



FOREVER WILD



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park Spring 2019 Vol. 18 No. 2

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

Most of us who have been visiting Baxter State Park for a while know about its management philosophy: wilderness comes first, and people come second. But that doesn't mean that people aren't important to the Park and its mission.

Governor Baxter left Baxter State Park in trust to the people of Maine. He was very clear about how he wanted the Park used – “in the right, unspoiled way” – and he was equally clear that it was a gift to all Maine citizens. Consider that for a moment. He did not give the Park to people whose families have been visiting the Park for generations, or people who have the newest outdoor gear, or people who look a certain way, or believe certain things. He left the Park to ALL the people of Maine.

Think about your last visit to Baxter State Park. Who was missing from the trails and campsites? What groups of people were not there enjoying their spectacular wilderness gift? We can all guess based on our individual experiences, but the short answer is that we don't really know. The Park doesn't currently collect any demographic data on its visitors, although that is likely to change very soon.

I received a thoughtful email recently from someone who noticed, based on photos, that our youth programs are lacking people of color. That is mostly true. Although we don't collect demographic data either, our programs are small enough that we get to know each and every participant. Our youth programs in 2018 closely mirrored the demographics of Maine as a whole.

So, the question is, how do we ensure that all people feel welcome in the Park? How do we help all Mainers understand that the Park is meant for them, and not a select few? Friends is beginning to grapple with this question, and to

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The new Penobscot River Trails, located just east of Baxter State Park, offer world-class nordic skiing and outstanding opportunities for year-round recreation along the beautiful East Branch of the Penobscot River.

– Photo © Marion Martin

Penobscot River Trails Open in the Katahdin Region

by Richard Klain and Aaron Megquier

In the winter of 2019 Baxter State Park gained a new conservation neighbor – and Maine gained a fantastic new outdoor destination – when Penobscot River Trails opened to the public. This new trail system is located near Grindstone along the East Branch of the Penobscot River, about 15 miles as the crow flies from the southern entrance to Baxter State Park. The Penobscot River Trails offer 25 kilometers of groomed cross-country ski trails, and 15 kilometers of snowshoe trails. The trail system is open to the public and admission is free.

The Penobscot River Trails are a project of philanthropist Gilbert Butler and his Butler Conservation Fund. Butler has deep connections to the Katahdin region, as well as a demonstrated passion for outdoor education, youth, and big-picture conservation. The Penobscot River Trails are part of a larger, landscape-scale conservation effort along the East Branch of the Penobscot and Seboeis Rivers.

A contingent of Friends of Baxter State Park members visited the new Penobscot River Trails in March during our annual Warm Winter Weekend event. Our Past President, Dick Klain, provided the following report on that visit:

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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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connect with other organizations working on these issues. We will continue to do so as the Park gathers more data in the coming years. As always, we welcome and appreciate input from our members.

2019 Annual Meeting

by Sarah Holland

On April 6 our members gathered at the Governor Hill Mansion in Augusta for the 2019 Annual Meeting of Friends of Baxter State Park.



President Dick Klain presents an award and a print of Lou Mucci's *Katahdin* to Gary Friedmann in appreciation of his six years of service as Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors.
 - Photo © Jym St. Pierre

Highlights included a State of the Park address by Park Director Eben Sypitkowski, a presentation by author Hope Rowan, and a review of the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps by Aaron Megquier. With deep appreciation for their service, outgoing Directors Jill Ippoliti and Gary Friedmann received awards from President Dick Klain. Incoming President Ellen Baum then thanked Dick for his five years of leadership, and presented him with a trail sign from the North Peaks Trail. New Board members Stuart Thomsen and Matt DeLaney were elected and welcomed with enthusiasm. After the program attendees enjoyed lunch while continuing discussions about the past year's accomplishments and this year's goals. After the meeting several members hiked at the Howard Hill Conservation Area to enjoy one of the first nice days of spring.

Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Administrative Manager

It seemed fitting that my phone call caught Bill Bentley enjoying a hike up Hatchet Mountain, just down the road from his home in Hope, Maine. Don't expect him to be lounging around the house waiting for a phone call. Over the years, he has hiked all the 4,000 footers in the White Mountains. Twice. In the winter. He has visited all 46 of the 4,000 footers in the Adirondack Mountains, and is close to conquering all the 14,000 footers in Colorado. Whether it's technical rock climbing, skiing with a pulk in tow, or prancing across boulders over whitewater to his favorite fishing spot, Bill is constantly heading somewhere. In 1973, he discovered Baxter State Park, while on a Christmas vacation trip for AMC mountaineering instructors, when they stayed at Chimney Pond. Since then, he has explored every corner of the Park, spent hundreds of hours volunteering and became a founding Board Member of Friends in 1999. As a volunteer in the Park, he has done trail work, trained chainsaw crews, and helped clear out debris at Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps. As a qualified technical climber and high-angle rescuer, he ran alpine search and rescue trainings with the Maine Association for Search & Rescue in the Park.



Bill Bentley reaching the top of a technical climb in the Great Basin of Katahdin.

- Photo courtesy of Bill Bentley

and on the cover of *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession*. Thanks to Bill's photos hanging in our office, we are reminded everyday of the majestic wilderness of the Park we work to protect. As a past editor of this newsletter, he contributed countless images of the Park and Friends' activities. In 2009, he

On his excursions he often brings a camera, which he masterfully uses to capture the spectacular landscapes he encounters. His panoramic images of the Park have been featured in many Friends publications, in the BSP Calendar,

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Penobscot River Trails – Continued from pg.1



The frozen East Branch of the Penobscot River, as viewed from the new Penobscot River Trails. – Photo © Dick Klain

While I was skiing, my wife, Ellen, stayed in the visitor center at the Penobscot River Trails. She talked with the people on duty as well as some of the guests. These are our impressions after a delightful afternoon. A couple of the people who Ellen talked to had worked on the trail system and the huts. One person reported that they laid down an 18-inch base of gravel that has been graded and compressed, then 4-6 inches of crushed rock, and rock dust on top of that. This was done with heavy equipment. The trails were built out from the visitor center and the education buildings. Each of the thirty or so bridges has been built with the capacity to hold a loaded dump truck of around 30,000 pounds. The trails are very level, designed for beginning skiers and mountain bikers. The signage is very easy to see and to follow. The larger trails have four groomed lanes designed for classic skiing in the winter and mountain bikes in the summer. Snowshoe use is allowed next to these super wide trails. Skate skiing is encouraged on the interior trails. The trails follow the course of the Penobscot River for about six miles. Otters and deer were spotted along the riverbanks by members of our group.

The visitor center and the warming huts are very nicely done with exposed beams on the inside. The outside is classic board and batten siding, stained gray. The interior walls are sheathed in western fir. There do not appear to be any knots in the wood of the interior walls. The warming huts each have a view of Katahdin in the distance and a wood stove to take the chill off in winter. The wood stoves are protected from people getting too close by a very attractive metal barrier made by local craftsmen. The huts are appointed with simple, sturdy Maine made, wood furniture: benches, chairs and tables for lunches, learning, and enjoying the view. The furthest “warming hut” even has leather chairs and sofas. Each of the two warming huts has a separate outhouse similarly sheathed in knot-free fir. The visitor center has indoor plumbing.

These trails are a wonderful addition to the outdoor recreational activities of the greater Katahdin area. The drive along the river to Grindstone on Route 11 is in itself worth the trip. We, as well as the rest of our group, were very impressed by the investment that has been made here. We hope that lots of people will make the trip to Grindstone to enjoy this gem.

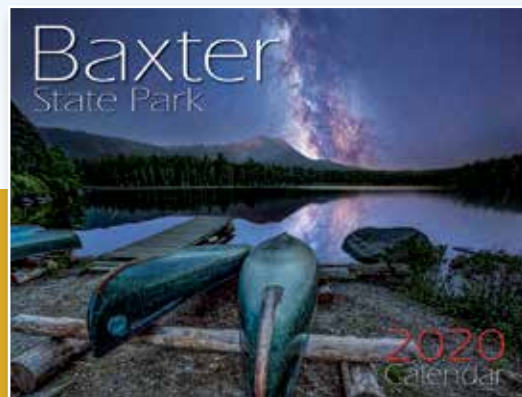
To learn more about the Penobscot River Trails, please visit <https://penobscotriversails.org>.

Bill Bentley – Continued from pg.2

published the first of many Baxter State Park Calendars compiled by Friends, with contributions from other photographers and the Park Naturalist. Under Bill’s direction, the BSP Calendar became a much anticipated and widely loved publication, with educational content as well as stunning images. His well-honed digital photo processing skills became invaluable in his role as photo editor for the books *Images of America: Katahdin & Baxter State Park*, *Art of Katahdin* and *Art of Acadia*.

His career is evidence of his drive to explore many paths. After teaching science for several years, he decided to take a detour and join the Coast Guard. As a Merchant Marine, he sailed all over the globe on an oil tanker for Gulf Oil. After eight years, he returned to teaching. At Camden-Rockport High School, he taught chemistry and physics, and an experiential class called “Journey.” In that program, students explored learning outside of the classroom, often in the outdoors, built lean-tos and boats, went to museums, and visited other parts of Maine. As leader of the high school outdoor club, he taught technical climbing skills and wilderness values to new generation. His mentoring both in and out of the classroom influenced countless lives. That experience led him to take a class to become an EMT. This led to certifications as a paramedic and finally as a critical care paramedic. When he retired from teaching, he began a third career as a critical care paramedic for the Camden First Aid Association and later North East Mobile Health Services. He brought his teaching skills to bear once again by conducting EMT & Paramedic certification trainings, including high angle search & rescue.

He claims to be fully retired now. However, he and his wife Barbara (former President of Friends) are hardly sitting back. They continue to be very involved with Friends and Baxter State Park, the Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument and the North Woods region in general. Their two dogs, Davis and Webster (named after Baxter places), keep them busy with agility competitions. Just as he has always done in his life, Bill runs all the complicated courses with agility and teaches others along the way. Thank you for all you do Bill!



– Calendar cover photo © Rupesh Kurvankattil

2020 Baxter State Park Calendars available for pre-order

Our 2020 Baxter State Park calendar is now available for pre-order! The cost is \$15 including tax and shipping. We will ship your order as soon as the calendar arrives from the publisher – typically by June. You can order online at 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.

President's Column

by Dick Klain



Baxter State Park is no longer an island in a sea of industrial forest. With conserved lands to the north, south, east, and west, the Park is the wild core of an expanding system of conservation areas in Maine's north woods. This helps to buffer the park from human impacts - including from light pollution, making Baxter one of the best places in the eastern United States to enjoy dark skies.

– Photo © Brittney Fairfield

The Wizard, the Prophet, and our Visionary

According to author Charles C. Mann in his book *The Wizard and the Prophet*, two men fashioned the environmental movement during the twentieth century. William Vogt born in 1902 founded a school of thought of “apocalyptic environmentalism.” “Unless humankind drastically reduces consumption its growing numbers and appetite will overwhelm the planet’s ecosystems.” Norman Borlaug, born in 1914, championed “techno-optimism” or “cornucopianism,” “the view that science and technology, properly applied, can help us produce our way out of our predicament.” He was the primary figure in the 1960s creating the Green Revolution, “the combination of high yielding crop varieties and agronomic techniques that raised green harvests around the world helping to avert tens of millions of deaths from hunger.”

Another figure closer to home shared a different vision of the environment. In the mid 20th century Percival Baxter made it pretty clear what he envisioned for his Park at that time. He trusted that all those slash-filled areas of land that he bought would regenerate into the forest that we now know. He knew that motorized vehicles had to be kept to a minimum to allow his animals the space and the peace they needed to live a “wild” life. He allowed some areas of the Park to remain inaccessible for the most part. He created a Park that is different from other state parks but the legislature called

it Baxter State Park. He personally funded it with an endowment to employ a number of people to keep it “forever wild” and to manage some of the area using the best-known silvicultural practices. He wanted his animals to be surrounded by clean water, healthy trees and enduring mountains. He foresaw continuing industrialization of the forest lands surrounding his Park.

Now, we are imagining a future that no one dreamed during Baxter's lifetime. His Park, still an island of refuge, will come under increasing human pressure to change, to upgrade its facilities, to improve its roads, to increase the number of trails, to create new campgrounds, and to open those wild areas that remain closed. Just as compromises were made during his lifetime, so too compromises may be made in the future. It falls to us here to make sure that any compromise will be made in the spirit of our benefactor's wishes. Because we have the Debsconeag Wilderness and Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument adjacent to Baxter State Park, as well as the growing Appalachian Mountain Club lands, the animals that Baxter loved so well have a better chance of remaining “forever wild.” With these wild areas as anchors, and because so much of northwestern Maine is undeveloped, we have a chance for creatures large and small to continue to thrive.

We, that is Friends of Baxter State Park, have been advocating for the “adjacency rule” as it was written years ago. Earlier this year, despite our efforts, the Land Use Planning Commission changed the rules that have guided development in the unorganized townships of Maine included in this huge forest. These changes would encourage development where none currently exists at the expense of nearby towns that are under-populated and hanging on economically by a thread. The forest of northwestern and north central Maine is a national and international treasure as the largest intact temperate forest east of the Mississippi. Because Baxter State Park is a core wildland within this area, we are committed to its protection for all the animals – and for the people of Maine and others to visit briefly, enjoy and then go home! We will continue to advocate for and educate decision-makers about the value we place on our nearby communities and wild spaces.

As the population of our own species increases, places of refuge away from other humans will have increasing worth to people all over the world. More and more research worldwide has shown the value to the human psyche of trees and wild places. Coming to Baxter State Park to be among verdant woods, running water, and snow-draped landscapes may well become more popular than climbing Maine's highest mountain. Finding spots to be quiet and alone may become our greatest asset. We, who have grown to love this place, can continue to share it with the greater world. We must also remember that “In wildness is the preservation of the world.” For the success of the Park, we must make sure that people recognize that these two thoughts are not mutually exclusive. For we are the only ones who can continue to save it from ourselves.

Answer:

Trivia Question in Winter Newsletter

In our winter newsletter, we asked “What is the shortest route, by trail, from a roadside trailhead to a named summit in Baxter State Park?” Answer: Burnt Mountain (1.3mi) and Trout Brook Mountain (1.3mi) are tied for this honor, with Horse Mountain (1.4mi) also a strong contender.



The snow is almost gone in my yard in Millinocket, but Katahdin remains wintry as I write this. While this season will be another of transition for the Park, I'm excited for some of the changes that are upon us. First, I'm encouraged by the strength of the spine of the new Authority composition. Maine Forest Service Director Doug Denico continues to bring his stalwart support and institutional



Fir waves "moving" across the windswept slopes of South Brother, on the northwestern edge of the Klondike.

– Photo © Aaron Megquier



After a relatively heavy snow year, winter is hanging on in many parts of the Park. This photo, taken April 23, shows conditions at the start of the Abol Trail.

– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

knowledge from eight years in service to the Park, while Maine Fish & Wildlife Commissioner Judy Camuso and Attorney General Aaron Frey bring sharp wit and confidence to our governance team. At the most recent Authority meeting they demonstrated this by supporting Park staff and revoking privileges to access the Park to a commercial group that has been pushing the limits of our rules. This serves as a strong message that we believe in the rules in spirit and letter, and will certainly strengthen the policy about commercial uses in the Park in the coming years.

This year we will begin to gather data on the scope and amount of commercial use in the Park. We'll gather these data for two years to provide a sound basis upon which to make policy decisions for the future. This is only one of the areas where we are seeking data to better inform our decision-making. As you make reservations in the future, be prepared to answer questions about your experience, where

you get your information about the Park, and how you feel about certain issues.

I hear people say as long as the Park doesn't change, you're doing your job. Well, the place changes all the time: fir waves move across the Klondike, the krummholz is very likely moving upslope, and there are new slides on the mountain every year. Around the Park the forest recovers from past logging and fires, just as Governor Baxter foresaw. This is a particularly dynamic landscape.

I think concerns about change are really about visitor experience here. You've had memorable rainy afternoons stuck inside the library at Kidney Pond or in a lean-to playing Cribbage. You've walked in complete silence from Center Pond to Little Wassataquoik Lake and not seen another human. The thing that can't change isn't the cabins or where the trails take you—it is that this is a place to connect with the natural world, those around you, and yourself. There are certain things you need to do this. You need others around you to be quiet, respect your space, or simply not be there. You need opportunities to explore, let your focus soften, let a view or a chance encounter with a startled grouse or the shock of splashing freezing cold Wassataquoik water on your sweaty face.

This opportunity to connect with the natural world is so important in our times. We are constantly distracted by the pings and dings of the digital city that never sleeps, and our politics are increasingly siloed and vitriolic. To counteract this and to recover from it, we need to take a walk in the woods, or sit by

a gurgling brook, let our focus soften, and let ourselves get lost in the healing patterns that are soothing to our animal brains. Recently I've been reading *The Nature Fix: Why Nature Makes us Happier, Healthier, and More Creative* by Florence Williams. She leads the reader through the science that supports this intuitive notion. Bird songs and fractal patterns make us more calm and alert, creative, empathetic, and more apt to engage with the world and each other. Despite what Google maps might lead us to believe, we are not the center of the map, and shifting our mindset to understand how small and insignificant we are is powerful.

Because we as a society deeply need this kind of healing, Baxter State Park is uniquely structured to offer a high quality healing experience. As Henry David Thoreau wrote, "In wildness is the preservation of the world." Our role is to maintain all the rules, structures, and policies that support wildness, and see to it that the people of Maine and beyond have access to these restorative experiences. I am so thankful for the Friends' role in supporting the Park in this; your support of our Trails program, the circulatory system of the Park, combined with your focus on getting kids from the region and the state to work here and connect with this wondrous landscape, presents a farsighted view that will support the next generations that recreate and work in the Park. Thank you for this vision; it is only with such a broad and long view that we can continue to hone our world-class stewardship of this world-class resource.

Trip Report: Warm Winter Weekend 2019

By Dick Klain



Participants in the 2019 Warm Winter Weekend, including Friends members and BSP staff, enjoying some social time before dinner. – Photo © Dick Klain

The twelfth annual Warm Winter Weekend occurred during St. Patrick's Day weekend at New England Outdoor Center (NEOC) overlooking Millinocket Lake and Katahdin. Thirty Friends members took part in this event.

Thursday was a beaut! Early arrivals very quickly donned their cross-country skis and snowshoes to enjoy the warm weather and the wonderful conditions on the groomed trails provided by Matt Polstein and his intrepid crew. Everyone worked up a great appetite to enjoy the evening's offerings of chili – both vegetarian and carnivore – and fish chowder, with tasty hors d'oeuvres and green salad followed by a raft of desserts. After dinner conversations took the place of any planned activity as new and old friendships were made and enriched.

Friday's weather dictated a different type of activity as plans to enter the Park and the Debsconeag Wilderness were put on hold. Instead, short ski trips at NEOC between showers and drizzle were the order of the day. Enjoying Roger Zimmerman's ages old sourdough starter for pancakes got everyone off to a great start. A few people ventured into Millinocket for a variety of reasons. Most of us just enjoyed a day of leisure that included reading and a mad-deningly difficult jigsaw puzzle of the Appalachian Trail from start to finish. Anne Huntington again treated us to a wonderful meal of turkey potpie with all the fixings. Members contributed the appetizers and desserts including fresh Cape Cod oysters gathered by Doug Payson, one of our new members. The evening program was an informal address by Matt DeLaney, librarian at the Millinocket Memorial Library. Matt is a very dynamic young man who has brought the library from the edge of extinction to renewed vitality. His message was a model for what many of us hope will be a rejuvenation of this great town.

Saturday found a caravan of vehicles headed for the newly opened Penobscot River Trails on the Grindstone Road just south of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. The weather was cooperative. The Butler Foundation has invested millions of dollars into creating a truly world-class outdoor education center on the banks of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Children from all over northern Maine will now have the opportunity to learn outdoor skills and sports at no cost to them or their schools except transportation to the facility. This program has been ongoing for a number of years and now has its own home. The fifteen miles of trails are easy to ski and to enjoy the scenic nature of the winter river. Members watched three otters playing on the banks of the

river. One or two deer were also spotted. The warming huts on this trail are worthy of any trail system in the world.

The evening program after our buffet banquet at the River Driver's Restaurant was our annual chance to meet and hear the Director of Baxter State Park, Eben Sypitkowski. He reminded us all that Baxter is our park and as such we need to share our love of it with the next generation. Other guests at the banquet were Baxter Ranger Dave Loomer and his wife Anna, and our Executive Director Aaron Megquier. Anne Huntington gave Eben a framed copy of a photo she had taken last fall that she had also presented to the members of the Baxter State Park Authority. Past president Barbara Bentley affectionately presented Howard Whitcomb with an empty wine bottle whose label was especially created for Warm Winter Weekend 2012 by Jim St. Pierre. Howard has attended eleven of the twelve Warm Winter Weekends to date, a record we hope he will continue to add to in coming years.

Sunday found some of us headed into the Park for a last ski while others headed home. The skiing at NEOC was terrific all weekend despite some very warm temperatures. One never knows what the future will bring. Reservations for next year's event on March 12-15, 2020, should be kept in mind for anyone who enjoys Baxter Park in the winter as well as central heating and comfortable, warm beds!



A snowy view of Katahdin from the groomed cross-country ski trails at New England Outdoor Center.

– Photo © Dick Klain

Looking Back

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

Happy 200th, Major Campbell

This is the 200th anniversary year of the first ascent of the Abol Slide avalanche. In 1819 surveyor Major Colin Campbell led a British expedition to climb Katahdin just eleven years before Maine became a state. It was also to be only the second ascent of the mountain after Charles Turner Jr.'s first ascent in 1804. The goal of Campbell's expedition was to determine the pre-War of 1812 boundaries between American and British lands. With Maine's statehood nearing (1820), the British wanted to claim as much land as possible in the northern areas of the then "District" of Maine. Some declared later that he did indeed skew his findings to claim more land for the British.

We don't know of Campbell's intended route to the summit, but he and his party of surveyors, led by native guides, first ascended the Penobscot West Branch. Upon discovering the white scar of a new

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Looking Back – Continued from pg.6

avalanche that had taken place only three years earlier in 1816, they chose to take that route to the summit. The route up the Abol Slide would become the route of choice for many years in the future.

After being thwarted by early snow squalls from gaining the summit they spent several uncomfortable nights in a temporary shelter off to the side of the slide. They finally reached the summit on a very brisk October day. There they observed the snow-capped mountains in the distance, took the appropriate magnetic readings, and quickly departed for the safety of the lower elevations.

A side note: Major Campbell returned to climb Katahdin the next year and used the temporary shelter once again. One wonders if this might be the site later used for a Firewarden's Cabin that was built in 1913.

Sleuthing about Baxter . . .

by Howard R. Whitcomb, FBSP Historian

On a recent visit to the Percival P. Baxter Collection at the State Library in Augusta, I came across an article from the *Portland Sunday Telegram* of November 3, 1957, entitled, "Canned Corn Was Basis of the Baxter Company." Given the number of times I have been asked as to the source of personal wherewithal that enabled Percival P. Baxter to acquire and gift 201,000 acres of land to the State of Maine for Baxter State Park, I thought this news account might be a vehicle for shedding some light on that question.

Governor Baxter's father, James Phinney Baxter, and William G. Davis, were partners in a dry goods business in Portland. With the rapidity of developments in the fledgling canning industry during the mid-19th century, Baxter and Davis entered the field, initially with canned lobster and, shortly thereafter, canned corn. (They were joined in this partnership, briefly, by Samuel Rumery and George Burnham, of "B&M Baked Beans" fame.) The partners' collaboration led to the creation of the Portland Packing Company. Under the guidance of the elder Baxter, the Portland Packing Company became the largest food packing company in the world, and was acknowledged, as such, when it received a prestigious award at the 1867 Paris Exposition. The image of the firm's letterhead (right), dated November 12, 1870, in J. P. Baxter's hand, includes sketches of its thirteen factories spanning much of the state's coastline from Biddeford Pool to Englishman's River in Whitneyville, Washington County.

J.P. Baxter's eldest son, Hartley Cone Baxter, joined the firm upon his graduation from Bowdoin College in 1878, and a younger brother, Clinton Lewis Baxter, joined the firm shortly thereafter. Less than a decade later, H.C. Baxter would leave Portland Packing and establish another canning business with factories in Brunswick and several other communities. He, in turn, would be joined by two other brothers, James Phinney Baxter, Jr. and Rupert Henry Baxter. The origins of Portland Packing and the evolution of H.C. Baxter and Co. were the focus of the aforementioned article in the *Portland Sunday Telegram*.

With his fortune made, James Phinney Baxter retired from Portland Packing in the 1880s, and, in the course of doing so, shared his substantial proceeds from this enterprise with his five sons, those mentioned above (Harley, Clinton, James and Rupert), and Eugene R. Baxter.

James Phinney's interests shifted to politics (he served six terms as mayor of Portland); public benefaction; and a fascination for the arts, family genealogy, and the history of Portland. His first wife, Sarah Kimball Lewis, died tragically after complications in

childbirth. Shortly thereafter, James Phinney married Mehitable (Hetty) Cummings Proctor, a descendant of John Proctor, a Salem witchcraft martyr. It would be the second-born of this marriage, Percival Proctor Baxter, who would follow the post-entrepreneurial footsteps of his father. As Baxter biographer, Neil Rolde, stated, Percival "not only inherited the wealth of his father. . . but also his father's sense of public duty, philanthropic munificence, historic perspective, love of nature, and intellectual curiosity."

After Percival returned to Portland as a Harvard Law School graduate in 1901, he managed his father's political campaigns and vast commercial and residential real estate holdings. The two men worked closely, and it was Percival who looked after his father when his health began to fail. Many of those real estate holdings were turned over to Percival prior to his father's death in 1921. Those holdings, along with inheritances from his mother and sister, Emily, constituted much of the wealth that would enable him to emulate his late-father's beneficence, most notably, the gift of Baxter State Park.

We might say that Percival Baxter only benefited indirectly from the canning business owned by his father, since those proceeds had been distributed during the latter part of the 19th century to his five half-brothers. Or, as Rupert Baxter White, Percival's great-nephew puts it, those benefits from canned corn were "the kernel, but not the crop." Instead, Percival's substantial wealth came primarily from the two inheritances and the proceeds from the Portland real estate holdings.

The author wishes to acknowledge the assistance of Rupert Baxter White in the preparation of this article.

- ¹ Portland Packing Company letterhead image, courtesy of Rupert Baxter White
- ² Neil Rolde, *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries* (Tilbury Press, 1997), p. x



Portland Packing Company letterhead from 1870. – Courtesy of Rupert Baxter White

Baxter State Park Trivia

Which well-known Maine nature photographer first published the annual Baxter State Park calendar that is now published by Friends?



Friends of Baxter State Park

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Thank you!

2019 Walks in the Park

Day Hike of Mount Megunticook in Camden Hills: Friday, May 31

Meet in the Maiden Cliff parking area off of Rt. 52 in Camden at 8:30 am for a spring hike. We will hike the Ridge Trail, to Jack Williams Trail, and on up to the top of Megunticook where we will be rewarded by beautiful ocean views looking east, as well as views of surrounding hills looking south. This is a 6.5-mile loop. The lady slippers should be blooming and spring birds abundant. Capacity: 8 people. Host: Marion Gray

Telos-Webster Lake Canoe Trip: July 19 – 21

This little-visited, northwest corner of the park is accessible by canoe from Telos Lake via a 1-mile portage trail. Canoe carts recommended. This is flat-water paddling, and the distances are not daunting, even for fit beginners. Both canoes and kayaks are welcome. Participants should bring their own boats, PFD's, food, and camping gear. This is an out-and-back trip, starting from and returning to Chamberlain Bridge (DeLorme's Map 56, E-1) on the Telos Road. Capacity: 8 people. Host: Jim Andrews.

Kidney Pond Cabin Weekend: Dates TBA

(tentatively planned for Sept. 27-29 pending availability)

We hope to reserve cabin #7 on beautiful Kidney Pond, which accommodates six people. Enjoy a weekend of hiking, paddling, fishing, or just relaxing. We can plan a group hike for Friday, Sept. 27, for those interested. Cost: \$45 per person. Capacity: 5 people. Host: Marion Gray

Nesowadnehunk Weekend: August 15 – 18

Nesowadnehunk campground provides easy access to Ledge Falls, a popular swimming spot during hot summer weather. There is trailhead access to Russell Pond via the Wassataquoik Lake Trail and for day hikes to Doubletop Mountain. Nesowadnehunk Field Campground was restructured in 2005-2008. All lean-tos were moved to the former group area field. The bridge over Newowadnehunk Stream is open to foot traffic only and is used to access several walk-in tent sites. Cost: \$36 per person. Capacity: 8 people. Host: Sherry Langway.

Please visit www.friendsofbaxter.org for more information about our Walks in the Park for 2019.

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