



FOREVER WILD



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Summer 2017

Vol. 16 No. 3

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

Baxter State Park often feels like a world apart, but it is inseparably joined to the communities of the Katahdin region. According to a 2008 study, the Park contributes nearly \$7 million annually to the regional economy. Visitors, materials, and supplies flow to the Park through surrounding communities. Local contractors grade the roads, split the firewood, and harvest timber in the SFMA.

As an organization, we realize that achieving *forever wild* inside the Park boundary depends on a lot of things outside the boundary. Our last strategic plan included this statement: *Friends of Baxter State Park nurtures ties to communities in the region to support their efforts toward sustainable economic development through tourism and outdoor recreation, while preserving the wilderness character of the Park.* We have been an active member of the Katahdin Area Chamber of Commerce for many years, and last year we joined a new group called the Katahdin Collaborative that is working to advance a positive vision for the region. These efforts are already yielding significant benefits, and we plan to continue our growth in this direction.

By listening, and sharing our own ideas, at countless community meetings and events in recent years, we have a clearer vision of how to be a catalyst for positive change. Our Baxter Youth Conservation Corps is one way we are putting this into action. This program, to be launched on July 10, will provide direct economic benefit, job training, and inspiring wilderness experiences to youth from the Katahdin region, while providing about 1,000 hours of donated trail work to Baxter State Park this year. We see this as a win-win-win-win for youth development, economic revitalization, community relationships, and conservation. Baxter State Park is part of the cultural identity and history of the region, and we believe that it will benefit the Park to be a positive part of the region's future.



New mountain models for Baxter State Park will feature up-to-date aerial imagery, as well as trails, summit elevations, roads, parking areas, ranger stations, and campsites.

– Satellite image © Google

Friends to donate new terrain models to Baxter State Park

by Aaron Megquier

After several years of planning and preparation, Friends is happy to announce that we will be donating new terrain models to Baxter State Park this summer. Many long-time visitors are familiar with the existing models, which have been installed on Ranger Station porches and at Park Headquarters for more than thirty years.

The old models, while well-made and durable, lack much of the information that visitors need to make good decisions about wilderness travel. They also have a 3:1 vertical exaggeration, meaning that terrain is vastly distorted. Because the current models focus on the high terrain of Katahdin, they cut off all three Katahdin trailheads. This means visitors cannot see the entire length of any of the major approach trails – or ways down off the mountain in an emergency.

The new terrain models will feature extremely accurate terrain, and will also include a printed map layer with a wealth of information about Park geography. Satellite imagery will make it easy to see the location of treeline, rockslides, bodies of water, and other important landscape features. The models will include trail names and summit elevations, as well as the locations of roads, parking areas, ranger sta-

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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.



Nova Scotia Getaway: Two nights in a yurt on Bells Island



Clark Island Retreat: Weekend on a secluded island in the shadow of Katahdin



Day of sailing aboard the catamaran Moxie Cat in Penobscot Bay or Casco Bay



Handmade cedar garden bench

Membership Matters

by Sarah Holland, Administrative Manager



Summer is unfolding its green, fulfilling a promise of growth and renewal. We at Friends are thankful to our strong membership that also continues to grow and flourish in its commitment to preserve the

wilderness character of Baxter State Park. We always appreciate new memberships and this year four members are offering amazing raffle prizes to encourage people to join. Each new member in 2017 will have a chance to win. A new member at the Knife Edge or Traveler level will get 2 chances. A new member at the Governor Baxter Society level gets 10 chances. Anyone who recruits a new member is also entered to win. So if you have friends who share your passion for the Park, now is a good time to let them know about FBSP. When they join they should mention your name, so that you are included in the raffle. Raffle prizes include:

Nova Scotia Getaway - Two nights in a comfortable yurt on Bells Island near Lunenburg on Nova Scotia's scenic South Shore, hosted by former FBSP Board member Anne Huntington. Meals & guided activities depending on interest. Dates to be determined with host to best accommodate your schedule.

Clark Island Retreat - Two nights in a cozy, wood-heated cabin on Clark Island, Lower Togue Pond, hosted by FBSP Vice President Henry Beeuwkes. Canoe, swim, fish, and hike with a full view of Katahdin from the beach. Private room(s). Dates to be determined with host to best accommodate your schedule.

Day Sail aboard the Moxiecat - a 32-foot cruising catamaran, in either Penobscot or Casco Bay for up to six people captained by the President of FBSP, Dick Klain. Date, time, and pick-up to be determined.

Handmade Cedar Garden Bench - Crafted by Friends Board Member Bob Johnston. Delivery arrangements possible depending on location and schedule. Out-of-state delivery not included.

We'll be drawing the winners out of a basket of names at our November Board Meeting. The best prize of all, in my humble opinion, is joining this great organization and supporting efforts that benefit the Park. So really there are only winners!

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Terrain Models... *Continued from pg.1*

tions, and campsites. Most importantly, the models will accurately display every landform in the Park in stunning detail, from alpine ravines to glacial moraines. Because the terrain will be much less exaggerated, the vertical relief of the new models will be about six inches – far less than the roughly sixteen-inch relief of the current models.

The project includes ten new terrain models in total:

- Five Katahdin models, each measuring three feet by three feet, will be installed at Roaring Brook, Abol, Katahdin Stream, Park headquarters, and the Park Visitor Center, with an additional Katahdin model kept in reserve as a spare.
- One model of the entire Park, measuring three feet by six feet, will be installed at Park Headquarters.
- One Traveler Range model, measuring three feet by three feet, will be installed at South Branch Pond.
- Two Katahdin models will be made for travel, with armored edges and rolling carrying cases. These models will be used in education and outreach programs, one by Baxter State Park and one by Friends.

The models are being made by Solid Terrain Modeling of Fillmore, California. STM is the global leader for these types of terrain models, and works with clients including the National Geographic Society, many National Parks, state and federal agencies, major museums, universities, and other clients worldwide.

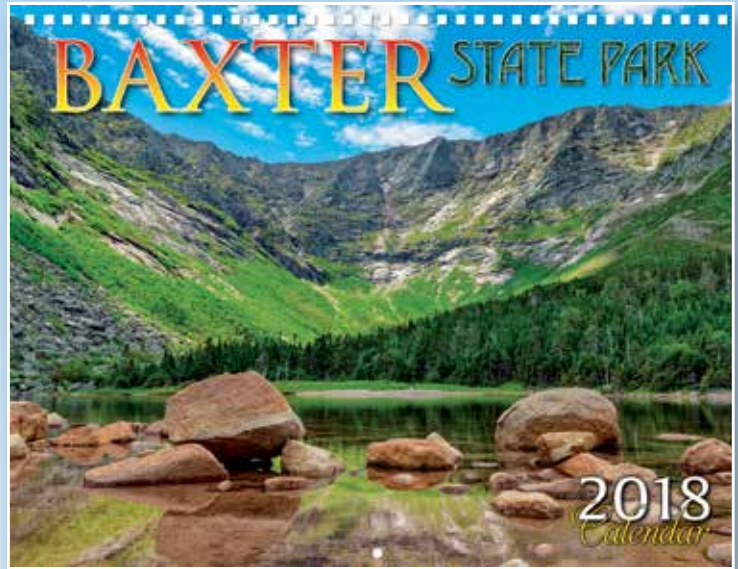
We expect that hundreds of thousands, and probably more than a million, people will use these models over the coming decades to plan their trips, understand the terrain they are exploring, and hopefully have more safe and enjoyable visits to Baxter State Park.

With a total project budget of \$65,000, this will represent the largest single gift Friends has ever made to Baxter State Park. This project was made possible by the generosity of Steuart and Linda Thomsen, Chris & Dorothy Beeuwkes, Reinier & Nancy Beeuwkes, Henry Beeuwkes & Peg Mills, and Elizabeth Cook.

Friends will be holding several release celebrations to share these models with the public before they are installed at Baxter State Park. Please stay tuned for details.

Answer: Trivia Question in Spring Newsletter

In our spring newsletter, we posed this question: "How many parcels did Percival Baxter give to the people of the State of Maine to constitute Baxter State Park?" The answer was 28 parcels. We also asked a bonus question: "What parcels has the Park acquired since Percival's last gift in 1963?" The answer was four parcels: the area around Togue Pond gate in 1992, the West Branch Lands in 1997, Katahdin Lake and the surrounding area in 2006, and the Huber Parcel on Katahdin Lake in 2012.



Calendar cover photo © Ross Knowlton

2018 Baxter State Park Calendars have arrived

The 2018 Baxter State Park calendar is hot off the presses! The calendar costs \$14, with tax and shipping included. If you still need a 2017 calendar, we have a limited number available for just \$8. 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.

???

Baxter State Park Trivia

What animal that lives in Baxter State Park is found nowhere else on earth?

Send Trivia answers to admin@friendsofbaxter.org

Benefit night at Flatbread Company in Portland on July 27

Please join us on Thursday, July 27, for a benefit night at Flatbread Company in Portland! We'll be there from 5:00pm - 9:00pm, and Flatbread will donate a portion of receipts from the evening to Friends. Come enjoy a night out while supporting our work on behalf of the Park. Please note - there is no formal program for the evening, just great food and great company. Flatbread Company is located on the waterfront at 72 Commercial Street, Portland, Maine.



Baxter State Park often saturates the senses with light, life, and wildness.

– Photo © Kim Rosenbaum

“Katahdin is the gift that keeps giving back.”

Recently Evelyn Dunphy made the above statement. Evelyn is a well-known, award-winning watercolor painter, former Baxter State Park Artist in Residence, and an all-around great Friend. At the time, we were discussing the work of Marsden Hartley, another great artist who valued Katahdin in another century. I couldn't agree with her more. In the last issue I talked about how we can all volunteer more in the Park to give back to it. This time I want to talk about how Baxter State Park gives to us.

For many of us who live and breathe within the State of Maine we take the great north woods for granted. It doesn't take long away from Maine to realize how special our environment is. Heading south from Portland and Portsmouth the air seems to change as the number of lanes on the interstate increases. Commerce takes the place of sanity as the speed limit decreases for the safety of all. (Though it doesn't seem to matter to some who keep talking on their cell phones averaging ten to fifteen miles per hour more than the posted speed.)

Heading north from Old Town, I tend to slow down instead of speeding up to the “new” speed limit of seventy-five miles per hour. From even the small hills of this section of the interstate you can see miles of trees and bogs, all without factory plumes and the noise of manufacturing. This is a new view that many of us already are taking for granted. It has meant hardship, displacement, and poverty for some of our human family as many manufacturing plants have closed. This new view is unique and we need to cherish it more, reflecting on its human cost.

Crossing the West Branch of the Penobscot in Medway I always have to check out “the” mountain. It is a sentinel that seems to safeguard the land around it. It is indeed sacred. It stands as a gift to us all in perpetuity.

Generations of us have flocked up it, over it, and around it. Some can still remember the mules at Chimney Pond and the sluice down past what is now Roaring Brook Campground. Nature is recapturing its wildness at Baxter State Park. Vistas that inspired generations

are now blocked by trees, as the wholesale clearcutting of the past is gone. Only fire and rock slides will open new vistas, and they too will in their time regrow and pass. Baxter State Park gives us a chance to see our moment of time as it reveals itself on the template of our conscious memory. We may rush to Baxter but once there we slow to the rhythms of the natural world.

This is what Baxter State Park is giving to us. It is not primal wilderness but it gives us the chance to marvel at it. When I canoe across Grassy Pond early on a summer morning I always wonder about all those others who have been here to see what I am seeing, to marvel at the small Sundews, the Bitterns, and the Moose. When I go to these places and don't see another human for hours I rejoice at the opportunity to be alone with creation. I think sometimes in the quiet as the mist rises over the pond you can actually smell the growth and hear life that is surrounding you. It's as if it is shouting, “I am here! I am alive! I am growing! I am!” The sensory overload that occurs within nature spills over into my consciousness and refreshes my soul.

This may sound like so much mumbo-jumbo, but increasingly scientists are rediscovering what mystics have known forever. Nature is good for you. A half hour walk a day is good for everyone; a walk in a natural setting is even better. Spending three contiguous days in a natural setting is one of the best ways to get the most out of nature. As our hectic technological world of economics, politics, and busy-ness becomes the rule, Baxter continues to offer us hope, healing, and peace. The wind is blowing in the trees; the water is cascading in the streams: the chickadees are calling; the air is fresh. Baxter State Park is giving back. Are you ready to receive it?

Looking back...

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

Early Exploration of Katahdin's East

Much has been written of two very early 18th century explorers, Col. John Montessor (1760) and John Chadwick (1764), who traveled close to Katahdin, the latter by way of the West Branch of the Penobscot River. My recent research into the history of the Hunt Farm and the Dacey Farm/Lunksoos sites along the East Branch of the Penobscot on Katahdin's east side, has revealed an interesting 1793 exploration, authorized by Massachusetts which then included the region that later became the State of Maine. The expedition was to start at “a point” north of Bangor and travel up the Penobscot, into the East Branch, and ascend all the way to Matagamon Lake. The group was charged with recording the geology, mineralogy, and climate of the area as well as potential mill sites, where roads might be built, and so on. One source called for the group “to lay out a parcel of land for the Tribes.” I am hoping soon to discover a copy of the expedition's report.

There might well have been earlier explorations of the area east of Katahdin, but the lack of road access would have made that difficult indeed. When the Aroostook Road finally reached the Sherman/Stacyville area in the early 1830s, the homesteading boom began and eastern access to Katahdin would soon replace southern access for most of the 19th century. Can you imagine an expedition paddled and poling all the way north on the Penobscot to see what was up there? A remarkable feat for the time.



Update from the Park by Jensen Bissell, BSP Director

Jensen Bissell delivered this State of the Park address at the Friends annual meeting on April 1, 2017.

In beginning this year's State of the Park submission, I wish to remind the reader that these words are coming to you from an expert. Specifically, the kind of expert defined by Noble Prize winning physicist Niels Bohr who said,

"An expert is a man who has made all the mistakes that can be made, in a narrow field."

I am pleased to report that the State of Baxter State Park is... "Awesome". The best way to qualify that statement is by considering the Park as a very sturdy and well-built three legged stool. The strong legs that support the Park are the Park's governance, funding and of course, the land that forms the Park. Each of these legs is in great condition.

The Governance of the Park is led by the Baxter State Park Authority. These three individuals, **Doug Denico**, the Director of the Maine Forest Service and the current Authority Chair, **Janet T. Mills**, Maine Attorney General, and **Chandler Woodcock**, Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, are now in their seventh year of service to the Park as Trustees. They are knowledgeable and experienced in the administration and management of the Park and have successfully guided the Park through a number of



The Baxter State Park Authority has sole responsibility for the oversight and governance of the Park.
– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

difficult issues. Although their positions in State Government keep their schedules very full, they always find time for the Park and when it is time to tend to the Park's business, they are completely dedicated to ensuring the Park is managed in the manner envisioned and directed by Percival Baxter. I believe this Authority is just what Percival Baxter intended when he so intelligently crafted the structure of this important body.

The Authority directs an exemplary Park staff. The Park Ranger staff is well trained, experienced and dedicated and they are assisted by a capable and energetic group of seasonal staffers who operate gatehouses, campgrounds, visitor centers and reservation systems. The work environment and culture and the landscape itself, continue to bring strong and dedicated employees to the Park.

It takes money to manage and protect the Park's landscape. We are fortunate that the foresight of Percival Baxter provided an endowment that allows the Park to operate independently of government appropriations or other outside funding. We are also extremely fortunate for the efforts of the Park's Investment Committee. This volunteer committee, Chaired by **Brian Noyes**, and populated with individuals with financial and investment management acumen, provides invaluable expertise in the management of the Park's endowment fund. The Park's endowment provides approximately

with others, help the Park plan and implement the replacement of large infrastructure such as culverts and bridges as well as plan for expensive but necessary trail relocation projects to stabilize eroded trail sections and improve the long-term protection of the Park's natural resources.

In turn, the Park provides important economic impact to the business and people of the Katahdin Region. An economic impact study conducted by the Park in 2008, indicated that the Park provides an economic impact of more than \$6,000,000 annually to the Katahdin Region. Because of the stability of the Park as a self-funded public trust, it seems reasonable to predict that the economic impact of the Park to the surrounding towns is unlikely to change in the future. However, quoting Niels Bohr again,

"Prediction is very difficult, especially if it's about the future."



Baxter State Park is fortunate to have a competent and dedicated staff to carry out the Park's mission.
– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

60% of the annual operating revenues of the Park, with the remaining 40% provided by fees for camping, non-resident entrance fees and the sale of forest products from the Park's Scientific Forest Management Area. The Park has also been very fortunate to receive annual donations from the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund. This fund, formed from the estate of long-time Park volunteer **Frank Trautmann**, provides more than \$300,000 in annual un-directed donations to Baxter State Park. These donations, along



Long-time volunteer Frank Trautmann set up the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund to provide ongoing support for the Park.
– Photo courtesy of Baxter State Park

In 2016, Park visitation was around 71,000 people. This figure matches the average visitation of all years from 1972 to the present. For the past decade, Park visitation has been slowly growing. The Park has management policies and protocols in place that will protect the most vulnerable places in the Park from the impacts of increased use. In the coming years, other less used places will likely get busier. The management of this increasing use is a way that protects the Park's natural resources in accordance with Percival Baxter's Deeds of Trust will likely provide the most significant challenge to the Park in the years ahead. Because of the three very sturdy legs that Percival Baxter provided to manage and protect the Park, future Authorities and a great Park staff will continue to manage the Park in the "right, unspoiled way."

Friends offers tours of Marsden Hartley exhibit



Mt. Katahdin (Maine), Autumn #2, 1939–40. Oil on canvas, 30 1/4 x 40 1/4 in. (76.8 x 102.2 cm). The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Edith and Milton Lowenthal Collection, Bequest of Edith Abrahamson Lowenthal, 1991.

—Photo courtesy of Colby College Museum of Art

Noted artist and Friends member Evelyn Dunphy will lead two tours of a special Marsden Hartley exhibit at the Colby College Museum of Art this summer and fall. The exhibit, entitled *Marsden Hartley's Maine*, came to Maine from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City where it met with great reviews. Marsden Hartley is a highly regarded early twentieth century landscape painter known for his energy, decisive line, and brooding colors. He frequently painted in northern Maine, in what is now Baxter State Park.

Friends will offer two tours of the exhibit: one on Thursday, August 17, and one on Wednesday, October 18. Both tours will begin at 10:00am in the museum lobby and last for about an hour. We'll gather for an optional group lunch afterward in one of the Colby dining halls. Admission to the Colby College Museum of Art is free, and the Friends tours are free as well. The capacity for each tour is fifteen people, and advance sign-up is required – please contact Sarah at admin@friendsofbaxter.org to register. A special thanks to Al Howlett for suggesting this activity, and to Evelyn Dunphy for being willing to lead it.



With sunshine and abundant snow, participants in the 2017 Warm Winter Weekend enjoyed views of Katahdin across frozen Millinocket Lake. —Photo © Dick Klain

Trip Report: Warm Winter Weekend 2017

Warm Winter Weekend (March 16 - 19) was again a resounding success. Mother nature made it all possible with temps just below freezing at night and just above freezing during the day with a base snow load measured in feet. The sun was prevalent throughout our time there. New England Outdoor Center made two of their units available to the eighteen of us for camaraderie and shared meals. We all came away with memories of a wonderful time.

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For those who arrived early on Thursday, the new cross-country trails made for some superb skiing after Wednesday's snow showers. Newly groomed, they offered views of Mt. Katahdin from a new perspective across Millinocket Lake. Many of us attended the local snowmobile club's St. Patrick's Day dinner of corned beef, cabbage, and all the fixings. It was fun to mix and talk with the locals about the work that they have been doing in and around the Millinocket area to not only groom trails for their snow machines but also the trails for cross-country skiers.

Friday's dawn brought renewed sunshine and the opportunity to further explore the surrounding area. The group divided up with people enjoying the views exploring out on the lake and the new trails, going into Baxter State Park, and The Nature Conservancy/ Debscon-eag property. That night after a wonderful shared meal we hosted several local members and guests to recount what it was like to live in Millinocket during the heyday of papermaking in the area. Jill Ippoliti and Ginger Hillier made the arrangements with friends with whom they had grown up. Our attention was held as stories of the "Magic City" rolled from the mouths of those who came of age and worked in and around Millinocket. Who knew, for instance, that Millinocket from the outset of its creation had an area called "Little Italy?"

Saturday's activities were less active as most of us had difficulty getting going after being treated to very special sourdough pancakes prepared by member and Chef Roger "Zimo" Zimmerman. He used his thirty-plus-year-old sourdough starter that came all the way from Alaska. For some, just watching the lightshow of sunlight playing across Katahdin was enough activity. For Ellen Klain and Bill Webster getting into Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument was a must see. They left early missing the pancakes and got back late fully refreshed and bubbling with enthusiasm about where they had skied and what they had seen. Most of us were content with skiing the trails explored by others the previous day. That evening we all gathered at the River Drivers Restaurant for a wonderful buffet followed by remarks from Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell.

Our final day at NEOC led to more skiing on the trails. We packed up our gear and said our good-byes. Plans are already being made for next year when we hope that several of our "regulars" will be able to rejoin us for one of the signature events in the FBSP calendar.



The new BSP homepage, launched on April 24, is located at www.baxterstatepark.org. —Image courtesy of Baxter State Park

Baxter State Park launches new website

After a great deal of planning and hard work, Baxter State Park launched a new website on April 24. The new site features direct access to the information and online services that visitors are looking for: camping reservations, information about camping facilities, weather, parking reservations, and general advice on trip planning. The site is at a different URL: www.baxterstatepark.org, although the old web address is configured to redirect to the new site.

Sleuthing about Baxter . . . Chance Encounters with PPB

By Howard R. Whitcomb, FBSP Historian

Personal accounts of interactions with Percival P. Baxter are becoming increasingly infrequent. Just recently, I had a conversation with Linda Shea of Wenham, MA., who, as a teenager, spent her summers at Camp Phoenix*, a private sporting camp on Nesowadnehunk Lake along the western boundary of Baxter State Park. Linda's parents, George and Beryl Emerson of Livermore Falls owned the camps for 16 years – 1956-1971. When the school year ended, Linda and her younger brother, Peter, joined their parents at the camp for the summer months. Those were the latter days of the "Sourdnahunk" Stream log drives, guided hunting and fishing, and ice harvesting. Their parents cut ice in the winter and over the course of the summer Peter delivered the block ice to the main lodge's "Dingle", as well as to the individual sports' cabins.

Linda waited on table in the dining room that featured white table clothes and sterling silver. On several occasions, she had the pleasure of waiting on the then octogenarian, Percival P. Baxter, who would have been in the midst of one of his annual tours of Baxter State Park. She doesn't remember if he was a "big tipper." Baxter was known for appreciating fine dining, especially at the Great Northern Hotel in Millinocket, which also featured white table clothes and sterling silver, before it was leveled by fire in the early 1960s.

I also had a chance encounter with former Governor Baxter at roughly the same time.

I met Percival P. Baxter, aged 81, on a mid-summer, Sunday afternoon in 1957 at the Wavus Camps in Jefferson, Maine. Upon seeing the former governor, standing in front of the camp office, I introduced myself, shook his hand, and thanked him for his gift of Baxter State Park to the State of Maine. The follow-up conversation was brief. Governor Baxter asked: "Have you been to my park?" I responded: "Yes, on several occasions I have climbed Katahdin." Finally, he asked: "Did you enjoy your time in my park?" I responded with an enthusiastic, "Yes." Governor Baxter was reportedly at Wavus that Sunday for the noontime dinner and a visit with a great-grand niece, who was enrolled in the girls' camp.

I feel blessed to have had this brief conversation with Governor Baxter, given that a half-century later, I would be asked to oversee the Baxter Papers Project for FBSP.

* Bill Horner, *Camp Phoenix: The History of a Maine Sporting Camp* (2007)

2017 Volunteer Opportunities in Baxter State Park

For complete details, including the estimated number of volunteers needed, and estimated time for each job, please visit the volunteer page on the BSP website.

Togus Pond Area: Firewood Stacking. May – Oct.

Togus Pond and Phoenix Camps: Clean up old site areas (artifacts, metal/glass dump areas not used since the 60s). June – Oct.

Annual Loon Count: Document loon sightings. July 15, 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.

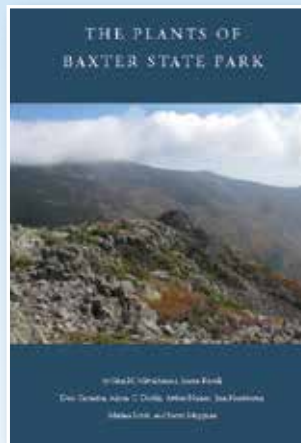
Abol Campground: Build Kiosk. June – July.

Togus Pond and Visitor Center Landing: Haul/spread gravel (small job) and planking. July-Sept.

Togus Beach & Togus Gate: Remove Bristly Locust (invasive species). August.

Perimeter Road: Trim brush on both sides of road. June – Oct.

Plants of Baxter State Park field guide available



The Plants of Baxter State Park field guide, published by the University of Maine Press in August 2016.

The Plants of Baxter State Park field guide was published in late August last year after five years of hard work. As we enter the first full summer season since the publication of the guide, we encourage you to pick up a copy if you haven't already. It's quick and easy to order a copy online at www.friendsofbaxter.org/store, and shipping is free. Or please feel free to give us a call. When you're exploring in the Park this summer, if you find a plant that doesn't seem to be in the guide, please get in touch! Your observations could help expand our knowledge of biodiversity in the Park.





Friends of Baxter State Park

PO Box 322

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

Send to:

Friends of Baxter State Park

PO Box 322

Belfast, ME 04915

Thank you!

Join us for a Walk in the Park this summer!

Please join us for a Walk in the Park this summer. We've scheduled a series of day trips and over-night 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.

June 24: Speckled Mountain day hike

Located near Lovell, Maine in the White Mountain National Forest, Speckled Mountain is 2,906 ft. in elevation and has great views to the west, north and east. We'll hike up via Bickford Brook Trail and return by way of Blueberry Ridge Trail. Round trip about 8.5 miles. Meet at the Brickett Place on Rt. 113 just south of Evans Notch at 9:00 a.m. Host: Andy Walsh

July 20 – 23: Martin Ponds & Katahdin Lake backpacking trip

Join us for a short backpacking trip in the beautiful Katahdin Lake area. We'll spend Thursday night at the Martin Ponds lean-to, Friday night at the North Katahdin Lake lean-to, and Saturday night back at the Martin Ponds lean-to. There will be plenty of time for relaxing, paddling, and exploring, with an optional day hike to Twin Ponds on Friday. Limit 5 participants. Cost: \$10 per person. Host: Marion Gray

August 12: Day hike of Katahdin via Abol Trail

After two years of hard work by the Maine Conservation Corps and BSP staff, the Abol Trail reopened in 2016. Come check out the new version of this historic route to the summit of Katahdin! Host: Paul Corrigan

September 1 – 3: South Branch Pond weekend

Enjoy two nights at South Branch Pond, with wonderful opportunities for hiking, swimming, canoeing, fishing, and relaxing. We've rented out the entire bunkhouse with space for eight people. Cost: \$24 per person. Host: Dick Klain

September 2: Day hike in South Branch Pond area

We will choose from two loop hikes based on participant interest: a journey around the Traveler Loop, or the less strenuous loop around the South Branch Ponds. Host: Dick Klain

September 14 – 17: Kidney Pond weekend

Join us for a weekend of fun at Kidney Pond this fall. We've rented cabins #7 and #8 with space for ten people. Cost: \$75 per person. Hosts: Marion Gray and Andy Walsh

September 16: Day hike of North Brother

Join us for a climb of North Brother - a challenging hike with great views of the Klondike and the wild north side of Katahdin. Come for the day, or sign up for our Kidney Pond weekend (above). Hosts: Marion Gray and Andy Walsh