



FOREVER WILD

Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Fall 2016

Vol. 15 No. 4

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

By any measure, the summer of 2016 was a big one for our organization. Here are some highlights from the past few months:

Friends received seed funding to develop and launch a new **Baxter Youth Conservation Corps**, which will hire youth from the Katahdin region to work on trail projects in Baxter State Park. This program will provide job training and well-paid summer employment for area youth, and donated trail services to Baxter State Park.

The Plants of Baxter State Park field guide was published on August 23 by the University of Maine Press, in association with Friends of Baxter State Park, Baxter State Park, and the Maine Natural History Observatory. We celebrated the release of the guide at three well-attended events in Orono, Brunswick, and Millinocket. Can you guess which location had the highest attendance? (Hint: it wasn't Brunswick or Orono). Thanks to the University of Maine, Gulf of Maine Books, and the Millinocket Memorial Library for partnering on these events. Since the guide was released, we haven't been able to keep copies in stock for more than a few weeks at a time.

The designation of **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument** on August 24 was a huge development that will impact our organization for years. It will require substantial investments of advocacy, outreach, and education for decades to come, and has the potential to help protect the wilderness values of Baxter State Park.

Friends is pursuing a project to create new **3D terrain models for Baxter State Park**. These will replace the current painted fiberglass Katahdin models, which show the high terrain of Katahdin but none of the trailheads. The new models will include six new Katahdin models for trailheads

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This map from October 2016 shows the National Monument lands in the vicinity of Katahdin Lake. Friends expects to play a significant role in the management planning process for the national monument, and to be an advocate for the wilderness values of Baxter State Park in decisions that will unfold over the coming years. The complete map can be downloaded from www.nps.gov/kaww.

—Map courtesy of National Park Service

Baxter State Park has a New Neighbor

by Aaron Megquier

On August 24, 2016, President Barack Obama created the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument on lands east of Baxter State Park. Permanently protecting 87,500 acres along and near the eastern boundary of BSP, the monument designation represents a tectonic shift in the ecological, economic, and recreational landscape of the Katahdin region. It is likely to have powerful and lasting impacts on Baxter State Park and surrounding communities.

Friends believes that the majority of these impacts will be positive – meaning they will support the wilderness values of

Baxter State Park – if carried out thoughtfully. For this reason, Friends has been supportive of the effort to conserve these lands since 2004. Our Board of Directors specifically supported the national monument designation earlier this year and expects to be deeply engaged in the management coordination between Baxter State Park and its new neighbor.

The entire Katahdin region, Baxter State Park included, is now thinking very hard about what comes next. The feeling of excitement and optimism is palpable. Even long-time opponents of federal presence in the region are start-

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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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and the Park visitor center, a Traveler Range model for South Branch Pond, and an entire-Park terrain model for Park Headquarters. The new models will be made by Solid Terrain Modeling, a California-based company that creates models for the Smithsonian, National Geographic Explorers Hall, and leading institutions around the world. Friends received an extremely generous \$50,000 pledge for this project from a donor in July. We are hoping to secure the remaining funds this fall and have the models installed for the 2017 season.

Friends is on the up and up, and we can't do it without the support of our members. Many thanks for all you do to support our work!

In Memoriam:

Donn Fendler,
 August 29, 1926 –
 October 10, 2016



Donn Fendler autographing a copy of *Lost on a Mountain in Maine* at Governor Baxter Day in 2013. Donn passed away on October 10, 2016 at the age of 90.
 – Photo by Aaron Megquier

Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Administrative Manager



As I was monitoring our booth at the Common Ground Fair this fall, a young man admired the model of Katahdin and scoped out our display of information. Then he asked "What happens to you?" I was a bit confused by the question. "Do you mean if you climb Katahdin?" "No, what happens to you if you join this group?" he clarified. I have turned this question over in my mind since then. We can easily talk about our mission and how our many projects benefit the Park, but what happens to you when you decide to support this work by joining? A vision of Pamola crashing through thunderous clouds to crown a new member with a golden halo and bouquets of balsam while a chorus of forest creatures sing an aria under a rainbow comes to mind. However, that is not quite what happens.

What does happen upon joining is that you become part of a community of people who share an enthusiasm for the Park. By receiving our quarterly newsletters and monthly email newsletter, you increase your knowledge of the Park's resources, history, wildlife, and activities. You become informed about issues facing the Park and how to participate in advocacy efforts. You hear about events and volunteer opportunities. You're invited on trips to the Park including day hikes and overnight excursions where you can meet new friends and share interests. You can feel good knowing that you are part of supporting projects like the *Plants of Baxter State Park* field guide, the Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program, alpine search and rescue training, Leave No Trace, and chainsaw certifications for trail crews. You can feel proud knowing you play a vital role in our mission to help preserve the wilderness character of the Park. That's what happens to you when you join. If you are not a member, please consider joining. If you are already a member, thank you – your membership matters.

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Baxter State Park has a New Neighbor *Continued from pg.1*



Spectacular views of the eastern side of Katahdin on the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. – Photo © Jym St. Pierre

ing to think about how to move forward. The National Park Service recently held a series of four listening sessions around Maine to get public input. Friends participated in the listening session in Millinocket on September 22, and the session in Orono on September 29. Throughout the three-year management planning process, we will remain focused on how best to protect the wilderness values of Baxter State Park.

Our role in this process acknowledges that Baxter State Park is impacted by many factors – including economic issues – that play out outside the Park boundary. For example, the Park depends heavily on the communities of the Katahdin region for materials, infrastructure, communications, housing, and livable communities that will attract and retain staff. Over the long term, viable communities will help ensure a viable Baxter State Park. Some unexpected challenges may arise – for example, it may be difficult for BSP to compete with federal salaries – but we are hopeful that these challenges can be offset by the broader benefits of a sustainable economy in the region.

The very name of the new National Monument – Katahdin Woods and Waters – acknowledges the defining role of Baxter State Park and Katahdin in the region. Many visitors to the monument will enjoy views of Katahdin from a distance, even if they choose not to get any closer. BSP is not meant to be a drive-through park – it is a wilderness park with limited roads and roadside views since it is mainly for hikers and campers, as Governor Baxter intended.

Baxter State Park issued this statement on the day the Quimby family transferred ownership of the property to the Department of the Interior:

We welcome the opportunity to work with our new neighbor, the Department of the Interior. Baxter Park has 100 miles of boundary and we share this boundary with around a dozen different landowners. We seek to have a good working relationship with all our neighbors and we look forward to doing the same with our newest one.

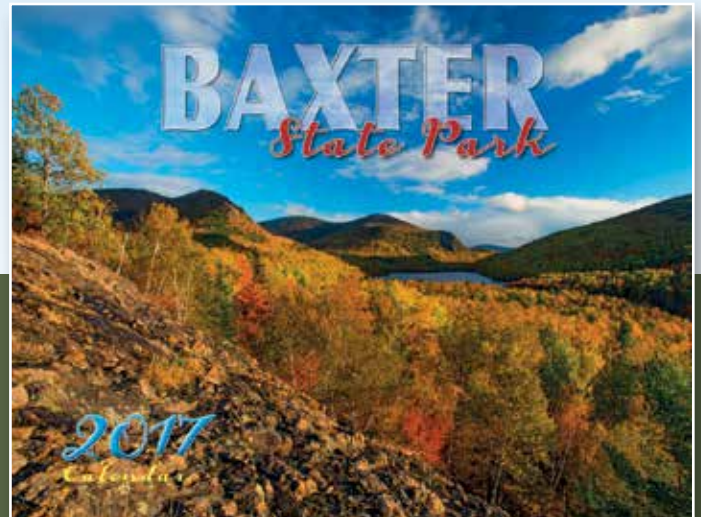
Park Director Jensen Bissell also recently summarized some of

the Park's concerns in a letter to Tim Hudson, Superintendent of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. That letter is available on the BSP website, and also on the Friends website at www.friendsofbaxter.org.

Friends expects to play a significant role in the management planning process for the national monument, and to be an advocate for the wilderness values of Baxter State Park in the regional development decisions that will unfold over the coming years. We welcome ideas and input from our members at any point during this process. If you have feedback, or would like to share your opinions, please email us at director@friendsofbaxter.org with National Monument Feedback as the subject line.

Call for Photos – 2018 BSP Calendar

Friends is currently accepting photo submissions for the 2018 Baxter State Park calendar. The calendar is an annual collaboration between Friends, Baxter State Park, and Maine Scene, a local family-owned publishing business. It's an important outreach tool for the Park, and a wonderful opportunity to support the Park with your photography. We are looking for all kinds of photos taken in the Park – people, landscapes, wildlife, plants, Park structures, and general nature photography. We are seeking photos taken during all 12 months of the year, and especially welcome photos taken during late fall, winter, and early spring. The deadline for submitting photos for the 2018 calendar is October 31, 2016. Detailed instructions and submission guidelines are available on our website at www.friendsofbaxter.org.



2017 Baxter State Park Calendars For Sale

Friends has 2017 Baxter State Park calendars for sale. The price is \$13, with sales tax and shipping included. All proceeds benefit Friends of Baxter State Park. We also have a limited number of 2016 calendars still available. These are on sale for \$8, tax and shipping included. The photos alone are worth the price. You can order online at www.friendsofbaxter.org or give us a call.

Answer: Trivia Question in Summer Newsletter

In our spring newsletter, we posed this question: "Percival Baxter's first gift of land to the State of Maine included much of Katahdin itself. When he made this gift, he transferred it _____?" The answer was b.) As a 3/8 interest in the property.

Editor's note: At the time of the donation in March 1931, Harry Ross owned the remaining 5/8 undivided interest. By September 1931, Baxter had successfully petitioned a Maine court to divide the parcel in T3R9 into separate and complete ownerships.

President's Column

by Dick Klain

Wilderness as a National Monument

"The carnivores that seem the most threatening these days are the two legged kind."

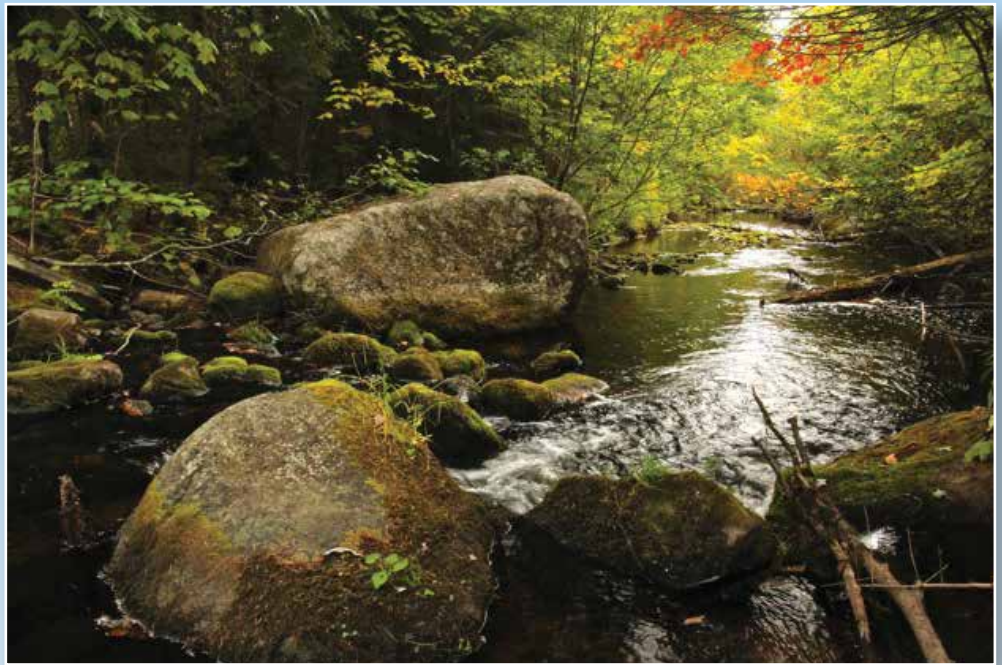
– Becky Weed, rancher, Belgrade, Montana.

"You must get out, to go in." – John Muir

Becky Weed, as quoted in the May 2016 issue of *National Geographic*, is talking about the changes around Yellowstone National Park where the debate about development and re-wilding is ongoing. John Muir is urging us to go into wilderness to awaken the spirituality of our human nature. They both speak to the same needs being expressed in the listening sessions for Baxter State Park's newest neighbor, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Percival Baxter in his wisdom early on came to the realization that the broken, burned, and hacked land which he purchased around Katahdin would be able to heal itself if exploitation could be curtailed. The Baxter State Park we experience today is nothing like what Thoreau or Roosevelt or Baxter experienced. None of these men saw the same sights either. Baxter knew this. The land of BSP is not static. It is dynamic. It is changing. Because of Baxter's vision it will evolve with less human involvement than in the nineteenth century and early twentieth. He wanted a natural sanctuary for the animals where humans would be visitors to their domain. The scenic views and personal views once shared by early visitors have changed and the remnants of human habitation in the park are mostly remembered by place names and an occasional iron pin or hole in a rock. Many of the trees we see today have many more decades to gain maturity. Imagine what wilderness monarchs they will become.

There have been dissertations and studies done concerning the lasting effects of infrequent human incursions on the lives of a variety of fauna and flora. Alas, these human incursions do have a negative impact even to the point of animal behavior becoming habituated to us. I personally know of Canada jays, mice, chipmunks, squirrels and rabbits that love to root around various campsites throughout the park. To be frank, in years past mem-



Flowing water is abundant on the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, from small brooks to the East Branch of the Penobscot.
–Photo © Jym St. Pierre

bers of my groups left "treats" for these small animals inadvertently training them to seek food around us. Now, we know better and discourage this behavior. The Roaring Brook parking lot sometimes sees deer licking the dust from cars. Black bears have shown themselves to be particularly adaptive at finding hiker/camper food throughout the park, endangering themselves and humans. This is not a part of Baxter's wilderness vision. The roads, trails, and campsites that exist in the park are limited in number by design to prevent this mixing of the species. We need to remember that we are guests in Maine's greatest wilderness.

The U.S. Forest Service and the National Park Service have come to "Wilderness" designations somewhat later in the game as these two entities have very different goals. Now there are areas in national forests and national parks which are designated as "Wilderness" where new "development" such as roads and permanent structures will not occur. These reserves are important to the larger areas that may surround them. They provide a home free of human incursion for the plants and the animals to exist in their "natural" relationships. They can be studied by humans to reflect on the changes that our species has on theirs. They give an opportunity for the land to be itself, to mature according to its own nature, its own schedule, global warming notwithstanding.

Now we have a national monument on Baxter Park's eastern border. Visitors there

will marvel at the Katahdin massif so close and yet so far. They will love the free-flowing wildness of Wassataquoik Stream and the East Branch of the Penobscot. What new pressures these visitors will bring to BSP remains to be seen. There will be competing pressures for development and non-development. I hope that the area west of the Wassataquoik and the East Branch of the Penobscot within the monument will be allowed to continue to grow wilder. In five hundred years when our current seedlings have been reduced to rotting blow-downs let's hope that the wilderness from Katahdin to the East Branch will remain a truly monumental treasure.





Update from the Park by Jensen Bissell, BSP Director

As a result of careful planning, the replacement of the **Roaring Brook Culverts** on the Park Tote Road north of the Marston Trailhead was



The culvert replacement project at Roaring Brook nearing completion.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

accomplished on schedule. DiCenzo Construction of Calais did an excellent job in moving large equipment and two large culverts into the Park and completing the replacement in very tight quarters. The new culverts correct a raised or “perched” outlet issue with both of the original pipes and enlarge the capacity of flow as the Park considers the potential for changing rainfall patterns in the future.

The Abol Trail on Katahdin re-opened in early July after two years of relocation layout and construction work. Maine Conservation Corps trail crews continue to work on installing trail hardening features. Feedback from Park hikers on the relocation has been very positive. The dry summer has presented the need to fly water to trail crews working out of spike camp along the trail. Many thanks to the Maine Forest Service for their assistance in this effort.



Members of the Maine Conservation Corps building a stone staircase on the new Abol Trail.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

BSP staff worked quickly and efficiently this summer to plan, confirm and flag the relocation of **Dudley Trail**. The relocated line will provide trail access to Dudley Ridge and Pamola from the east side of the ridge as opposed to the west side and will avoid the unstable area that resulted in a landslide in April of 2016. A Maine Conser-



A section of the relocation route for the Dudley Trail.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

vation Corps trail crew has been working out of Chimney Pond Campground and the clearing of the approximately 1 mile of relocated trail corridor is now complete. Work on forming the treadway and constructing staircases, retaining walls and other stabilization features will commence in 2017.

The Park has also worked quickly to erect a new bunkhouse at **Nesowadnehunk Field** Campground. The current “bunkhouse” is the well-traveled, but very aptly named “Camp Cozy.” This camp originated in Kidney Pond Campground. When the Park assumed control of the Campground in the late 1980’s, the number of buildings in the campground was reduced roughly in half. Camp Cozy has served the Park in several locations before landing in Nesowadnehunk Field. The cabin, with a capacity of 4 and some very imaginative bunk design, has served as a test for bunkhouse use in this campground. Rentals have been consistent, so we have moved forward with the placement of a standard Park bunkhouse similar to what visitors would find at South Branch Pond or Russell Pond. The installation of a bunkhouse will provide more usable space for large groups, especially winter parties with climbing itineraries for the Brothers. We plan to have the new bunkhouse available for

rental this coming winter. Camp Cozy will be retained in its current location as a two-person rental cabin.

Park staff continue to issue **Permit Cards for Appalachian Trail Thru-hikers** at Katahdin Stream Campground and occasionally at Park Headquarters. We are learning a lot about this system and will work to refine it over the

winter months. We anticipate issuing around 1,500 permits this year. Based on our current numbers so far, we expect that overall AT use in Baxter State Park will be significantly higher this year than in 2015. The Baxter State Park Authority continues to consider options to address the ongoing increase in AT hikers on Katahdin.

Continuing with the planned work of the **Trautmann Trail Improvement Initiative**, we have started work on the planned relocation of the Hunt Trail above Katahdin Stream Falls. Clearing on the lower section of this trail is now underway. This project is expected to take two to three years to complete. This work is made possible in part by the generous and perpetual donations of the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund.

The big news in the Katahdin region has been the designation of the **Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument**. The development of the landscape east of the Park in accordance with the Department of the Interior National Park Service process will take years to unfold. In these early stages we seek to open straightforward lines of communication as we do with all our neighbors along our 100 miles of border. We have encapsulated the concerns and issues we encourage the NPS to consider in the planning process in an open letter posted on the Park’s website.

When Men and Mountains Meet¹

by Charlie Jacobi, former president, Friends of Baxter State Park, and Natural Resource Specialist, Acadia National Park

Katahdin. The Mount Desert Range. What was it about these mountains that moved George B. Dorr and Percival P. Baxter to give us Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park and become arguably Maine's greatest conservationists? These obsessed men gave everything to create two wholly different mountain parks, equally full of wonders and equally beloved, and accomplished more in the latter half of their long lives than most of us could imagine. No doubt they felt time was too short, given the obstacles they faced pursuing their late-blooming passions. Thankfully for us, it was not.

A generation separated George Dorr and Percival Baxter, but their lives had many similarities. Both grew up with outdoor adventures close to home, in the hinterlands of a Portland, Maine and a Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts that we would not recognize today. No nature deficit disorder for them—instead, the healthy effects of wild country, steeped over time like a proper tea, fostered a conservationist mind-set. A strong love for nature defined both men: Dorr became an ardent naturalist, Baxter a lover of animals and wildlife. Each inherited a family virtue of philanthropy, supported their home communities in numerous ways, travelled widely, absorbed inspiration from Henry David Thoreau and Theodore Roosevelt, and promoted scientific management of natural resources. Each also inherited wealth: Dorr from his maternal grandfather, a successful entrepreneur, and Baxter from his father, a successful businessman and former mayor of Portland. Neither married. The parks became their children, on whom they spent their inheritance. Baxter not only bought the lands with his own money but established trust funds to support the park upon his death. Dorr purchased much land with his own funds as well and poured money into the park to such an extent that, when his once-considerable estate was settled, only \$25,000 remained. Each man had his ashes scattered on the landscape he had nurtured for so long.

George Dorr met his mountains when his family first visited Mount Desert Island in 1868. By 1880, those mountains beckoned out the door of Oldfarm, the family summer home, and the happy hiker in him flourished.

A hundred years ago, odds are you would have met him along a trail, perhaps *Sieur de Monts Crag*, and he would have struck up a convivial conversation. He hiked Dry (now Dorr), Green (now Cadillac), Newport (now Champlain)—every mountain, again and again, all over the island and far beyond for much of his life. And yes, he renamed them too. He met Katahdin at age 71, in 1925, when he joined the expedition of Governor Ralph Owen Brewster and smoked his companions on the trail, summiting first and in moccasins no less.

Katahdin first presented itself to Percival Baxter on a 1903 fishing trip to Kidney Pond. Though not the hiker Dorr was, Baxter climbed his now-namesake peak in 1920 via the famous Knife Edge *arête*, reportedly saying afterwards, "I wouldn't do it again for a million; I wouldn't have missed it for a million." Yet he did it again in 1932 and 1933. It's difficult to pinpoint a precise date when each man's mountain passion crystallized. Threats of logging and of private and commercial development motivated each. Perhaps George Dorr's preoccupation with what is now Acadia began at age 47, with the first meeting of the Hancock Country Trustees of Public Reservations (hereafter the Trustees) in 1901. It did not end until his death at age 90, in 1944, after 28 years as a hands-on superintendent. By then, he had conserved 27,870 acres.

Acadia was no solitary enterprise for Mr. Dorr. Charles W. Eliot and then John D. Rockefeller Jr. contributed their energy, wisdom, and finances. Biographer Ron Epp describes Dorr as a gregarious extrovert who made friends with everyone, networking (arm twisting?) relentlessly to create his park. He successfully lobbied the Maine legislature to prevent the dismantling of the Trustees and preserve the ability of nonprofit organizations to own land. But that threat likely convinced him that federal ownership would provide the best long-term protection for his beloved island—despite a national controversy just a few years before, which resulted in congressional authorization for the Hetch Hetchy dam and the flooding of a pristine valley within Yosemite National Park. Thus, as he lobbied in Washington DC for a national park to be established with donated Trustee lands, he also advocated for a National Park Service to oversee and protect the parks. Both were birthed in the summer of 1916. Interestingly, even before Percival Baxter became deeply involved with Katahdin, Dorr wrote in sup-

port of early efforts to create a national park or forest reserve there, describing the area as "...the greatest, wildest, most shot-over game land in the East."

Though it never coalesced into a fully coherent statement, Dorr's conservation philosophy was one that today's park managers would readily recognize: a complex conjoining of natural and cultural landscapes, with minimal disturbance to nature. Though he wrote not infrequently about preserving the wild character of the island landscape, there is no evidence that he was conflicted about his relationship with John D. Rockefeller Jr. and the development of Acadia's motor and carriage roads, which was controversial in the summer community.

Similarly, Percival Baxter's "Magnificent Obsession," as biographer Neil Rolde has described it, could be said to have begun in 1919 when, as a 42-year-old state legislator, he introduced a bill in the Maine Senate to create a Mount Katahdin State Park. That effort failed, as did similar ones when he was governor in the early 1920s. Later, out of politics, he saw that his only path to a public park was to do it himself. And that's what he did—unlike Dorr, entirely alone.

Between 1931 and 1963 Baxter purchased 28 parcels of land totaling 201,000 acres and, through deeds of trust specifying how the lands were to be managed, gave them to the people of Maine for a state park. Although close to family and friends, Baxter has been described as a solitary man. But the politician in him knew how to negotiate and close a deal. He never served officially as park director, but make no mistake: he was the *de facto* manager of his namesake park until his death in 1969, at age 92.

Like Dorr, intent on preserving the Trustees' right to hold lands, Baxter persuaded the Maine legislature to pass a bill in 1919 allowing the state to accept gifts of private lands for parks. At the time, few of his legislative colleagues could imagine why anyone would want to give land to the government. Unlike Dorr, however, Baxter fought efforts to create a national park at Katahdin because he objected to the development and commercialization then happening in some of the national parks. And unlike Dorr, he saw the Hetch Hetchy dam controversy in Yosemite as an illustration of the perils and uncertainty of federal park status.

Baxter wanted something more securely protected and distinctly different—a wilderness park. The first deed of trust gifting land to

¹William Blake. *Gnomic verses*.

²Jack Perkins, 1999 Friends of Acadia video, referring to George Dorr: "It is said that men cannot move mountains, but a mountain, can, indeed, move a man."

When Men and Mountains Meet *Continued from pg.6*

the state in 1931 made this clear: the land “shall forever be used for public park and recreational purposes, shall forever be left in its natural wild state, shall forever be kept as a sanctuary for the wild beasts and birds...” Despite Baxter’s love for history, the protection of cultural resources and landscapes are not within the mission of Baxter State Park. The preservation of nature, especially wildlife, is paramount.

Each man launched his land acquisitions by taking the high ground. For the Trustees on Mount Desert Island, the first substantial gift came from summer resident and Dorr friend Eliza Homans in May 1908. She gave a small mountain, The Beehive, along with a small pond, The Bowl, for public use. Then Dorr immediately set his sights on Green (Cadillac) Mountain, the commanding high point on Mount Desert Island. It fell to his powers of persuasion and the mapmaker’s green palette before the end of the year. Baxter’s laser-focused initial purchase consisted of monolithic Katahdin along with Chimney Pond, set below the peak in a dramatic glacial cirque of near-vertical granite walls. Mountains mattered. For both men, many more mountains followed.

Percival Baxter once said his land acquisitions “...would remind you of your grandmother’s patchwork quilt, which finally in some mysterious way came out of the confusion into one large piece.” The quilt metaphor is an even better fit for Acadia, where holes in the fabric yet need patches. No evidence suggests these men ever met, but each was well-read and surely each knew what the other was up to. Quilts aside, maps are instruments of seduction and wellsprings of vision. I can see each man sitting in his study late at night, the maps sprawled out on the desk, poring over the priorities and possibilities, the hurdles, deals, and delicate negotiations ahead.

Each was a visionary, but how big was that vision at the start and how did it evolve? Where, if at all, did they see it ending? We don’t fully know. Death intervened. We do know that each saw a promising future for the degraded lands they sought and bought under growing and sometimes intense opposition. We do know that each expanded his vision beyond the highest peak—to the seashore for Dorr and to northern mountains, valleys, and streams for Baxter.

Acadia turns 100 this year. Baxter State Park turns 85 and its centennial does not seem so distant anymore. Each park now has the longevity of its founder and has weathered well, despite continuing challenges. Only deep time erodes granitic mountains. Only our dedication, equally deep, will forestall erosion of these visions and propel them into the future. No worries there. To paraphrase John Muir, *the mountains are in us*. Some mysterious quality, embodied by these mountains, moved both George Dorr and Percival Baxter. It moves us too.

Charlie Jacobi is past president of Friends of Baxter State Park and a visitor use specialist at Acadia National Park. He wrote this article for Friends as an Acadia Centennial Partner.

For more information about George Dorr and Percival Baxter, see these sources: *Katahdin: An Historic Journey* by John Neff; *Legacy of a Lifetime: The Story of Baxter State Park* by John Hakola; *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries* by Neil Rolde; *Governor Baxter’s Magnificent Obsession. A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931–2006* by Howard Whitcomb; *Creating Acadia National Park: The Biography of George Dorr* by Ronald H. Epp. With appreciation to W. Kent Olson who wrote the script for the Friends of Acadia video (1999) *Preserving Acadia* narrated by Jack Perkins, which includes the following quote “It is said that men cannot move mountains but a mountain can, indeed, move a man.”

Looking back...

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

A Hidden Treasure on the Way to Katahdin

Recently while doing research on the amazing role played by the Hunt Farm and the Dacey Farm (Lunksoos) in providing access to the Penobscot East Branch and Katahdin from the east, I came across a remarkable claim made by the proprietor of Lunksoos in 1924 in Bangor and Aroostook Railroad’s annual journal, *In The Maine Woods*. After briefly describing what the sporting camp offered to the client and who to contact if interested, the ad continued: “You should drink from our boiling spring. It will prolong your life.” Wow! What a super message to share with the public. Now, lots of folks have stayed there across the years – it was the last bit of comfortable accommodation before rougher adventures. Little did we know that Maine has its own “fountain of youth” right there on the lands newly designated Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

The great thing is that the same claim could be made for the all the “boiling waters” throughout Baxter State Park. That is why we who visit the park and partake of the liquid treasures therein are living longer these days. Be sure to bring your water filter though to be sure the life prolonging waters are still pure when consumed.

Our Readers Write...

Kudos on the new Abol Trail

Please extend my gratitude to any and all that had any impact on the new Abol Trail being blazed and completed. My family and I climbed on July 8th and we were all VERY impressed with the trail, the views, and the course of the trail. I have summited Katahdin 13 times and half those times went up the old Abol. This new trail was quite an experience. Thanks to all again.

– Jim Albert

Walks in the Park

I write to tell you how much I appreciate the FBSP-organized Walk-in-the-Park weekends. What a grand way to meet people who care & know about BSP, to spend time in the Park, and to learn more about the Park! Thus far, I’ve participated in weekends at South Branch, Kidney and Daicey Ponds with amiable, caring and generous FBSP members. These have been opportunities I wouldn’t have had by myself and have supplied me with treasured memories and the desire to return often to our beloved BSP. I encourage others to take advantage of these events.

– Susan Parks

Baxter State Park Trivia

The inspiring story of Donn Fendler, who was lost on Katahdin for nine days in 1939, has been made into:

- A) a children’s book; B) a graphic novel;
- C) a documentary film; D) a feature-length film, or
- E) all of the above.

Send Trivia answers to admin@friendsofbaxter.org 7



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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!

Visit our new website



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After more than a year of development, Friends has a new website! Our web address is the same as always: www.friendsofbaxter.org. We developed a great deal of new content for the site, and will be adding more during the coming months. You can submit trip reports, renew your membership, read the latest news, or check an up-to-date calendar of events. The site was designed by Pedro Guimaraes of Willow Light Studio. Please check it out and let us know what you think!



About Friends

Friends of Baxter State Park is an independent citizen group with a mission to preserve, support, and enhance the



Baxter State Park

Baxter State Park is a 209,644-acre public wilderness area in northern Maine. Former Governor Percival Baxter gave



Volunteer

Volunteering is a great way to directly participate in the stewardship of the Park. From splitting wood to painting and



Donate

By contributing to Friends of Baxter State Park, you can ensure that the Park forever remains the spectacular