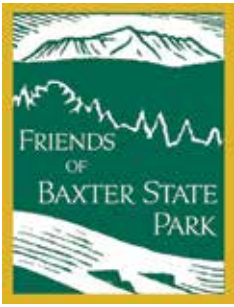
Baxter State Park Trivia

– Puzzle Master Al Howlett

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:

- a) Chimney Pond
- b) Davis Pond
- c) South Branch Pond
- d) Golden Pond

Send Trivia answers to admin@friendsofbaxter.org



Friends of Baxter State Park

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Thank you!

2014 Walks in the Park

FBSP is happy to offer an expanded series of Walks in the Park for our members this summer! We've added several day hikes and educational programs, and will be offering overnight trips at Chimney Pond and South Branch Pond. Day hikes and educational programs are free; participants share the costs of camping reservations for overnight trips. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Sarah Holland at admin@friendsofbaxter.org.

Family Hike of South Turner: July 19 (Day Hike)

South Turner has some of the best views in the Park for only a four-mile round trip hike, with great 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

Mount OJI: August 3 (Day Hike)

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 & 23 (Overnight)

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: Dates TBA (Overnight)

Join other members of FBSP for hiking, swimming, canoeing, and relaxing at South Branch Pond. This trip will be coordinated with a guided tour of the Scientific Forest Management Area with Rick Morrill. Please stay tuned for more information. Host: Jill Ippoliti.

Plant Hike with Glen Mittelhauser: Date TBA

Glen Mittelhauser, lead botanist on the *Plants of Baxter State Park* project, will lead us on an exploration of plant communities in the Park. Come learn about the effort to inventory all plant species in the Park, and spend some time in the field with one of the best botanists in Maine. Capacity: 12 people.

Scientific Forest Management Area tour with Rick Morrill: Date TBA

Join BSP Resource Manager Rick Morrill for a guided tour of the SFMA. This 30,000-acre area is managed as working forest, providing income for the Park while protecting wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. Please stay tuned for more information.