



# FOREVER WILD



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park Spring 2018 Vol. 17 No. 2

## Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

Baxter State Park often feels like an island of peace in the modern world, where things change slowly or not at all. Some of my favorite lean-tos have been around for a generation. The trout in Russell Pond are the descendants of the ones I caught thirty years ago when I was first learning to cast a fly. The rivers, the mountains, the ponds – they are still there, seemingly unchanging. It's easy to be lulled into thinking that it all will be there forever.

Climate change is turning that illusion on its head. We recently hit 410 parts per million of atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub>. The atmosphere doesn't recognize our boundaries on the ground, and the sanctuary line around Baxter State Park will offer no sanctuary from the changes that are coming.

Current predictions are for a warmer and wetter future in interior Maine, with more extreme rainfall and less snowpack. We can expect a longer warm season and more days of extreme heat, with an overall climate that is similar to present-day Virginia. Most importantly, we can expect more of the unexpected, which bodes ill for humans and wildlife alike.

Two-thirds of Maine's plants and animals are highly or moderately vulnerable to climate change. Most of Maine's moose population is already found to the north of Baxter State Park. It is conceivable that moose will be gone from the Park in the not so distant future.

Baxter State Park is already hard at work making its infrastructure more resilient – like replacing culverts with bottomless designs that can better handle extreme rainfall events. Park staff are contemplating winters without reliable snow, and looking for alternatives to snowmobiles for transporting materials.

Our Board of Directors recently approved a position statement on climate change that we will share with our elected officials, members, and the public. None of us can afford to be silent on this defining issue of our time.



Participants in an April 11, 2018 management planning meeting for Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument provide input on management priorities in different areas of the monument.

– Photo courtesy of Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters

## Management Plan in Progress for Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument

by Aaron Megquier

On August 24, 2016, Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument was designated by Presidential Proclamation. This created a large area of conservation ownership along the eastern boundary of Baxter State Park, and an incredible range of opportunities for the Katahdin region. Friends strongly supported the national monument designation, and we believe that the monument has the potential to significantly benefit the wilderness values of Baxter State Park. We recognize that some management challenges are possible, however, and that the nature of these benefits and challenges will hinge on the details of management over the coming years and decades.

The National Parks and Recreation Act of 1978 requires the National Park Service (NPS) to complete a general management plan for every unit of the National Park system. The management planning process began soon after the monument was created, and a draft management plan is scheduled to be completed by December 2019. The planning process is being carried out by a large team of professionals, including Noel Musson of The Musson Group in Southwest Harbor, Terry

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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.

## Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Administrative Manager

### Membership Profile –

#### Paul Corrigan Jr.

Deep in the woods, crow bar wedged under a boulder, teaching trail building skills to a crew of sweating teenagers, on one of the hottest days of the summer, Paul Corrigan finds his joy. Despite being two weeks out from a major bike accident that left him with a metal plate and hardware in his collar bone, he says being back in the Park working with youth from his hometown is invigorating. He is especially gratified to see young women participate in the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps (BYCC). As someone who grew up in Millinocket in the 1960's and 70's he remembers when the paper mills were reluctant to hire women because they were not seen as tough enough to do the hard work. But women persisted and proved that they could indeed handle all the physical challenges of the paper mill process. Now he witnesses local young women testing their grit on the trails of Baxter's wilderness. He knows that the lessons of taking care of trails in the back country can transcend this one experience to influence other aspects of life such as taking care of others, the community, and themselves despite whatever obstacles may be in their path.



Since graduating from Stearns High School in 1969, Paul's career has taken him full circle. At first Paul thought his love of the Maine woods meant he should pursue a career in forestry after high school. But just a few weeks into Paul Smith College's forestry program he realized he had another calling. Thanks to a professor in the English department, Paul was introduced to Walt Whitman, Longfellow, and other writers inspired by wilderness. With his encouragement, a life-long love of poetry and creative writing began. He eventually attended college at SUNY-Binghamton and was introduced to the works of Wendell Berry, Richard Hugo, and other influential writers. In his own writing Paul drew on his personal experiences of building a log cabin with his father and memories of fishing and hunting at their remote camp. He continued his education at Brown

University studying creative writing and literature and eventually entered a career of teaching high school English. He worked as an itinerant teacher of poetry in high schools, youth programs and even maximum-security prisons. He worked with a wilderness therapy program called New Horizons for Young Women, which offered an intense experience of exploration in the Adirondacks to teens with substance abuse problems. There he honed his skill of teaching wilderness values that can heal and translate to all other aspects of life.

Along the way, he met his wife Jan, from Buffalo, NY. After sharing many tales of his hometown, he finally brought her to Millinocket on a vacation and that was it – she was hooked. They had to find a way to get back and forge their lives in the Katahdin region. Although he loved teaching Paul he was drawn back into the woods of his childhood when in 2005 he accepted a position with BSP as a maintenance ranger at Katahdin Stream Campground. His natural talent as an educator led to a posting at the Park Visitor's Center where he spent two years before being assigned to Abol Campground. All the while, Paul pursued his writing and continued to work with youth as a "visiting writer" and with the Maine Outdoor Education Program. Meanwhile Jan taught 4th grade at Granite St. Elementary School in Millinocket. In summers she could be seen volunteering in the Park at the Abol ranger station and the visitors center. Sadly, Jan succumbed to cancer in 2012. In 2013, after eight years of serving as a BSP Ranger, Paul retired. However, he has continued his passion of writing, teaching as a visiting writer, and enjoying the Park by working with our Baxter Youth Conservation Corps, and hosting some day hikes for our annual series of Walks in the Park. We are so thankful to have his talent and passion put to use for our programs!

Paul's experiences in the wilderness of Baxter State Park led him to explore writing and that writing in turn reinforced his connection to wilderness. His love of teaching led him to share his wilderness experience with youth. Now helping a new generation learn to steward Baxter's vision rejuvenates his passion for education. It's a seamless set of circles that promises boundless inspiration.

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# Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument – Continued from pg.1



The East Branch of the Penobscot River offers world-class canoeing opportunities on the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

– Photo © Aaron Megquier

DeWan of Terrence J. DeWan & Associates in Yarmouth, and Mark Leathers of the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town. Once a draft is completed, it will go through an exhaustive federal environmental review process before taking effect. This will include an Environmental Impact Statement as mandated by the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Public input is an integral part of the management planning process, as well as the NEPA review that will follow. All of this means that there will be abundant opportunity for interested citizens – as well as Friends and other organizations – to express our opinions over the next several years.

Friends provided extensive formal comments in October 2016 at the beginning of the management planning process. We have continued to express our position at public meetings, listening sessions, and in meetings with NPS staff since then. The following is a brief excerpt of our written comments, providing highlights on a few key management issues:

## **Wildlife**

*The border between BSP and KWWNM is a human construct – there is no border from an ecological perspective. We encourage KWWNM to protect wildlife from the impacts of visitor use, consistent with protections in the sanctuary areas of BSP whenever possible.*

## **Invasive Species**

*We encourage KWWNM to use the best available scientific data to identify and manage species that should be considered invasive and establish policies to limit the ecological threat posed by invasive species.*

## **Roads**

*We encourage KWWNM to... move the Katahdin Loop Road to a location farther away from Katahdin Lake and adjacent wilderness areas in BSP. The section of greatest concern to us is between mile posts #10 and #13. We suggest that the Loop Road be located at least 3 miles from Katahdin Lake to protect the exceptional wilderness character of this area.*

## **Trails**

*We recognize that potential trail connections between KWWNM and BSP will be a topic of discussion over the long term. During the initial management planning process, however, we encourage KWWNM to avoid constructing trails, trailheads, or parking areas that would encourage hikers to cross the BSP boundary, particularly near Katahdin Lake and in areas where BSP maintains trail-free zones.*

## **Climate Change**

*We encourage KWWNM to coordinate with BSP on climate change monitoring, adaptation, and mitigation when appropriate.*

## **Scenic and Viewshed Impacts**

*We encourage KWWNM to avoid constructing buildings, roads, parking areas, and other infrastructure that would adversely impact views from BSP, especially from Katahdin and other mountain summits. We also encourage KWWNM to avoid night lighting that would diminish the exceptional dark skies in the region.*

## **Fire**

*BSP has a detailed Fire Management Plan that views fire as an integral part of the Park's forested ecosystems. We encourage KWWNM to establish working partnerships with both BSP and the Maine Forest Service, and to coordinate fire management whenever possible.*

## **Infrastructure**

*We encourage KWWNM to focus new infrastructure development – including buildings such as visitor centers – in local communities, rather than on the monument itself. We believe this approach will have considerable ecological and economic benefits.*

## **Regional Land Use Planning**

*We encourage KWWNM to support regional land use planning efforts by gateway communities, and to carefully consider the impact that roads and other infrastructure will have on patterns of human activity outside the monument boundary.*

## **Cooperation and Planning**

*We encourage ongoing communication and cooperation between Baxter State Park, the National Park Service, and Friends of Baxter State Park. A trusting, positive working relationship will be beneficial to all parties. FBSP is committed to playing a constructive role in the development of positive relationships and in the management planning process over the long term.*

If you have opinions on the management of the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument, especially as it relates to Baxter State Park, we encourage you to actively participate in the public input process over the next few years. Please contact us anytime if you are unsure how to do that. If you would like to provide feedback on the positions held by Friends of Baxter State Park, please write to [director@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:director@friendsofbaxter.org) or PO Box 322, Belfast, ME 04915. We are a grassroots organization, and we take the opinions of our members very seriously.

We look forward to working with our new neighbor, and are excited to help KWWNM become a positive part of the economic, cultural, and ecological landscape of the region.



FBSP members take a break on their way to Orin Falls on Wassataquoik Stream, on what is now the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument.

– Photo © Jym St. Pierre

## Plogging



Volunteers clean up roadside trash during the annual Earth Day Litter Patrol in Baxter State Park. – Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

Another Earth Day has come and gone. The Park will be opening soon. In my rumination I recently was sent an interesting article. Leave it to the Swedes to put a name to it. They call it plogging. Plogging is the name given to hiking or jogging and picking up trash along the trail. This is how Allison Klein of the *Washington Post* explained it:

*“Have you recently spotted people toting trash bags while jogging? Or their hands filled with old plastic bottles? You might soon. Sweden’s latest fitness craze — plogging — is making its way to U.S. shores. The term is a mash-up of jogging and the Swedish ‘plocka upp,’ meaning pick up. In this case, litter.”*

I know that in my family “plogging” is something that we have just sort of done for years. Whenever we go for a walk in our woods or a jog on the towns trails, we invariably stop to pick up the trash left by others. Each spring after the snow has gone we get together with our neighbors and “police” our road. This is how we first discovered the popularity of “nips,” those little, tiny bottles of liquor that have entered the trash stream. Two years ago we were amazed to find so many of them. Now at least in Maine something is being done about them. Rarely do we find returnable containers but when we do they get special treatment. There is an awful lot of plastic foam, plastic paper, and foil lined products being discarded out there.

Thanks to the likes of Gabe and Marcia Williamson and our past president, “No Trace Camping” Zen Master Charlie Jacobi, it is ingrained for many of us who hike and work in Baxter State Park to

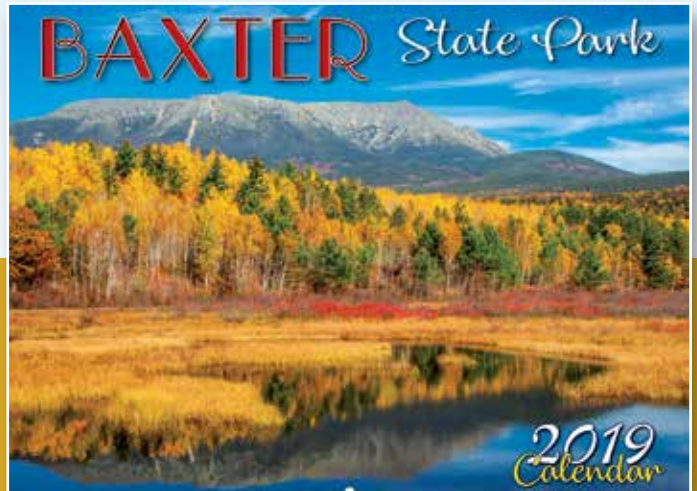
pick up the still rare piece of trash on the trail. These folks have spent much of their professional lives taking care of other people’s trash and teaching an environmental ethic that epitomizes the “carry in, carry out” philosophy. “Leave No Trace” is an important part of what the park teaches us about living in a wild space. We must leave it in at least as good shape as how we found it.

In nature nothing is wasted. Everything is food for something else and this happens within a relatively short space of time. Not so human beings. Though we may call ourselves part of nature, we are the only species that befoils our nest for countless future generations. Our plastics, our man-made fibers, and our metals have been created to defy the natural elements to degrade them. As a result, we must create huge mounds of discards that will be around for hundreds if not thousands of years.

The Park staff is doing its best to make sure that human trash does not degrade Percival Baxter’s vision. When you come into the Park, be a plogger, practice “Leave No Trace”, and “Carry In, Carry Out” all that you find. Future generations will applaud your efforts – and so do I.

### Answer: Trivia Question in Winter Newsletter

In our winter newsletter, we posed this question: “What are three native bird species that overwinter in Baxter State Park?” Cloe Chunn answered the trivia question correctly with black-capped chickadee, gray jay, and dark-eyed junco.



– Calendar cover photo © Donna Lawson

### 2019 Baxter State Park calendars available for pre-order

The 2019 Baxter State Park calendar is now available for pre-order! The cost is \$14, including shipping. We will ship all pre-ordered 2019 calendars as soon as they arrive from the publisher, which should be in early July. We have a limited number of 2018 Baxter State Park calendars still available for just \$10, with tax and shipping included. You can order online at [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org), mail a check to PO Box 322, Belfast, ME 04915, or call (207) 505-5779. All proceeds benefit Friends of Baxter State Park.



Spring is the season of new beginnings and this is especially true of the Park this year. Our Director Jensen Bissell retired this past winter and spring brings the search for his replacement. Rather than appoint an Interim Director during this time the other four Park administrators (Acting Chief Ranger Mike Martin, Business Manager Christine Theriault, Resource Manager Eben Sypitkowski, and Interim Naturalist Stephen Dunham) will work as a team to cover the responsibilities of the Director and respond to any issues that would normally end up on that desk. Questions or requests from the public that would normally be sent to the Director should be sent to one of them. The Park's dedicated staff will continue working hard as they always do and visitors will not notice any deviations in the normal operation of the Park. They may notice a few new faces as we welcomed several new staff this winter including our Interpretive Specialist Marc Edwards, Accounting Associate Emilie Tisch, and Trail Specialists Rebekah Morrisson and Liz Thibault. We are also in the process of hiring several Campground and Backcountry Ranger positions. All have been and will be great additions to our talented staff.

There has been plenty of snow this winter, especially late in the season. We had numerous winter users who came in to ski, snowshoe, mountaineer, and ice climb. Snowmobile traffic in the region has also been steady. Thus far injuries have been few and relatively minor and we hope that continues as the snow begins to slowly disappear. Chimney Pond had 63" of snow at the end of March. All eyes will be on the weather in April and early May to see how long it takes that snow to melt.



Rangers Mike Winslow and Jen Sinsabaugh dig out a lean-to kit destined for Chimney Pond.

– Photo © Dave Loomer, Ranger



Three visitors to Baxter State Park enjoying the unseasonably warm weather in February.

–Photo © Dave Loomer, Ranger



Ranger Bruce White answers questions over the new Park model at the Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show in Orono.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

The abundant snow was also utilized by Park staff to position materials and replenish supplies. Lean-to kits are now in position for assembly at South Branch Pond and Chimney Pond. A new rescue boat has been placed at Katahdin Lake. The remains of the bridge we replaced over Katahdin Stream (the lower bridge, not the one on the Hunt Trail) were also removed by the new Trail Specialists. Numerous signs in need of correction or repair have been replaced, and 30 picnic table kits have been produced and painted.



Rick Bray and Gary Dennis produced a complete picnic table and 29 picnic table kits that were later painted by students from Casco Bay High School.

– Photo © Bruce White, Ranger

One of the best moments this winter was the arrival of the new mountain models donated by the Friends. These models are amazing! We have already put them to good use. The whole park model was brought to both the Eastern Maine Sportsmen's Show in Orono and the Sportsman Show in Presque Isle. Between both events the model helped attract over 1600 people to interact with Park staff. This model is destined for placement in our Visitor Center where it will help Park staff to educate and direct those who stop in with questions. That facility typically sees in excess of 20,000 visitors each year. We are extremely grateful for this donation and for all the support the Friends provide.

As the seasonal staff begin to return and we continue preparing for another busy summer season we are enjoying the lingering daylight, returning songbirds, and sprouting vegetation. Muddy roads are not enough to dampen our spirits. Spring blooms around us with the promise of another beautiful Maine summer to come.

## Warm Winter Weekend 2018

By Dick Klain, President

Now in its eleventh year, Warm Winter Weekend took place at the New England Outdoor Center on March 15 – 18, 2018. All told, thirty-five people enjoyed some aspect of what Friends had loosely organized. Spread over four different buildings we all made new friends and reestablished old acquaintances.

On Thursday, early arrivals got a chance to try the cross-country and snowshoe trails around the Center. Later many members returned to Millinocket and the Millinocket Public Library where Executive Director Aaron Megquier introduced the new mountain models to those assembled. These models constitute the largest gift that the Friends has made to the Park to date. Built by Solid Terrain Modeling of California, these relief maps show in minute detail the geography of Baxter State Park. They also represent many years of planning, followed by months of editing by BSP staff and our own to make sure that everything is correct – at least until the next trail relocation! Several benefactors of the project were in attendance, including Steuart Thomsen and members of the Beeuwkes family. Without their timely and generous donations we and the Park would still be using the fiberglass models that we had from the last century. Christine Theriault and several members of the Park staff were on hand to receive this donation. After the event, weekend participants returned to Millinocket Lake where several members had a variety of refreshments and foods for the evening meal.

Friday brought a welcome snowstorm of varying severity. One thing for sure, it freshened all the trails. Because there is “never any bad weather, only bad gear,” most of us were out enjoying all that a late snowstorm could bring. Though the view to Katahdin was obscured, the trails were in great shape around the area. That night we held our annual “banquet” at the River Driver’s Restaurant. After dinner we enjoyed a presentation by Steve Dunham, the Interim Park Naturalist and one of the four members of the administrative team running the Park. Steve gave us a bird’s-eye view of what has been going on in the Park and how decisions are made concerning on going research within the Park. Steve’s wife and young son attended with him; about a week later his wife gave birth to another boy.

The next day the weather was much improved. Roger “Zimo” Zimmerman shared a continuous stream of sourdough pancakes for all comers to start the day. Several groups went into the Park to follow trails some of which were broken out and some covered by the virgin snow. One group headed up the popular Blueberry Ledges trail and another explored the southern edge of the Park doing the Abol Pond, Kettle Pond, and the Rum Pond Trails. Another group headed into Daicoy Pond following the Foss Knowlton Trail. Yet another group headed in the opposite direction and skied on the Millinocket Town Trails which are groomed and maintained by the local snowmobile club. Some members ventured out on the lake and were rewarded with great views of snow-clad Katahdin in the distance. That night we all enjoyed the culinary delights of Anne Huntington’s incomparable cooking. Despite some last minute changes in venue, everyone had a grand time though we certainly have found the limits to feeding this large a group in one of the “cabins.” Dick Klain led a discussion about a trip taken by several Friends members to Italy last Fall. Anne Huntington volunteered her pictures which made the talk come alive for everyone.

Sunday morning found several members sleeping in a bit, while others got up early to get one last ski in before packing up and heading home. Of course, it wouldn’t be Warm Winter Weekend without someone leaving something behind. A pair of glasses and a pair of boots were

found and arrangements were made to return them to their owners. The weather gods were favorable for those who had to travel both coming and going. A good time was had by all and several people have expressed interest for next year. The planning has already started.

## Benefit Night at Flatbread Company on July 31

Please join us on Tuesday, July 31, for a benefit night at Flatbread Company in Portland, Maine. We’ll be there from 5:00 - 9:00pm, and Flatbread Company will donate a portion of all receipts from the evening to Friends. Come enjoy a night out while supporting our work on behalf of Baxter State Park. There is no formal program for the evening - just great food, great company, and prizes. The restaurant is located on the Portland waterfront at 72 Commercial Street, with a beautiful deck overhanging the ocean. Hope to see you there!

## Looking back...

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

### EARLY PHOTOS OF CLIMBING KATAHDIN

Of the few old accounts of climbing Katahdin where a published text is wedded to photographs, there is one that stands out and offers the reader an extraordinary glimpse of what the experience must have been like long ago. I speak of *Katahdin Trails: Lucius Merrill and the Paths to Katahdin* by Richard W. Judd and Edward “Zip” Kellogg, published by the Bangor Public Library in 2005. Lucius Merrill was a member of the staff of the University of Maine’s Agricultural Experiment Station and instructor of chemistry, geology and economic geology.

Merrill may have climbed Katahdin a number times but we are especially grateful to him for the photographs of his 1892 and 1894 trips. They reveal spectacular details of Stacyville, the Hunt Farm and its ford across the East Branch, and the condition of the forest after earlier devastating fires. We see Katahdin Lake, the loggers and old lumber camps, rough campsites, and, of course, the climactic pictures of the climb to the tableland and summit. We can also be grateful for the informative and entertaining captions provided by “Zip” Kellogg. This is a publication the readers of this newsletter are encouraged to find and then, after reclining in a comfortable chair, to enjoy an iconic story of climbing Katahdin in “the old days.”



Wassataquoik, looking up from Mammoth Dam. Sept. 29, 1894.

—Photograph by Lucius Merrill, Courtesy of the Bangor Public Library

# 2018 Annual Meeting Review

by Dick Klain, President

Over eighty-five members and guests joined together at Viles Arboretum in Augusta on April 7, 2018, more than filling the room. Our executive director, Aaron Megquier, welcomed everyone. President Dick Klain addressed the group saying that the state of Friends was in good shape and offering some remarks about ourselves. The officers of the various committees of the board of directors gave reports. Here are some of the highlights of those reports:

First, we finished the year of 2017 in a positive financial position according to Treasurer Gary Friedmann. We have begun this year and look forward to continued better financials. Grant writing is getting increasingly competitive but we are holding our own. Our proposed budget for the coming year reflects this. The membership committee reported that for the first time in our history Friends now has over one thousand active members. We are proud of this accomplishment and hope to continue this growth to include everyone who has a relationship with the Park. On the development front fundraising has been successful during the past year. The people who made memorial gifts were named. Our largest single donation last year was made by Lloyd Lathrop, a respected Portland business man and entrepreneur, to help pay for the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps program. Several member activities took place last year with even more being offered this year.

Finally, the nominating committee reported the five candidates for the board. This slate was adopted and voted. Incumbent members were Ellen Baum, Jerry Bley, and Jym St. Pierre. Joining the board is Peter Millard who lives and practices medicine in Belfast. Peter is passionate about the park and particularly enjoys cross-country skiing and other activities. Another new board member is Nathan Tefft, a Maine native who has enjoyed camping, exploring, and hiking in Baxter State Park since he can remember – first summing Katahdin at age 8. Nathan lives in Brunswick and teaches at Bates College. This class of 2018 is a great one to be sure.

Prior to a quick break Aaron Megquier gave a brief presentation concerning the new relief model maps that Friends recently presented to the Park. Aaron recognized donors Stuart and Linda Thomsen, and Henry and Chris Beeuwkes of the Beeuwkes family for their generosity. Aaron encouraged people to come up during the break to closely examine the model that was on display. Other models will be on display at Park headquarters, the visitor's center, Roaring Brook, Katahdin Stream and South Branch Pond campgrounds. He offered a brief explanation about them including their creation and their evolution.

After the break, Baxter State Park Authority member Chandler Woodcock who had "dropped by" asked for a few moments to address the group. Mr. Woodcock complimented us on our history of service to the Park and to the ideals of Percival Baxter. He briefly addressed the hiring process for the replacement of retired Park Director Jensen Bissell. He shared his confidence in the able administration of the team acting in the director's absence. His remarks were warmly received. Aaron then went on to introduce the administrative team of Christine Theriault, Michael Martin, Steve Dunham, and Eben Sypitkowski. For about three quarters of an hour this team explained their positions and realms of responsibility. They fielded questions from several members about the Park changes that were taking place, new personnel, and future issues.

One of the activities that is always popular is the introduction of the photographs that will be used in next year's calendar. This year, out of over three hundred images the calendar committee chose

some really excellent ones showing the Park in all its seasons.

A short Question and Answer period ensued where members asked Aaron and President of the board Dick Klain a variety of different questions. Afterwards everyone enjoyed the lunch followed by a hike at Vaughan Woods in Hallowell.

After the annual meeting the Board met in open session to elect the officers for the coming year. The slate of officers was: Dick Klain for President; Henry Beeuwkes for Vice President; Jym St. Pierre for Secretary; and Gary Friedmann for Treasurer. They were elected unanimously. The second item on the agenda was to send a letter to the Baxter State Park Authority concerning the new Park policy of discontinuing the early, in-person reservation system as presented by the Policy Committee. The letter as proposed was approved and will be sent to the Authority.

**Paul Corrigan Jr. –** *Continued from pg. 2*

## ***Into the Woods***

Paul Corrigan Jr.

*Vanishing for days, my father  
would return unshaven,  
the odor of evergreens and woodsmoke  
on his clothes, his eyes  
a pair of chickadees  
darting from Mother's face  
to the faces of his children  
as he spoke of lakes and rivers  
where he had been and we might someday go,  
disappearing like him  
with a fly rod and a knapsack.*

*The face we remembered  
and the whiskered face emerging  
from the forest were never quite the same;  
and we were never sure if he would bring  
stringers of trout or just a kiss  
for Mother and a grin for us.  
It never mattered. Leaving us,  
he'd fall soundlessly from our lives  
like a tree in the center of the woods.*

*And though we pictured him  
crouched beside his fire  
on the shore of some lake or pond  
with a name as long as your arm,  
we could not imagine the man  
who days later would stroll into the yard,  
freshened and whole again,  
bringing us fish and kisses.*

## **???** **Baxter State Park Trivia**

**List all the individuals who have ever held the position of Director or Superintendent of Baxter State Park. Send trivia answers to Sarah at [admin@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:admin@friendsofbaxter.org).**



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- \_\_\_\_\_ \$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**  
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*Thank you!*

## 2018 Walks in the Park

Please join us for a Walk in the Park this year! We've scheduled a series of day trips and overnight adventures in Baxter State Park for our members, as well as trips in other parts of Maine. To sign up for a trip, please email Sarah at [admin@friendsofbaxter.org](mailto:admin@friendsofbaxter.org). For more details on these events, please visit [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org).

**June 2: Day Hike in Camden Hills**

with host Marion Gray

**June 16: Speckled Mtn. or Caribou Mtn. day hike**

with host Andy Walsh

**July 13 – 15: Telos/Webster canoe trip**

with host Jim Andrews

**July 26 – 29: Kidney Pond Weekend**

with host Dick Klain

**July 28: Katahdin day hike via Abol Trail**

with host Paul Corrigan

**August 9 – 11: Bear Brook weekend**

with host Sherry Langway

**August 30 – Sept. 2: Nesowadnehunk to South Branch Pond backpack**

with host Marion Gray

