



# FOREVER WILD



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Fall 2023

Vol. 22 No. 3

## Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

Volunteerism is an essential ingredient of our success as an organization. Over the past two decades, our volunteers have cleared blow-downs, published books, testified at legislative hearings, conducted thousands of hours of research, and inspired countless Maine youth to care about the Park.

This tradition of volunteerism is also embodied by our incredible Board of Directors. Although Friends has a small but mighty professional staff, we would never be able to achieve everything we do without their expertise and hard work. They are the driving force behind our success as an organization.

We are very excited to launch our new podcast series, *Baxter and Friends*. For this series, Board members Jensen Bissell and Bill Green are traveling the state of Maine to interview key figures in Baxter State Park's history. Our first four episodes – with Buzz Caverly, John Neff, Howard Whitcomb, and Chris Drew – are already live, with more to come. You can listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or wherever you get your podcasts.

Our Board has led many other key initiatives in recent years. Jerry Bley and members of our First Light Committee have been moving us forward thoughtfully on Wabanaki issues. Ryan Linehan and our Youth Programs Committee helped us successfully adapt our youth programs to the pandemic. Our Development Committee, led by Steuart Thomsen, kept us financially sound during a challenging fundraising period, and even carried out a successful endowment campaign. Our Membership Committee, led by Carla Ritchie, helped us gain many new members and carry out our first-ever membership survey. This committee is also guiding our return to in-person program-

*Continued on pg. 2*



Emma McGraw, a 2023 Conservation Fellow and trail crew leader, stands in thigh-deep water in front of the informational kiosk near where the Appalachian Trail enters Baxter State Park. This summer saw significant flooding in several areas of the Park. Learn more and stay up-to-date at [friends-of-baxter.org/current-conditions](https://friends-of-baxter.org/current-conditions).

– Photo © Tori McGraw

## Results are in from our 2023 Membership Survey

by Carla Ritchie

Friends recently carried out a survey to better understand the opinions and needs of our members and other stakeholders. Thank you so much to the 220 individuals who responded! The results were a pleasure to read and reminded us of the vital roles we play for our members and the Park. Two themes rang true throughout the responses: an abiding passion for the Park and the remote, rugged experience it provides; and the importance of Percival Baxter's legacy as laid out in the Deeds of Trust.

Most of our respondents enjoy hiking and camping, usually with friends and family. Frontcountry lean-tos and tent sites are the most popular camping

destinations, although backcountry sites and cabins at Daicey and Kidney are also popular. Respondents joined Friends because they believe in our mission and because being a Friends member keeps them connected to the Park. They love our youth programs, the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program and Baxter Youth Conservation Corps. Respondents support our mission-centric advocacy activities, position statements, trail work, land acquisitions, and outreach/education.

*"You are doing a wonderful job. I love your youth involvement projects. That and advocacy are the reasons I continue as a member."*

*Continued on pg. 3*



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Josie Quintrell, President  
 Stuart Thomsen, Vice President  
 Hope Rowan, Secretary  
 Nate Tefft, Treasurer  
 Anna Bastidas  
 Ellen Baum  
 Jensen Bissell  
 Jerry Bley  
 Liz Burroughs  
 Alec Giffen  
 Bill Green  
 Ryan Linehan  
 Peter Millard  
 Carla Ritchie  
 Jym St. Pierre

### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Dean Bennett  
 Alexandra Conover Bennett  
 Buzz Caverly  
 Jon Lund  
 Libby Mitchell  
 Chellie Pingree  
 Kay Rand  
 Rupert Baxter White

### HISTORIAN

Howard Whitcomb

### STAFF

Executive Director  
 Aaron Megquier  
 Deputy Director  
 Mary Weitzman  
 Membership Coordinator  
 Rachel Spatz Bidstrup  
 Communications &  
 Outreach Coordinator  
 Cathy Brown

PO Box 322  
 Belfast, ME 04915

[www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)  
[info@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:info@friendsofbaxter.org)

Friends of Baxter State Park strives to inspire passion for the Park's wild character in the spirit of Percival Baxter. We promote exemplary use, natural resource stewardship, and a healthy Katahdin region to ensure the Park forever remains a refuge.

## Executive Director's Column

*Continued from Pg. 1*

ming – like our special tour of the SFMA for members on October 27.

Ellen Baum oversaw all of these efforts as our Board President from 2019 to 2023. She was fearless in the face of every challenge the pandemic could throw at us. Ellen led us through a significant expansion of our staff, the development of a new strategic plan, some heated advocacy issues, a successful endowment campaign, and our 20th anniversary celebrations – all against the ever-shifting backdrop of the pandemic. Our new President, Josie Quintrell, took the helm in April and is already bringing her incredible energy and inspired leadership to our work on behalf of the Park.

We are so grateful for the support of our Board members, committee members, and all of our volunteers! Please join me in thanking them for their wisdom, passion, and dedication.



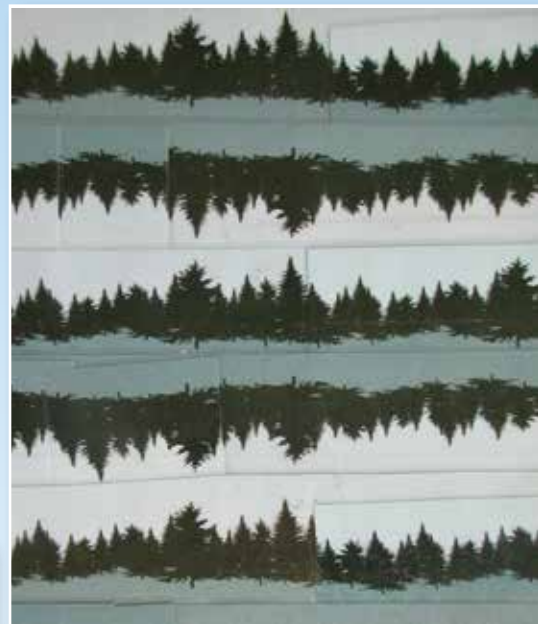
Friends Executive Director Aaron Megquier works with the BYCC trail crew on a hot day in July, covered in mud, having a great time!  
 – Photo © Jake Kowalski



## Member Musings

Miscellany from our Membership

**MOMENTUM** *noun* The quantity of motion of a moving body, measured as a product of its mass and velocity; the impetus gained by a moving object.



A Collected Collage from the Membership Desk By Rachel Spatz Bidstrup

Member Musings is an edited collection of submissions based on a prompt. Submissions can be in any form, such as essays, poems, sketches, artwork, photography, and other miscellany. The next prompt for our winter edition is **CALM**. Send submissions to [rachel@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:rachel@friendsofbaxter.org) or PO Box 322, Belfast, ME 04941; they must be received by November 1, 2023. Space is limited, and all submissions may not be published.

### In the Bookstore



This is a must-have field guide for any Park or botanical enthusiast. Did you know that BSP is home to several species of Saxifrage found nowhere else in Maine?! If you want to learn more about the botanical side of BSP, then pick up a copy of **The Plants of Baxter State Park** from our online store. This extensively researched field guide includes useful keys, illustrated plant-family sections, an informative introduction, a glossary of botanical terms, an extensive index of scientific and common names, and over 2,000 full-color photographs of 857 plant species found in the Park. Visit our store online at [friendsofbaxter.org/store](http://friendsofbaxter.org/store) to order your copy of **The Plants of Baxter State Park**.

## How to Contact Us:

Friends of Baxter State Park | PO Box 322 | Belfast, ME 04915  
 (207) 331-4164

Aaron Megquier,  
 Executive Director  
[director@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:director@friendsofbaxter.org)

Rachel Spatz Bidstrup,  
 Membership Coordinator  
[rachel@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:rachel@friendsofbaxter.org)

Mary Weitzman,  
 Deputy Director  
[mary@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:mary@friendsofbaxter.org)

Cathy Brown,  
 Communications & Outreach  
[cathy@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:cathy@friendsofbaxter.org)



## Results are in Continued from pg.1

*"Friends gives me the chance to assist in the future of the Park."*

*"It's one of our favorite places on earth, and we wanted to be a part of protecting Baxter State Park for future generations and keeping it forever wild."*

*"There are so many special memories it brings back. I want to give back some of what it's given me."*

Participants' generational history with the Park also came through loud and clear! We enjoyed reading the responses related to years of family trips and the joy people found in introducing the next generation to Baxter State Park.

*"I have been visiting BSP since I was a kid, and it is a unique special place to me and several generations of my family. We have a cherished family photo of my grandfather and his sister as teenagers on the mountain."*

*"I want to keep the Park's mission in alignment with Baxter's vision and encourage the next generation to do the same."*

Respondents were grateful for the Park management's commitment to the Deeds of Trust and Percival Baxter's vision. Respondents also appreciate the Park's primitive campsites, controlled number of users, resource protection, limited technology, and abundant wildlife.

*"True wilderness experience. Total disconnection from technology, noise, and chaos of the outside world."*

*"The outside world disappears when you're in the Park. It's a refuge."*

*"It feels like my safe space. No other place makes me feel as peaceful and grateful."*

### What else can Friends do to support the Park?

We can work to expand education about the Park and its uniqueness, increase Park access for youth and others who may face barriers to visiting the Park, increase volunteer activities, advocate for mitigating the impacts of climate change, and support Park staff and Forever Wild management practices.

### How can we support our members?

We can host Friends events both in the Park and around the state. We can encourage our members to share their stories, favorite places, and adventures in the Park. We can provide more communication by highlighting the "trails less traveled" or putting together some self-guided hikes.

*"The organization needs to continue to involve patrons of all ages and stages of life to continue to protect the Park."*

*"We do not currently live in Maine, and our ability to experience Baxter is limited, so we rely on Friends to stay up on and experience*

*what we can through the organization."*

*"The virtual session you held in 2021 that allowed members to listen to experts was fantastic and a great experience for someone like me."*

### What are your favorite things about the Park?

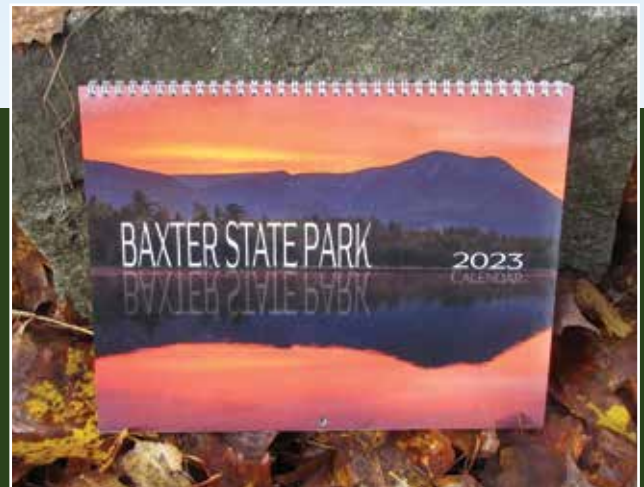
#### What would you like to see improved?

Respondents like the Park's primitive, wild, natural, unchanged character and the solitude they find. They like the history of the Park and the various activities to experience, including enjoying the views and wildlife. Baxter's vision and Park staff were also common responses as favorite things about the Park. Respondents would like to improve the reservation system, winter access for people as they age, more staff presence in campgrounds, and trail maintenance.

### What's next?

Friends will learn from this valuable feedback. We will continue doing what works well, and make changes over time to incorporate the feedback provided. In the near term, we are adopting a trail in the Park to provide volunteer opportunities to members; offering two programs focused on the Scientific Forest Management Area this fall; expanding member connections with the Park through outreach and communication; and finding new ways for members to share their stories.

As always, we value your input at any time. Please reach out to our Board or staff with any suggestions or feedback.



## Call for Photos - 2025 BSP Calendar

Friends is seeking photo submissions for the 2025 Baxter State Park calendar! The calendar is an important outreach tool for the Park and a great opportunity to support the Park with your photography. The submission deadline is October 31, 2023. For submission guidelines and more information, please visit [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org) or email [rachel@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:rachel@friendsofbaxter.org).

- Calendar cover photo © Glenn LeBlanc

## Answer: Trivia Question in Spring Newsletter

In our last newsletter, we asked What is a tarn? Name five that exist in Baxter State Park.

Congratulations to Cloe Chunn for answering correctly! Answer: Tarns in Baxter State Park include Chimney Pond, Davis Pond, Lake Cowles, Klondike Pond, the Basin Ponds, and Depot Pond.

## President's Column

by Josie Quintrell



Peter Millard, Brennan Turner and Carla Richie on the trail.

– Photo © Josie Quintrell

Walk along any of the 220 miles of trails in the Park, and you will likely walk over a water bar. Shedding snow melt, spring runoff, and rainwater away from hiking trails is essential for mitigating erosion, keeping hikers dry and on the path, and discouraging the “spreading of trail.” Some water bars are stone, some are wood, some are new, and others are old and barely noticeable. Over the year, leaves, dirt, and other materials build up behind the bar reducing its effectiveness. Cleaning water bars is one of the jobs for the volunteers who are part of BSP’s Adopt-a-Trail program.

On June 10th, I attended the Adopt-a-Trail training with fellow Board members Carla Ritchie and Peter Millard. Friends has adopted the Katahdin Lake Trail as a way to give back and to do our part to keep the trails open and clear. Katahdin Lake Trail is an obvious choice, as FBSP was one of many organizations that worked hard to add Katahdin Lake to the Park in 2006. Since then, the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps has done extensive work in this area. In 2017 they concentrated on nine miles of trails near Katahdin Lake, creating trail corridors, bridges, and step stones. We will make three trips to work on the Katahdin Lake trails this year and invite members to join us once we get a sense of the need.

Brennan Turner, Trail Supervisor for the Park, led the training for about ten volunteers. He and Trail Specialist Kristen English are a wealth of knowledge on all things trails. Volunteer trail maintainers keep the paths clear of natural overgrowth, remove small blowdowns, clean water bars, and repaint blazes. The heavy work of trail building, rerouting, building bog bridges, and clearing major blowdowns is done by the Trail Crews.

Blue blazes guide hikers on all the trails in the Park, except for the white blazes that mark the Appalachian Trail from Springer Mountain and to Baxter Peak. According to Brennan, the color blue was chosen after a ranger in CT studied what color is most visible at the end of the day when hikers are tired, and the light is fading. Blue turned out to be the most visible, and the Park uses blue blazes to guide hikers safely along their journeys. Carla and I certainly appreciated the repainted blue blazes on the Abol Trail when we hiked Katahdin the day following the training.

Another fun fact: it was on a volunteer trail work weekend that our Executive Director, Aaron, first connected with Friends.

See you on the (well-maintained) trails,  
Josie

## COMMON GROUND COUNTRY FAIR



CELEBRATE RURAL LIVING WITH MOFGA

SEPTEMBER 22, 23 & 24, 2023

UNITY, MAINE

GATES OPEN AT 9:00 AM

Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association

P.O. Box 170, Unity, Maine 04988 • 207-568-4142 • [mofga.org](http://mofga.org)

ADULTS \$15 advance / \$20 at the gate • ELDERS \$12 advance / \$15 at the gate

YOUTH 13-17 \$12 advance / \$15 at the gate • CHILDREN 12 and under free

ADVANCED TICKET SALES: August 1 - September 21

Friends was proud to host a booth at the Common Ground Country Fair in Unity on September 22 - 24. Our staff and Board members enjoyed connecting with our members and the public to answer questions and discuss all things Baxter State Park.



Members of the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps trying out the new stepping stones they installed on the Katahdin Lake Trail on July 3, 2023. This program has now contributed over 6,000 hours of trail work to Baxter State Park.

– Photo © Aaron Megquier





*Editor's Note: These updates were provided as a written memo to the BSP Authority at its meeting on July 21, 2023. It has been condensed for publication in this newsletter.*

## Park Visitation Summary and Operational Highlights:

Baxter State Park has rolled out a new Park information line. Acting Chief Ranger Rob Tice discovered that BSP has extra phone lines we were not aware of. We made one of them (207-731-9500) a visitor call-in line for daily Park conditions. Every day reservations staff will record a voice update of what is occurring in the Park and will include Trails, Roads, Water levels, Fire Danger (seasonal), and Other pertinent Park updates. The goal is to reduce the number of phone calls customer service representatives receive about Park updates. We are also working on a Park Update button on the BSP website that will also be updated daily giving the same information.

We have a persistent bear issue at Trout Brook Farm. A bear approximately 60-80 lbs has become accustomed to campers. We have been set up several times to deal with the bear and he hasn't shown up. There have been many other bear sightings across the Park but no other campgrounds are having issues of this frequency.

A bear of about 110-120 lbs was in South Branch Campground down by the water. Ranger Russ Porter was in the area and responded. Ranger Porter deployed blanks at the bear first to drive him out of the area with no success. He then fired a shotgun bean bag round towards the bear and struck it in the hind quarter. The bear then ran out of the campground. Although it was seen later it was staying outside the campground curtilage.

From the end of May to the beginning of July, we have responded to three lower leg injuries on the trail that needed a ranger response. Maine Forest Service was involved in one rescue. Rangers have also responded to three broken wrists during that time period.

## Natural Resources Department Update

In collaboration with Maine Inland Fish

## Update from Baxter State Park

by Park Director Kevin Adam

& Wildlife (IFW) staff, Park staff have installed acoustic bat detectors at 6 sites in the Park (on a two-week rotation), and plan to complete two more. At season's end, IFW staff will analyze the recordings and provide information about the presence of various bat species to the Park.

Staff have been performing seasonal detection and control of invasive plants. Knapweeds (*Centaurea* spp.) are being hand-pulled on trails in the south end of the Park, with detection efforts ongoing there and in locations in the Park that were treated last year. Following a successful small-scale experiment with mechanical control last year, staff are digging and hand-pulling bristly locust (*Robinia hispida*) at two locations in the Park.

On Katahdin's Tableland, staff have been collecting phenology data from five permanent plots that are part of the Northeast Alpine Flower Watch phenology study. A Katahdin arctic butterfly survey was completed on July 6, and staff has been documenting permanent alpine plant survey transects and other ecologically sensitive areas in advance of the commencing of trail work on the Saddle Trail.

Over a dozen special use permits have been issued for research and ongoing natural resource monitoring projects in the Park. Most of these permittees have either completed their work or the first of multiple planned days of work in the Park. Areas of study include alpine breeding birds, nightjars, bats, fish, water quality, rare plants, and forest health

In June BSP hosted a Maine Forest Service BMP Level 1 training. Ten Park staff (representing the SFMA, Maintenance, and Supervisor Rangers) and five staff from Park contractor A&A Brochu attended the daylong training, which focuses on protecting water quality in forest road and bridge construction.

## Information & Education

July saw the beginning of near-daily Mountain Patrol assignments, with assigned staff interacting with visitors about Katahdin's alpine environment, providing trail information and assistance to hikers, repairing string fencing, and various other tasks. I&E staff have been providing training opportunities on summit stewardship for staff newly participating in mountain patrols. I&E staff have been evaluating and fulfilling sign requests from staff in the field, including temporary wildlife-related signs and more permanent interpretive or operational signs. Rangers Dan Whitmore, Laura Whitney, and Robert Sweinhart learn Mtn Patrol Techniques

Over a dozen special use permits have

been issued for research and ongoing natural resource monitoring projects in the park. Most of these permittees have either completed their work or the first of multiple planned days of work in the Park. Areas of study include alpine breeding birds, nightjars, bats, fish, water quality, rare plants, and forest health.

In June BSP hosted a Maine Forest Service BMP Level 1 training. Ten Park staff (representing the SFMA, Maintenance, and supervising Rangers) and five staff from Park contractor A&A Brochu attended the daylong training, which focuses on protecting water quality in forest road and bridge construction.

## SFMA Update

In preparation for harvest operations, the decking was replaced on a bridge on the Useless Road (the cost was shared with Katahdin Forest Management, the road's owner), and 10 culverts have been replaced. Road grading began on June 26 on the roads in the southern portion of the SFMA, where the summer/fall harvest is taking place. Brent Chadbourne, a hand cutter, began harvesting on June 26. As of 7/12/2023, the A&A Brochu cut-to-length crew has been delayed in commencing work due to equipment issues.

Contractors are ready to undertake approximately eight miles of boundary line maintenance in the north end of the SFMA (with the cost being shared with the neighboring landowner), and approximately 200 acres of pre-commercial thinning to take place in July/August (with follow-up soil scarification by Brent Chadbourne).

Due to a prior re-routing of the Freezeout Trail that resulted in its bisecting of a harvest block, the cut-to-length crew will be harvesting on both sides of the hiking trail in July or August. Staff and harvest contractors are preparing to notify SFMA visitors, redirect them to other trails as much as possible, and minimize their risk if they plan to use the trail during the harvest.



Maintenance & Transportation Supervisor Keith Wehmeyer explaining the Daicey Pond cabin project to members of the BSP Authority and Advisory on June 2, 2023.

## Focus on the Scientific Forest Management Area

Spanning nearly 30,000 acres in the northwest corner of Baxter State Park, the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) was created by Percival Baxter to promote the implementation of advanced forestry techniques. Baxter described his goals for the area as follows:

*"I want this township to become a showplace for those interested in forestry, where a continuing timber crop can be cultivated, harvested and sold; where reforestation and scientific cutting will be employed; an example and an inspiration to others. What is done in our forests today will help or harm the generations who follow us."*

In contrast to the forever wild management in the rest of Baxter State Park, the SFMA includes active timber harvesting, as well as hunting, fishing, hiking, camping, and other recreational activities. Many of the forest products used in the Park are harvested in the SFMA. The SFMA also serves as a forestry demonstration site for students, working professionals, and Park visitors.

This fall, Friends will offer our members two events to highlight this often-overlooked piece of Baxter's legacy.

Our first event, a presentation entitled "Introduction to the Scientific Forest Management Area", was held on Tuesday, September 12, via Zoom. Our four expert presenters provided an overview of the history, goals, and management of the SFMA, as well as some broader context. Alec Giffen served as Director of the Maine Forest Service and a member of the Baxter State Park Authority. Jensen Bissell served Baxter State Park for three decades, initially as the forester in charge of the SFMA and later as Park Director. We were also joined by Nava Tabak, BSP Natural Resources Director, and Shane Miller, BSP Lands Manager, who provided an overview of current SFMA management. This Zoom event was recorded and can be viewed at [friendsofbaxter.org/sfma](http://friendsofbaxter.org/sfma).

Our second event this fall will be an in-person tour of the SFMA on Friday, October 27. This event is open to all Friends members. Space is limited, and advance registration is required. This event will be led by Nava Tabak, BSP Natural Resources Director, and Shane Miller, BSP Lands Manager. For more information or to register for these two programs, please visit [friendsofbaxter.org/sfma](http://friendsofbaxter.org/sfma).

After visiting the SFMA on a tour in 2014, Friends' former president Dick Klain offered this reflection: "Managing an area of this size and complexity is a daunting task, considering some of the trees in this area were 150 years old when Thoreau visited the area, and they are over 300 years old now. This is one of those sacred spots that make Baxter State Park so special."

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to learn from our experts and Park staff about the SFMA and its role in Percival Baxter's legacy.



Eben Syptkowski explains a map of the SFMA to Friends Board members on October 3, 2015.  
– Photo © Jym St. Pierre



Friends members explore the Scientific Forest Management Area in October 2015.  
– Photo © Jym St. Pierre



### Baxter State Park Trivia

Question: What vegetable has a variety named Katahdin?

Please send trivia answers to Rachel Spatz Bidstrup at [rachel@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:rachel@friendsofbaxter.org).

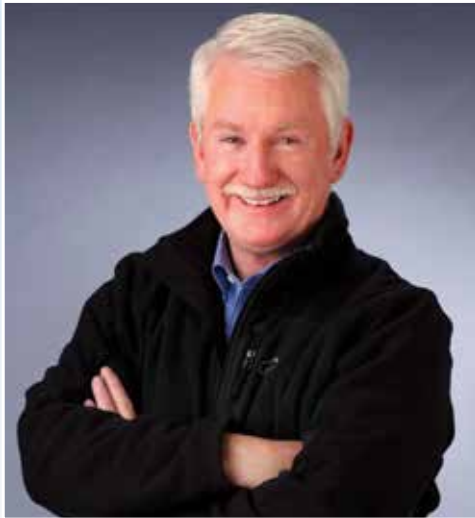


## Our Newest Podcast: Baxter and Friends



Get ready to be swept away with stories about Baxter State Park! Journey with us as we hear directly from those who made the Park their life's passion. We're talking about the magnificent obsession that is Baxter State Park with Friends Board members Bill Green and Jensen Bissell as they interview Baxter's most notable figures, each with their own story of their magnificent obsession.

Bill joined our board after he retired from over 40 years in Maine television. Host



of *Bill Green's Maine* for the past 15 years, he brings much expertise in interviewing to our podcast, and his curiosity and enthusiasm are contagious. "It's so much fun to hear these stories! It's history, but it's storytelling... and so interesting to hear how Baxter evolved and some things that happened there. I'm so impressed with Jensen. I knew he was a professional when he ran the Park, but he brings a wonderful perspective to the podcast. We are finding unlimited subjects to discuss, and we think that people who love the Park will love this podcast."

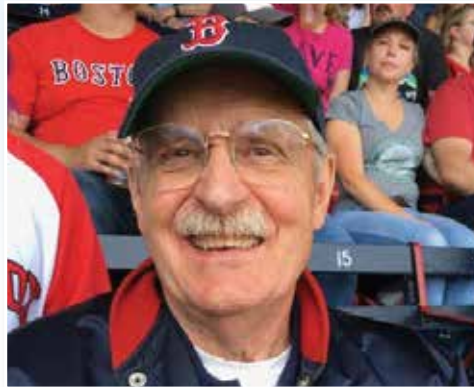
Jensen Bissell served as the director of the Scientific Forest Management Area



for 18 years and is credited for putting the SFMA on a sound footing before becoming Park Director, where he oversaw the incorporation of the legendary Katahdin Like before retiring after 30 years of service to BSP. His knowledge of Park history makes him the perfect person to conduct these interviews, and his insight into all things Baxter is phenomenal.

Former governor Percival P. Baxter, beginning in the 1930s, purchased some 201,000 acres over 30 years and gifted them to the state. In our first two episodes, take an in-depth look at Baxter, the man, and his legacy, with foremost Baxter expert Howard Whitcomb, author of *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park 1931-2006* (2008).

Howard Whitcomb first climbed Katahdin as a summer camper in 1951. He has a



Ph.D. in political science and had a 35-year professorial career, first at Colgate in Hamilton, New York, and then at Lehigh University in his hometown of Bethlehem, PA. In 1973-74 Whitcomb took a year's leave from his academic appointment to work as a Judicial Fellow at the Supreme Court of the United States, where he worked with Chief Justice Warren Burger and was a first-hand observer for U.S. v. Nixon, known as the

Watergate tapes case. He became a founding member of Friends in 2001 and was asked to write what was then called "The Baxter Paper Project," but became *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources in Four Volumes* (2005).

Upcoming episodes will feature Bill Green with retired Park Director Buzz Caverly, who first joined the ranger staff at Baxter State Park in 1960 when the new Park was taking shape under the direction of Helon Taylor and Percival Baxter. Bill and Jensen also spent time with John Neff, another noted historian and a 50-year trail volunteer for the Appalachian Trail section in the Park. He's the author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey - Legends, Explorations, and Preservation of Maine's Highest Peak*.

Subscribe to our series on Soundcloud, Spotify, or Apple Podcasts.

## Donn Fendler Remembered in Exhibit

By Cathy Brown

In 1939, 12-year-old Donn Fendler was separated from his companions on the top of Katahdin and became the subject of a massive



rescue mission that focused the nation's eyes on Baxter State Park and Millinocket. While his father and uncles joined the search daily, his mother stayed at Camp Natarwi, a Girl Scout camp on Togue Pond, where the girls were not allowed to sing Taps at night because "all was not well."

Hopes were dim when nine days later Fendler walked out of the woods on his own to a cabin in remote Lunksoos, near Grindstone. The Millinocket Historical Society's summer exhibit tells the story through a young girl's scrapbook collection of local newspaper clippings and pays tribute to the many people who helped in the search and celebrated the boy's rescue. You can see the exhibit online at [millinockethistoricalsociety.org/fendler](http://millinockethistoricalsociety.org/fendler) or visit the historical society at 80 Central Street in Millinocket, right on the way to the Park. If you visit the exhibit be sure to say hi to museum volunteer, Cathy Brown, our Communication and Outreach Coordinator.



**Friends of Baxter State Park**

**PO Box 322**

**Belfast, ME 04915**

Visit us at [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)

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



# MyBaxter

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

We're looking for new Friends!

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10 Student
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Individual
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 Family
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$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!*

## 2023 Sign Auction Begins on November 6

In partnership with Baxter State Park, Friends will be holding our seventh annual sign auction to make historic Park signs and other special items available to the public. Online bidding will open at 10:00am on Monday, November 6, and close at 10:00pm on Friday, December 1. Friends will donate 50% of the auction proceeds to Baxter State Park, and 50% will support our programs. All items will be available for preview by November 1 at the auction website: [www.32auctions.com/fbsp2023](http://www.32auctions.com/fbsp2023).

WASSATAQUOIK LAKE TRAIL

← LITTLE WASS. LEAN-TO 5.1

← NESOWADNEHUNK LAKE 11.3