



FOREVER WORLD

Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Summer 2015

Vol. 14 No. 3

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

If you've spent time in Baxter State Park over the years, perhaps you remember the electrical outlet in one of the Wassataquoik Stream lean-tos. If you haven't been there, this lean-to is about five miles north of Roaring Brook, well into the back-country on the way to Russell Pond. This outlet is one of the better practical jokes – and statements on our culture – that I've ever seen.

Ponder for a moment the events that would have to unfold for someone to plug something into that outlet. First, he or she would have to carry something with an electrical cord for five miles into Baxter State Park, expecting to find power. Perhaps a radio, or a portable bug zapper (the outlet was there long before digital cameras and iPhones). Then it would take a stunning level of ignorance to plug something in and actually expect it to turn on. There are no wires coming out of the back. No solar panels on the roof. No generator installed nearby. The lean-to is probably about twenty miles off the electrical grid.

For all of our sakes, I hope no one ever plugged anything into that outlet. But I fear otherwise. There is a heartbreaking passage in *Last Child in the Woods*, by Richard Louv, which speaks to this issue. (If you haven't read this book, it would be a worthy addition to your reading list). When asked by Louv why he prefers to play inside, a fourth-grader responds, "cause that's where all the electrical outlets are." It's not just young children who fall victim to this. My wife, on her freshman orientation trip at Bowdoin College, was speechless when one of her fellow students brought an electric hairdryer on a six-day wilderness canoe trip. These are 18 year-old academic all-stars who got into one of the top colleges in the country.

As a society, our relationship with the natural world is broken. We are figuratively – and often lit-

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Reaching the summit of Katahdin is a powerful moment for northbound hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Over the past several years, Baxter State Park's wilderness values have become strained by a dramatic increase in thru-hiker numbers and the behavior of some thru-hikers in the Park. This has brought the AT and Baxter State Park to a critical juncture.

– Photo © Jaime Renaud

The End of the Trail

by Aaron Megquier

For over 80 years, Katahdin has been the northern terminus of the Appalachian Trail (AT). Reaching the summit of Maine's greatest mountain has taken on a near-mythical significance for northbound thru-hikers. The vast majority of thru-hikers celebrate the end of their 2,185-mile journey responsibly, with a sense of reverence for a very special place. A small but growing number of thru-hikers are finishing the trail in a way that negatively impacts the Park's wilderness values, as well as the experiences of other visitors. This behavior is threatening the future of the AT in Baxter State Park.

Baxter State Park and the AT have a

long, shared history. In the 1930s, Myron Avery successfully lobbied to have the northern terminus of the AT on Katahdin, rather than on Mount Washington. The initial construction of the AT was completed in 1937, and the National Trails System Act formally established the AT as a designated corridor in 1968.

While there is nothing in the Baxter State Park Deeds of Trust that provides for the presence of the AT, the Park has accommodated the trail for many years and devoted substantial resources to its stewardship. In 1997, the Baxter State Park Authority acquired 2,669 acres along the West Branch of the Penobscot

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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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erally – lost without our technology. Electricity is one tether by which we are bound to this way of living. When it isn't there, many people panic at the vacuum that ensues in our communications, our comforts, our very thought patterns. Our dependence on it is a symptom of a larger problem that begins in childhood. It either consumes us, so that we can't remember a time when it was different, or if we are lucky, it simply nips at our heels throughout life.

Perhaps we have it easier in Maine than many other parts of the world. We have a thriving non-profit community working to help kids get outdoors and get unplugged. We have a wonderful statewide environmental education association. We have a strong tradition of outdoor summer camps, many with sliding fee scales and scholarship programs. We have greenspace, nature preserves, walking trails, and parks. We live in the most forested state in the nation... and we have Baxter State Park. All of these give me hope.

Earlier this summer, Park staff replaced the Wassataquoik stream lean-tos, and I expect that the outlet disappeared. I wanted to memorialize this sad, funny statement on our culture before it does. If you know who installed the outlet in the old lean-to, please let me know. I want to say thank you, and I have a book to recommend.

2016 Baxter State Park calendars now available



It is time to purchase your 2016 Baxter State Park Calendar for \$12, sales tax and shipping included. All proceeds benefit Friends of Baxter State Park. You can order online at www.friendsofbaxter.org or give us a call.

—Calendar cover photo © Donna Lawson

Membership Matters

By Sarah Holland, Administrative Manager

Maine has many wonderful state parks that are part of the Maine State Park system under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Parks and Lands within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry. These parks receive taxpayer support through the State budget and the "Loon" license plate program.



Baxter State Park is a separate entity that receives no tax dollars. Percival P. Baxter gifted this spectacular land of over 200,000 acres of ponds, rivers, streams, mountains, bogs, and alpine areas to the people of Maine, to be governed by the Baxter State Park Authority. Baxter also established an endowment fund that continues to provide more than half of the Park's annual operating expenses. Camping fees, day use fees for non-Maine residents and timber harvesting in the Scientific Forest Management Area are additional sources of revenue.

Although the Baxter trust endowment was generous and has been managed extremely well, the costs associated with maintaining safe and environmentally sound trail systems, infrastructure, campgrounds, training staff in alpine rescue, educating the public about wilderness ethics, and planning for the future, are challenging. Through grants and volunteer work, Friends supports these activities and more. In his 2014 *State of the Park Report*, Park Director Jensen Bissell applauded our contribution to the relocation of the OJI Trail. In 2015 we have committed \$52,000 in funding for the relocation of the Abol Trail, representing over half of the estimated cost of the relocation. Friends works closely with Park staff to assist in expediting their priority trail projects.

When you are out on the trail this summer, please help us get the word out to all hikers: one of the best ways to contribute to the hiking experience in Baxter State Park is by becoming a member of Friends.

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The End of the Trail Continued from pg.1



Baxter State Park is concerned about commercialization of the Park, like this July 12 media event on the summit of Katahdin celebrating Scott Jurek's record-breaking hike of the AT. – Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

at a cost of \$490,000. This purchase protected nearly five miles of the AT corridor that was formerly on Great Northern Paper company land. The Park maintains a special camping area for thru-hikers, known as The Birches, that is solely for thru-hiker use and available for single-night use by up to 12 hikers without advance reservations. The Park hires a full-time, seasonal staff person to interact with thru-hikers at the Park boundary. Rangers spend an inordinate amount of time interacting with thru-hikers, who comprise about 3% of Park visitors but often consume over 20% of Ranger time.

This has been the case for many years, but it was not always so. The culture of thru-hiking has changed dramatically since Earl Shaffer was the first (other than Myron Avery) to walk the entire Appalachian Trail in 1948. Shaffer, a World War II veteran, was drawn to the trail to “walk the Army out of his system.” His book *Walking With Spring* describes a journey of solitude, healing, and introspection. While many current thru-hikers hike for these same reasons, an increasing number of thru-hikers are seeking a more social experience on the trail. A rowdy party scene on the AT is nothing new, but the scale of the current problem is greater because of a significant increase in the number of thru-hikers in recent years. The impacts of these changes are disproportionately felt where most of the celebration happens: at the end of the trail in Baxter State Park.

In November 2014, Park Director Jensen Bissell sent a letter to the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service detailing his mounting concerns with AT thru-hiker behavior. Concerns mentioned in the letter include open drug and alcohol use on the summit of Katahdin, often in close proximity to families with children, bringing dogs into the Park with false service dog credentials, and disregard for Park rules surrounding group size. Last year, Park staff encountered large groups of up to 45 thru-hikers expecting to summit Katahdin together. This often results in disappointment for other hikers who find a loud, crowded,

alcohol-soaked scene on the summit when they arrive. Last summer, several individuals told Park staff that they turned around and didn't bother summiting Katahdin when they saw – and heard – the crowd on the summit from a distance across the Tableland.

The sheer number of AT thru-hikers is increasing, which is further exacerbating these problems. Baxter State Park has been collecting data on thru-hikers for several decades. In 1991, the Park registered a total of 359 thru-hikers. That figure included northbound and southbound hikers, as well as section hikers tackling a shorter section of the trail. In 2014, Baxter State Park registered 2,017 thru-hikers – a nearly six-fold increase in just over 20 years. For a Park that operates on a fixed-capacity model to protect natural resources, this trend is deeply problematic.

The number of AT thru-hikers reaching Baxter State Park may climb even further. Bill Bryson's 1998 book *A Walk in the Woods*, about hiking the Appalachian Trail, was recently adapted into a film starring Robert Redford. This movie is scheduled to be released in September 2015. Cheryl Strayed's 2012 memoir *Wild*, her deeply personal account of thru-hiking the Pacific Crest Trail,



The Appalachian Trail, with its signature white blazes, just after it crosses the boundary into Baxter State Park on its way to Katahdin.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller, and in 2014 it was released as another major Hollywood film about thru-hiking. The number of AT thru-hikers – in particular, hikers like Bryson and Strayed, with little or no experience – may increase as a result of this exposure. It remains to be seen just how many of these hikers will actually reach Baxter State Park.

Park staff are concerned about the issues that the Park is currently experiencing related to AT thru-hikers, and worried that these problems may get worse. Because of the large number of other tasks and management issues handled by Park staff, Baxter State Park is unwilling to devote additional staff time and resources to thru-hiker issues. If these problems continue or worsen, there is a very real chance that the Baxter State Park Authority will take action, possibly

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Answer: Trivia Question in Spring Newsletter

In our spring newsletter, we asked “The road through Baxter State Park is sometimes called the Perimeter Road. See Photo. Where was this picture taken?” The answer was D, New Hampshire. Congratulations to Ken Spalding and Al Larson, who both answered correctly.

The End of the Trail Continued from pg.3

closing the AT in the Park or moving the terminus off Katahdin.

Closure of the AT in Baxter State Park is a worst-case scenario. Katahdin was selected as the end of the AT for a reason – it is iconic, exceptional, and utterly unlike anywhere else on the trail. Springer Mountain to Abol Bridge just doesn't have the same gravitas. But the mission of Baxter State Park is extremely clear – resource protection comes first. This mandate from Governor Baxter sometimes requires difficult, and potentially controversial, decisions. Continued degradation of the Park's wilderness and recreational values is simply unacceptable.

The vibrant community of organizations and individuals that supports the Appalachian Trail is fully aware of this situation. Many organizations are working to address these issues and avoid the potential consequences. The Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) is playing a lead role in this effort, and recently developed a poster encouraging thru-hikers to treat Baxter State Park with respect. The Maine Appalachian Trail Club is hanging this poster in shelters along the AT in Maine, and its "ridgerunners" are making a special effort to educate thru-hikers about Baxter State Park as they pass through other sections of the trail. Bloggers, app developers, and hostel owners are helping communicate the urgent need for all thru-hikers to treat the northern

terminus of the trail with respect.

Friends of Baxter State Park is also working to resolve these thru-hiker issues in a constructive way. On July 21, we hosted a meeting that included representatives from Baxter State Park, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association, and the Maine Appalachian Trail Club, as well as local business owners and members of the thru-hiking community. Our goal was to work together to find positive, collaborative solutions to the problems Baxter State Park is facing related to AT thru-hikers. Everyone came to the meeting with an open mind and deep respect for the mission and wilderness values of Baxter State Park. We had a productive conversation and generated some great ideas. Friends will continue to work toward positive solutions to this issue, and we welcome feedback from our members.



Looking back...

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

The Four Fools

After legendary ranger Roy Dudley began his tenure at the park's Chimney Pond Campground in 1924 he saw the need to develop a few more trails upon Katahdin's higher elevations. One of his dreams was to mark a trail from the top of the Saddle Slide, across the Northwest Plateau, and down into the remote Northwest Basin glacial cirque. The building of that trail is an interesting bit of history. It took five years of arduous work to complete and mark the trail and build a rough shelter at the basin, but the trail was finally completed in 1934 by the self-named "four fools" - Roy and Abby Dudley and Frank and Grace Butcher. Though the trail was known at first as the Four Fools Trail it eventually became a part of today's Northwest Basin Trail from the Russell Pond area to the Saddle.



The remote cirque of the Northwest Basin, reflected in the waters of Davis Pond. This is the June image in the 2016 Baxter State Park calendar – please see page 2 for more information.

– Photo © Glenn LeBlanc

the other through Chimney Pond. At the foot of the cirque is a lovely mountain tarn, Davis Pond. There have been a number of reports of hearing "voices" while camping at the basin when investigation did not turn up evidence of anyone else in the area. Do you suppose some native spirits are still there – or perhaps long forgotten lumbermen who logged even to the basin in the 19th century. However it might be, what a blessing it has been to those who visit there seeking a memorable overnight wilderness experience in this remarkable place.

Today one may camp at the lone, one-party lean-to in the basin but only after a two day hike along two separate trails both of which start at Roaring Brook Campground, one through Russell Pond and



Abbe Museum hosts *Greatest Mountain* exhibit by James Francis

This summer, the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine is hosting *Greatest Mountain*, an exhibit curated by Penobscot artist and historian James Francis. The exhibit is a combination of research, both through Penobscot histories and accounts of non-Native travelers

music, stories, and the Penobscot language, all of which bring this sacred mountain to life. The centerpiece of the exhibit is a model of Katahdin that Francis created in layers using a CNC machine.

Images move and flicker across *Greatest Mountain*, a compilation of time-lapse photographs taken by Francis at night in November 2014. Along with these time-lapse photographs, there is a song composed by Francis, various other video and still imagery, and spoken word pieces of Penobscot people sharing stories. "*Greatest Mountain* is the fascinating and engaging result of James's unique perspective as an artist, historian, guide, and Penobscot tribal member," said Julia Clark, director of collections & interpretation at the Abbe. "Together, these result in a view of Katahdin unlike any other."

Greatest Mountain will be in the main gallery of the Museum's downtown Bar Harbor location through August. For more information, please call the Abbe Museum at (207) 288-3519.

Greatest Mountain, an exhibit curated by Penobscot artist and historian James Francis, will be on display at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor, Maine through this August.

– Photo courtesy of Abbe Museum

and accounts of non-Native travelers and writers, with images,

President's Column

by Dick Klain

Why do you come to Baxter?

This simple question brings a lifetime of memories. My reasons for returning to Baxter State Park have changed over the decades. My initial experience was as a fifteen year old involved in the Junior Maine Guide Program as a junior counselor. Our mentor at Camp Buckskin was Preston Smith from Cherryfield. He was a Registered Maine Guide when there were many fewer than today. While canoeing in the Machias Lakes he challenged our group to help preserve what we were seeing from further development "like Percy Baxter has done for Mt. Katahdin." To me at the time Baxter State Park was a green postage stamp in the center of Maine on the road maps of the state. My parents were both hunters and my dad an avid fisherman. They had turned their backs on the land to explore the sea and Penobscot Bay. Growing up in Bangor I had no idea what the park was like as my summers had been spent in the southwestern areas of Maine at our family camp. Now on my first "job," Preston was telling us about one man and what he had done for each one of us. I vowed to see this place and to climb his mountain.

After the camp season, one of the counselors at Camp Buckskin put together a trip to Baxter. When I first saw that mountain I was amazed that anything like this existed in the state. Two years earlier I had hiked in Yosemite, Kings Canyon, and Yellowstone National Parks. Mt. Katahdin was their equal - right here in Maine. We went up the Abol Trail and down the Hunt. It was a clear day with marvelous visibility. Before dusk as we gathered around our fire celebrating our climb a ranger came by to ask if we would help extinguish a fire in the park started by a lightning strike. We all jumped into the back of a pick-up with Indian pumps, rakes, and shovels and took off down the perimeter road. When we stopped the ranger picked up two of the full pumps and headed into the woods at a good clip. I was told to bring two rakes and two shovels and set out to keep up with this ranger, no easy task. We soon came upon the "fire"; it had burned about an acre. The flames were small and were easily extinguished. That night back at camp we all slept in smoky clothes. Little did I know that BSP had christened me for a lifetime relationship.

In my later teens and twenties Katahdin was always the destination. I soon found that several of my high school friends had personal relationships with the area. The Kelloggs,

the Woods, the McEvoy's, the Geaghans - all spent time in this place. They explored other sections of the park and enjoyed the canoeing, the fishing, the solitude, as well as the hiking. I was able to introduce this place to many other friends over the years. My favorite day hike was the newly opened Helon Taylor Trail to Pamola across the Knife Edge to Baxter Peak and then down the Hunt Trail. I soon learned that this was a bit much for many of my friends.

Hiking at Baxter State Park has always been my primary activity. It was part of a healing process that again led me to stand on the tableland and approach the summit after spending nearly a year in the hospital due to an automobile accident. As I climbed up the Cathedral Trail I knew that my life wasn't over and had only just begun. I was not as nimble as I had been but it was doable and the pain at the time only intensified the feeling of accomplishment.



Dick and Ellen Klain at the upper falls on the Howe Brook Trail.
— Photo © Sarah Klain

I introduced my future wife to Baxter by cross-country skiing into South Branch Pond in early March. After only one night the Park worked its magic. She was smitten. Soon after marriage and very young children we curtailed our hiking and concentrated on the camping and canoeing experience for a while. We found some great swimming holes and soon experienced the joys of Kidney, Daicey, and of course South Branch Pond Campgrounds. My secretaries and staff at work always found it more than unusual that I, an otherwise reasonable man, would take off the first business day of the new year to stand in line in the sub-zero cold in Millinocket to get reservations for a week in the summer or to set up an epic hike throughout the Park. I felt that it only made the experience richer.

Baxter State Park cemented my relationship with my brother-in-law from Chicago. After several years I was able to talk him into

bringing his family with us to Baxter. We were joined by my sister-in-law and her two children. The eleven of us camped out at the Avalanche Field group camping area. We split the group up and hiked up to Chimney Pond over the Cathedral to Baxter and then across the Knife Edge and back down. I guided Ed and his family on this epic journey. The next day my two sisters-in-law drove the vehicles to South Branch Pond while the rest of the troop headed to Russell Pond for two nights. We explored around the pond, marveled at a moose family, shivered and showered at Green Falls, then continued to South Branch Pond to finish our stay at the bunkhouse and a couple of lean-tos. The next year they needed no coaxing to visit Baxter State Park. Until his death Ed and I were much closer after this shared experience.

My children grew to love the Park as a part of their being. They were known to race each other or their cousins to the top of each peak within the Park so they could enjoy themselves before mom and dad caught up. They learned to canoe on Daicey Pond. When one of my daughters got married part of her honeymoon was to share Baxter with her new husband. Hiking and climbing has led my daughters to the Cascades, the Canadian Rockies, the Japanese Alps, the European Alps, and the White Mountains. But they always ask for time at Baxter.

I no longer feel the need to climb to the summit of Katahdin every year. I enjoy volunteering in the Park and helping others enjoy it. I enjoy the more level hiking though the attraction of the mountains remains. Last year I hiked up the Hamlin Ridge Trail for the first time in thirty years to the tableland and then back down the well-used Saddle Trail listening to conversations in at least three languages other than English.

I come to Baxter to cement my relationship with my Maine mountain roots. I come for the company of friends and family on the trail. I come for the odors of fresh air. I come for the taste of familiar recipes cooked with lake or stream water. I come to touch hard pink and yellow granite, smooth birch trees, and rough pines and spruce. I come to listen to wind, birds, squirrels, and even the clomp and rush of moose moving. I come to see a panorama and panoply of sights found nowhere else. I come to marvel at the forces at work in this place unassisted by man. I come to laugh. I come to cry. I come to pray. I come to bless Percival Baxter and his vision.

Friends updates membership levels

You may have noticed that we recently made some changes to our membership levels, which have been constant since the organization was founded in 2000. They were established when Friends was a small, all-volunteer organization, with an annual budget a tiny fraction the size of what it is today. As a grassroots membership organization, the amount of support we can provide to Baxter State Park depends on the financial support of our members. Our bylaws give the Board of Directors the discretion to adjust membership dues from time to time. At our May meeting, the Board decided it was time. Here is a summary of the changes:

- We kept the new student membership level at \$10, established last year to encourage youth involvement
- We increased a Family membership from \$30 to \$35, and a Sponsor membership from \$50 to \$60
- We dropped the “er” from Hamlin Peaker and Knife Edger, but otherwise kept those levels the same.
- We changed the \$500 level from “Katahdin Club” to “Traveler” to honor another great mountain in the Park.
- We now define our Governor Baxter Society as anyone donating \$1,000 or more per year. We kept the existing \$1,000 level, and added membership tiers at \$2,500, \$5,267 (the elevation of Katahdin), and \$10,000 to accommodate our members who would like to donate at these higher levels.

You can check out the new levels on the back cover of this newsletter. You’ll see these appear on all of our printed materials, as well as on our website, over the next few months. Thank you so much for your continued membership support, which makes all of our great work on behalf of Baxter State Park possible.

Thoreau Spring story featured in *Appalachia*

An article written by FBSP historian Howard Whitcomb appears in the Summer / Fall 2015 issue of *Appalachia*, the journal of the Appalachian Mountain Club. The article is entitled “*What Happened to the Thoreau Spring Plaque? The Story of a Maine Landmark’s Two Names.*” Members who attended our 2014 Annual Meeting got a sneak preview of this fascinating story, but you’ll want to pick up a copy of the magazine for all the details.



– Cover image courtesy of Brian Wiggins

Bryan Wiggins’ Novel *Autumn Imago* set in Baxter State Park

By Paul Corrigan

If agent response is any indication of interest, Bryan Wiggins’ book *Autumn Imago* has a bright future. Set in Baxter State Park, his work already has one offer of representation from an agent, while two others are considering his manuscript. Wiggins’ story is about the Strand family, long time campers at Kidney Pond. After the tragic drowning of Jordan, the youngest daughter, the family’s yearly vacations in the shadow of Mount Katahdin come to an end. Wiggins’ book traces how the family deals with the tragedy. Paul Strand becomes a ranger at Baxter Park and seeks solace in the Park’s pristine wilderness. His sister Kim takes religious vows and becomes an ordained minister. Youngest sibling Tommy falls prey to a life of drug addiction. Years pass. Then, at the request of elderly mother, Maura, an inter-generational gathering of Strands holds a final reunion at Kidney Pond in which unresolved family conflicts arise and struggle for resolution.

Wiggins’ inspired writing captures the magic of Baxter Park as it weaves a moving tale of the conflicts of the human heart. His descriptions have an authentic ring about them, and the reader will recognize

in this work a writer who knows and loves Governor Baxter’s magnificent gift to the people of Maine. Anyone interested in a sneak preview of *Autumn Imago* can write to Bryan Wiggins and he will gladly send a digital copy of his book:
bryan@wigginscreative.com.

Friends Joins 1% for the Planet

We are proud to announce that Friends of Baxter State Park became a nonprofit partner of 1% for the Planet on May 14, 2015. Many thanks to Thread Rolling, Inc. of East Hartford, Connecticut for referring Friends to membership in this global program.



Report from a Newcomer: Friends of Baxter State Park Has Taken Flight

By Alec Giffen

I was fortunate to be offered the opportunity to join the Board of Directors of Friends of Baxter State Park (FBSP) in April 2013. This may have given me a different perspective from those who have been involved much longer, and those who are not involved with the month-to-month workings of the organization. Suffice it to say that during my tenure on the Board, I have witnessed a dramatic transformation in FBSP.

Hatched in 2000, FBSP has grown over the past 15 years into a valued partner for Baxter State Park. Thanks to the great work of the founding mothers and fathers – particularly our past presidents John Neff, Holly Dominie, Charlie Jacobi, and Barbara Bentley – the organization was ready to take wing about the time that I joined.

The group fledged on efforts like the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, which has influenced so many young lives and inspired the next generation of conservationists. Our trails program has supported the reconstruction or relocation of eight of the Park’s most popular trails, improving the Park for all hikers who visit it. The effort to develop a botanical guide for Baxter State Park is unprecedented and will certainly serve as a very valuable scientific reference, particularly in light of climate change.

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A Report from a Newcomer:

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Graduates of the 2014 Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, one of the flagship programs that has grown with Friends over the past seven years.

– Photo © Natalie Palmer

With the hiring of Aaron Megquier – who has in my view a close to perfect mix of humility, creativity, initiative and diligence – FBSP has flourished. The tireless leadership of Charlie Jacobi was critical to this transition. Charlie was always there whenever the Friends needed him, and I wish him the best in his new endeavors.

Over the past two years, I've witnessed accomplishments like:

- Establishing a bona fide office
- The maturation of the financial side of the organization, including creating an endowment fund and establishing guidelines for many aspects of our finances
- Updating FBSP's bylaws and operating practices
- Completion of multi-year efforts, as well as continuation of existing programs, which demonstrate the group's stamina
- Success in fundraising
- Interest in tackling broader issues, such as climate change and land use surrounding the Park
- The growing stature of FBSP within the nonprofit community, as witnessed by our recent membership in 1% for the Planet.

All of these accomplishments bear witness to the successes and transformation of FBSP. Everyone who has contributed to this success, whether as founders, board members, members or volunteers, should take pride in the success of Friends – may it soar to new heights.



Aaron Megquier, Friends' Executive Director, drawing the winners of the 2015 membership raffle.

– Photo © Sarah Holland

Raffle Winners

Congratulations to Betsy and Dan Barrett, Josie Quintrell, and Susan Parks, all of whom won prizes in our 2015 membership raffle! Perhaps inspired by the chance at great prizes, over 70 new members have joined Friends so far this year.

Baxter State Park Trivia

– Puzzle Master Al Howlett

John Neff has long experience in trail maintenance. He used to be responsible for the maintenance of the Hunt Trail up Katahdin. Before John, who was responsible for the Hunt Trail?

- a.) Charlie Jacobi
- b.) Myron Avery
- c.) George Hunt
- d.) Frank Trautmann

Send Trivia answers to
admin@friendsofbaxter.org



A Maine Army National Guard UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter picking up materials at Caribou Pit for transport to the new lean-tos being built on Wassataquoik Stream.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

Thanks to the Maine Army National Guard

Friends of Baxter State Park would like to extend a big thank-you to the men and women of the Maine Army National Guard. For several decades, the Maine Army National Guard and Baxter State Park have had a strong and mutually beneficial partnership. Guard units assist with search and rescue operations, as well as flying building materials into remote locations. This provides valuable training missions for soldiers, and saves Baxter State Park a huge amount of time and effort. It's a win-win for everyone, and we appreciate it!

Call for photos for the 2017 Baxter State Park Calendar!

Please visit www.friendsofbaxter.org for submission guidelines.

Submission deadline: October 30, 2015.





Friends of Baxter State Park

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- _____ \$10 Student
- _____ \$25 Individual
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- _____ \$60 Sponsor
- _____ \$100 Hamlin Peak
- _____ \$250 Knife Edge
- _____ \$500 Traveler

Join our Governor Baxter Society:

- _____ \$1,000 Pamola Peak
- _____ \$2,500 South Peak
- _____ \$5,267 Baxter Peak
- _____ \$10,000 Katahdin

Please make checks payable to Friends of Baxter State Park, or join online.

Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Send to:

Friends of Baxter State Park
PO Box 322
Belfast, ME 04915

Thank you!

Join us for an upcoming event

There are many ways to get involved with Friends of Baxter State Park this fall! Please join us for a hike up Doubletop, a volunteer weekend in the Park, or a fall festival. To sign up for volunteer opportunities, please contact Alison Violette at volunteer@friendsofbaxter.org.

August 28: Day Hike of Doubletop

One of the most distinctive summits in the Park, Doubletop offers a challenging day hike with great views. We'll hike from the south via the trailhead at Kidney Pond. Host: Aaron Megquier. Space is limited, please RSVP to Sarah at admin@friendsofbaxter.org.

September 18 - 20: Trails End Festival, Millinocket, Maine

September is a beautiful time to visit Millinocket and spend the weekend at the Trails End Festival. You can stop by the Friends booth on Friday or Saturday. For more information, please visit www.trailsendfestival.org.

September 25 - 27: Common Ground Fair, Unity, Maine

Friends will be at the Common Ground Fair all weekend - please come visit our booth in the Environmental Concerns tent. We'll have our Katahdin model, many Baxter items for sale, and we always enjoy catching up with members or new friends.

September 26 - 27: Volunteer Weekend at Togue Pond

Tentative projects include pulling bristly locust that is crowding out other plants, Togue Pond beach and Visitor Center work, installing new posts for signs at Visitor Center, and other sign posts in the area. Lodging TBD.

October 17 - 18: Volunteer Weekend at Kidney & Daicey

Projects at Kidney and Daicey Ponds include stacking/chopping wood, shingling roofs, working on cribwork and gravel, and more. Lodging TBD but most likely in cabins.