



FOREVER WILD



Newsletter of Friends of Baxter State Park

Fall 2022

Vol. 21 No. 1

Executive Director's Column

by Aaron Megquier

The world is a challenging place these days. A global pandemic, war in Ukraine, and climate disasters playing out before our eyes. A third of Pakistan was under water this summer. It's easy to spot economic, cultural, and ecological upheaval in all directions.

It is an indescribable comfort that in the midst of all of this, the experience of visiting Baxter State Park has not changed – there may be new challenges, but the essence of the place is the same. The trout still rise on an early summer evening on Daicoy Pond. Katahdin remains a sacred, iconic place that pulls people back again and again. Wassataquoik Stream still comes roaring down from Katahdin, as clear and shockingly cold as ever.

This resilience is a testament to the foresight of Governor Baxter, and the unique structure of his gift. Retired Park Director (and current Friends Board member) Jensen Bissell referred to this as the three-legged stool, with the legs being independent governance, independent funding, and the land itself. Each of those legs has been tested over the years, and will be tested again, but they remain intact and strong.

The park's resilience is also testament to the hard work of Park staff, as they have grappled with labor shortages, supply chain issues, stressed out visitors, increasingly unreliable winters, and a surge in search and rescue incidents – all against a backdrop of extremely high demand as our cooped-up society is so eager to get outside.

Finally, it is also a testament to all of you, our members. Thanks to you, Friends has been able to provide sustained support to the Park, and even to expand our support, to help meet these many challenges.

We are very happy to be sending you this issue of *Forever Wild* after a gap in our publication schedule this past year. We hope that it helps you feel uplifted, inspired, and connected to this spectacular place that we all love.



Mike Clark of Millinocket and Kyle McNally of Stacyville with a section of bog bridging they built on the Mount OJI trail during the 2022 Baxter Youth Conservation Corps. – Photo © Greg Friel

Conservation Fellows Continue to Shine

By Cathy Brown

Each summer, our Baxter Youth Conservation Corps inspires a new cohort of young conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts from the communities surrounding the Park. Since its inception in 2017, this program has provided more than 5,000 hours of much-needed trail support to Baxter State Park, as well as youth development and economic revitalization to the communities of the Katahdin region.

After three years of rapid growth, the Covid-19 pandemic upended our plans in spring 2020. We adapted quickly and developed a modified, socially distant version of the program in a matter of weeks: our BYCC Conservation Fellows. We hired eight incredible young people from the Katahdin region for this opportunity. Our Fellows were responsible for immersing themselves in the Park, building expertise they could share with their communities, and completing a major independent study project. This was so successful that we offered the Conservation Fellows program again in summer 2021.

What began as a temporary adaptation to the pandemic has become a successful program in its own right. The Conservation Fellows program is a feel-good story about overcoming obstacles, young people thriving in nature, and our organization's commitment to the Katahdin region. This has been the biggest silver lining for our organization during last few years. We believe that it is a perfect complement to our trail crews, offering older youth a chance to take their engagement to the next level. Our Conservation Fellows

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



Membership Matters

By Rachel Spatz Bidstrup

Hello, Friends of Baxter State Park! It is with warmth and appreciation that I introduce myself to you as the new Membership Coordinator! Since joining the FBSP staff last fall, I have begun to delve wholeheartedly into the history and stories of the Park, as well as the myriad of the members' stories that have been shared with me. Stories are powerful. They create meaning and connection; they transmit information, inform and educate; they shift perspectives and provide a nuanced engagement with our collective and personal past, present and future. What I am learning through these stories is that Baxter State Park is not just any park. It is a very special place that provides deep and meaningful connections to both our natural environment and the people we experience it with. It's a place where families and friends connect and reconnect. It's a place of spiritual enlightenment. It's a place of reverence for natural beauty. It's a place that so very many people hold dear to their hearts. I am excited to become a part of the story of Baxter State Park and the Friends who support its continued preservation.

My own story is long and varied and contains the collected life experiences that are applied in all that I do. I have been an exchange student, a museum educator, and a musician. I've been a disability rights educator, a non-profit director, and a dancer. I continue to be a farmworker, a gardener, a small business owner, and a homeschooling parent. In each and every one of my life's endeavors, I seek to remain curious and open and continue to learn and engage. As my own story is now entwined with this great organization and the Park it serves, I am eager to engage with our membership as we work together to build and reinforce this community of Friends.

The stories that our members have shared with me have inspired me to create a new platform where we can share our BSP stories with each other. The concept is to create this space here, in our *Forever Wild* newsletter. This new column will be called Friends' Stories. In each issue, we will announce an overarching theme and an open invitation to submit works of writing, art, photography, etc., pertaining to this theme. It is my hope that this new column will collect an array of Friends' stories that can serve as inspiration for others. The theme for our upcoming winter issue is **FORTITUDE**.

Please submit your entries electronically to rachel@friendsofbaxter.org or by mail to PO Box 322, Belfast, ME 04915. Space is limited, and not all submissions can be published.



Lou Mucci with a trophy brook trout at Daicey Pond.
 - Photo © Howard Whitcomb

In Memoriam

Louis "Lou" Mucci
 June 22, 1937 – February 2, 2022

Lou Mucci was accomplished painter and graphic artist who retired to Alna, Maine two decades ago. In 2005, Friends commissioned him to paint a watercolor of Katahdin that was used as the frontispiece of *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park* by Howard Whitcomb. Prints of this watercolor have been distributed widely by Friends for promotional purposes over the years. Lou passed away on February 2, 2022, and will be greatly missed.



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Mucci's watercolor Katahdin, commissioned in 2005 by Friends of Baxter State Park. This painting was used as the frontispiece of Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park by Howard Whitcomb. Prints are available for purchase in our online store.



Enjoying outdoor activities with friends is one of the many joys of our annual Warm Winter Weekend. – Photo © Kit Pfeiffer

Conservation Fellows *Continued from pg.1*

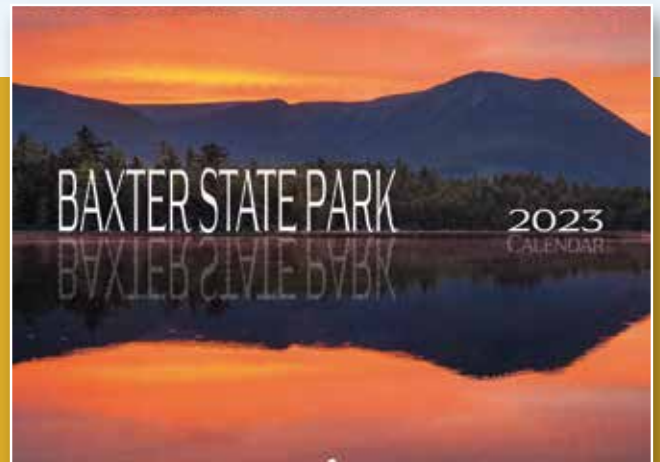
are deepening their connections to the Park, forming professional networks, positioning themselves for success after high school, and taking leadership roles in their communities. Their in-depth projects have also provided a wealth of information for Friends of Baxter State Park.

This summer, our Conservation Fellows spent two days a week doing trail work in the Park. For the rest of each week they were busy with independent projects, including major contributions to our new website. Our five Conservation Fellows in 2022 included Mike Clark and Jake Kowalski of Millinocket, Payton Spearin of East Millinocket, Emma McGraw of Sherman, and Kyle McNally of Stacyville. They presented their summer projects via Zoom on August 10.

Mike Clark, who helped lead the crew this year, presented on this year's trail construction and clean-up projects. Jake Kowalski then joined him to present their joint project, our new website's Katahdin and Hiking pages. Payton Spearin's *My Backyard* project detailed what she's experienced during her time with Friends. Kyle McNally, our newest member, presented a comprehensive look at fishing in Baxter State Park. Emma McGraw shared her summer's work exploring the invasive plant species in the Park. The projects provided them a hands-on education in website building from Friends Deputy Director Mary Weitzman. We're incredibly proud of these young people and proud of their contributions to our new site.

Their work this summer was exemplary and will have a lasting impact on our organization. As you browse our new website, we hope you enjoy the winning combination of in-depth knowledge and youthful enthusiasm that our Fellows brought to their favorite subject, and ours: Baxter State Park.

person for the entire weekend including lodging, Saturday night banquet, and gratuities. After January 1, 2023 please call New England Outdoor Center at 1-800-766-7238 to make your reservation to join our Friends of Baxter State Park Warm Winter Weekend.



– Calendar cover photo © Glenn LeBlanc

2023 Baxter State Park Calendars for Sale

Our 2023 Baxter State Park calendar is now in stock and available for purchase! The cost is \$15 plus tax and shipping. You can order online at www.friendsofbaxter.org, mail a check to PO Box 322, Belfast, ME 04915. All proceeds benefit Friends of Baxter State Park.

Please join us for Warm Winter Weekend

By Dick Klain

After a three-year hiatus, planning for Warm Winter Weekend 2023 has begun! This is one of our most popular member activities. This event will be held on March 16 - 19, 2023, at New England Outdoor Center. We have reserved space for thirty people to sign up. Winter activities abound at NEOC such as snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, ice fishing and sometimes just sitting around and relaxing. Side trips to Baxter State Park, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, Penobscot River Trails, and the Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area have taken place in the past. We all enjoy meeting old friends and developing new relationships. The accommodations, activities, food, and entertainment tailored to all things Baxter help to make Warm Winter Weekend memorable. So set the above dates aside to join us. The final cost will be announced soon but should be about \$300.00 per





Mike Cianchette, Andrea Tirrell and Megan Stypulkoski at work in summer 2021, reanalyzing 1989 plots at a sedge meadow west of Caribou Spring. – Photo © Don Hudson

President's Column

by Ellen Baum

I am a queen at knowing a little bit about a lot of things. I'm sure that this has gotten me into trouble. But it's also energizing, catapulting me into a lot of worlds and connecting me with remarkable people. Many of the ideas that have crossed my path over the past fifty years have stayed close, even as my focus has shifted.

On this list is long-term monitoring. Although a mediocre-at-best field scientist, I have a deep understanding about why this matters and an appreciation for those who make it happen. In this vein, I get a lot of pleasure thinking about archival records – where they are and how they can get accessed. I love this idea enough that I once pitched a publisher on the topic while on a boat ride as part of an Arctic air quality meeting in Oslo, Norway. I breathlessly outlined the chapters, which would highlight isotopes, tree rings, ice cores, navigational records, paintings, photos, journal entries, other historical records. I couldn't wait to read the book. Only problem was I could wait to write it. The publisher pursued me for a few months before realizing I was too much talk.

I am instantly attentive when I hear about research that builds our body of knowledge about a changing world. I am in awe of David Keeling's prescience in 1958 when he began measuring CO₂ concentrations at the Mauna Loa Observatory, Hawaii, thereby establishing the longest record of direct measurements of CO₂. I regularly check the website of the National Snow and Ice Data Center, which is why I know that the ocean has lost nearly a million square miles of ice since monitoring began in the 1980s. I'm as just as curious about the Katahdin region ecology.

My first experience with research and Baxter Park occurred in the early 80s, a time of heightened concern about acid rain and the transport of air pollutants. My former (and beloved) Terrestrial Ecology professor, Tom Siccama, asked me to present his case before the Authority to get him permission to study fir waves (alternating bands of

fir trees, sequenced by age, found in forests of exposed mountains) on the Brothers – a study which required cutting down stunted firs of multiple ages. Apparently, my explanation for the value of the work was good enough, and permission was granted. It was my first inkling about the Park's research review process.

I joined the Friends Board in 2016, coinciding with the publication of *The Plants of Baxter State Park*. This impressive project engaged citizen scientists and developed a database of plant distribution, abundance, and status for park managers, which could be used as a baseline for monitoring. Since then, other studies and initiatives have found their way to my inbox.

Dan Harrison, a wildlife biologist at the University of Maine, has been studying the American marten in the vicinity of Baxter State Park for over 30 years. Last year, he repeated his study of marten populations from three decades earlier and found that "densities of resident martens seem to have declined on industrial forestlands adjacent to Baxter Park as habitats have changed with forest harvesting. Martens in Baxter Park, when studied in the 1990s, had a more balanced sex ratio (i.e., more breeding females), an older age structure (females do not reproduce for the first time until age two or three), occurred at higher densities, and provided surplus dispersing individuals to the adjacent commercial forestlands." The recent work (2018-2019) in the commercial forests west of Baxter State Park found that landscape occupancy declined with increasing distance from the Baxter Park boundary. Take home message: the ecological benefits of the Park extend well beyond its boundaries.

Over the past two summers, University of Maine graduate student Andrea Tirrell – along with Don Hudson, Charlie Cogbill, and two undergraduates – revisited five out of 16 transects on the Tablelands where Don and Charlie had gathered data in 1989 to study the impact of caribou reintroduction on plant communities. Assessing the vegetation might have been the easiest part of the summer of 2021 effort. Locating transects that had been established in the summer of 1989 – defined by dots of yellow paint on the undersides of rocks – was a huge challenge.

I love talking with my friend and neighbor Justin Schlawin, an ecologist with the Maine Natural Areas Program. From him, I know about the forest inventory analysis (FIA) monitoring plots in Baxter (as well as the rest of the state), which have been established to get credible, baseline data sets. The plan is to resample every decade to compare across forest types and assess change over time.

I wish I knew more about the Scientific Forest Management Area, but I am glad to know that, in addition to FIA plots, there are plots and sampling stations for amphibians, migratory birds, and insect populations, for air and water temperatures, and to keep an eye on invasives. This long-term monitoring work takes patience. We learn a lot when we're willing to be patient. Patiently looking for money. Patiently collecting and analyzing data. Then patiently waiting to do the same thing over again. When we repeat experiments and collections, we learn what has changed and what has stayed the same. I love the role that Friends can take to support this work.

Update from Baxter State Park



Editor's Note: The material in this article was drawn from updates written by Interim Director Dan Rinard and Natural Resources Director Nava Tabak, and presented to the Baxter State Park Authority at its recent meetings on July 22, 2022, and September 30, 2022. It has been lightly edited for brevity and use in the newsletter.

Park Visitation from May 15 – July 15

The 2022 season got off to a strong start, effectively pacing on par with last year for camping and slightly down from last year for day use. Anecdotal observations from staff suggest that some campgrounds are experiencing abnormally high “no-show” and cancellation rates.

A quick glance at some preliminary campground stats shows that no-shows appear to be pacing slightly ahead of last year, which was up about 5% over past trends. We'll continue monitoring these stats as National Parks and other recreation areas across the country are reporting no-show rates rising to 40-50% levels. At manageable levels, and when there is available capacity, no-shows are not a problem. However, as folks exploit loopholes in our reservations system to get access to Katahdin Trails or their desired dates, no-shows can impact the ability of many other visitors, including Maine residents, to enjoy the Park.

One metric we can track in real time is cancellations/refunds. A quick look here shows that we're pacing slightly behind last year but still issuing many refunds/credits for cancelled reservations (currently averaging six to ten cancellations per day). At this point, most cancelled camping reservations – especially in the more popular and competitive campgrounds – are getting rebooked.

An analysis of Maine resident vs. non-resident visitation shows a downward trend so far in 2022 for Maine resident visitation (both camping and day use) following a couple years of Maine residents accounting for the majority of Park visitors. This may in large part be due to Covid-19 travel restrictions.



A trail sign along the Appalachian Trail just before it crosses the boundary into Baxter State Park near Abol Bridge
– Photo © Aaron Megquier

Search & Rescue

Rangers responded to 31 search and rescue (SAR) incidents between January 1 and July 15, 2022. This pacing reflects a 63% increase over the same period last year, and a 34% increase over our five-year average. This significant increase occurred almost entirely in the months of January and June (setting decade-long highs for both months), with all other months pacing at or below average levels when compared to the last 10 years.

If you discount the winter season, spring SAR is pacing 22% up year over year and 10% up over the five-year average. 73% of SAR incidents since May have occurred on Katahdin. Of the 31 SAR incidents, 3 have involved aircraft for evacuations. One patient was evacuated by Maine Forest Service short haul (from the Abol Trail with a severe knee/leg injury), two patients were evacuated on board a Maine Forest Service helicopter that was able to land (one at Chimney Pond Campground, one on the Traveler loop). Two of these patients were transferred to a Millinocket Fire & Rescue ambulance and taken to Millinocket Regional Hospital. One was transferred to Lifeflight of Maine and flown to Eastern Maine Medical Center.

Generally, incident trends are fairly consistent with past years with a few interesting outliers:

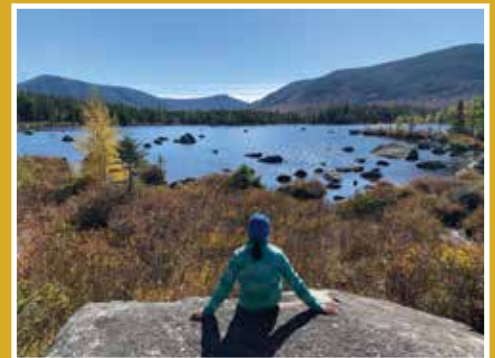
- Exhaustion/dehydration/fatigue and lower extremity injuries continue to be the primary cause of SAR incidents in the Park
- Rangers have seen an increase in patients suffering from pre-existing medical conditions, a continuation of accidents associated with inexperience in the outdoors that has increased since the pandemic (pri-

marily in campgrounds – including multiple self-inflicted knife and ax accidents), and an increase in patients exhibiting signs of mental health distress.

- Perhaps most interestingly so far this year: more than half of the patients requiring SAR assistance were between 18 and 40 years old, a significant decrease from past average patient ages.

Appalachian Trail Katahdin Hiker Permits

At this time of year, the Appalachian Trail (AT) typically sees a lot of use, especially from northbound hikers, and we continue to monitor the number of total annual AT hiker permits in relation to the 3,150 cap set by the park in 2016. Based on trends since 2015, AT hiker numbers through September 10th are tracking slightly below those in 2017 and 2018, with 2,034 permits issued. We currently do not expect the year-end total to exceed 3,000 but will continue to monitor AT hiker use until the trail's closure at the end of the season.



Even with the current high levels of use, solitude still abounds in Baxter State Park. This young hiker is enjoying a spectacular fall vista from a boulder along the shoreline of Russell Pond.
– Photo © Aaron Megquier



Friends Members gather to enjoy food, conversation, and Park updates at Flight Deck Brewing in Brunswick on September 21, 2022. – Photo © Jym St. Pierre

Membership Meetup

By Aaron Megquier

After nearly three years without gathering in person, Friends was thrilled to host a membership meetup at Flight Deck Brewing in Brunswick on September 21. Approximately 45 members enjoyed getting together for pizza, beer, conversation, and updates on the Park. The event also featured a silent auction of photographs taken by Emma McGraw of Sherman, Maine during her five years in the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps. We had a wonderful time and are hoping to host a series of similar gatherings elsewhere in Maine over the coming year.

Trip Report:

Baxter State Park in the age of extreme weather

By Aaron Megquier

On October 14 and 15, 2022, Chimney Pond received 13.1 inches of rain in about 30 hours during a single storm event. This is about 1/3 of the average *annual* precipitation for nearby Millinocket. Even by the standards of Katahdin, which is well-known for its wild weather, this was a truly exceptional amount of rain.

I was camping at Wassataquoik Lake Island with my father and daughter on the night of October 13. Knowing that heavy rain was forecast and that Wassataquoik Stream would rise quickly, we changed our Russell Pond reservations for October 14 and 15 to the Wassataquoik Stream lean-tos to avoid getting stuck. The rain started in earnest at about 5:00 am on October 14. When we forded Wassataquoik Stream around 11:00 am, it had only risen about a foot from the day before. It was still an easy crossing, with the water just grazing the bottom of our backpacks. A few hours later, the water had come up about three more feet, and crossing safely would have been impossible.

By nightfall, the stream had risen several more feet and was completely unrecognizable. The valley was full of water, and even the largest boulders in the stream had disappeared under roaring whitewater. The stream had jumped its banks and was flowing through the woods below our site, but it was still at least three vertical feet below our campsite. At this point, Wassataquoik Stream was already the highest we had seen it in about 45 years of annual trips to the area, including many other major rain events. The rain was tapering off, and we went to sleep expecting that the stream would not rise much further.

I woke up around 3:00am to the sound of rushing water close by, and the deep booms of logs being tumbled against trees and boulders. The stream had risen the final three feet to our campsite and was lapping at the fire pit. Deep, fast water was flowing just few inches from the back corner of the lean-to.



A waterline on lean-to #1 at Wassataquoik Stream on Saturday, October 15, 2022. Exceptionally heavy rainfall on October 14 caused widespread flooding in the Park and significant damage to roads and trails. – Photo © Aaron Megquier

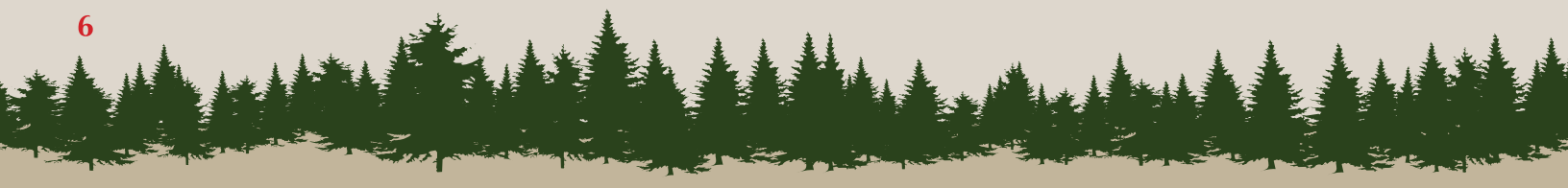
I headed over to check on the folks staying at lean-to #1, which is a bit closer to water level. I was wading through knee-deep water long before I reached their site. I found them awake and fully packed for a quick departure if necessary. Their entire campsite was submerged. By the light of my headlamp, I could see entire trees and other flood debris rushing by just beyond their submerged fire pit. They were scared and had lost some gear, but were otherwise okay. They reported that the water had reached the bottom of the lean-to sleeping platform before it started receding about an hour before. I waded back to our lean-to, and we stayed awake for a while until we were sure the water was falling, and then got a few more hours of sleep.

At the height of the flood around 2:00am on Saturday morning, miles of the Wassataquoik Stream Trail were under water. My daughter and I hiked several miles of the trail on Saturday to check out conditions. We ended up wading much of the way, with flood debris knee to waist high in the woods through many sections. When we hiked out on Sunday, the trail was passable but heavily eroded in spots. A 100-foot section was buried under several feet of debris, and many bog bridges had been washed away. My daughter found a dead brook trout in the middle of the trail.

The Park has been working hard to make its infrastructure more resilient in the face of such extreme rainfall. Much of this work has focused on culverts and stream crossings along roads. This work is very expensive and requires skilled contractors, excellent planning, and road closures, but it is essential to the Park's future.

Trail damage is often harder and more time-consuming to repair. Due to remoteness and the manual nature of most trail work, it can take months or years to repair the damage that occurs in a single day, on a single trail. This is bad enough if an extreme event happens once in ten years, or once in five. What happens if these events occur with greater frequency, and over a broader area?

Park staff are still working to understand the extent of the October 14 flood damage on more than 220 miles of trails, but there are indications that it was significant and widespread. Amazingly, another flooding event occurred just a few days later and caused additional damage. We know that climate change is increasing the frequency and intensity of extreme rainfall events. It was a very humbling experience to see first-hand what that looks like.





Our anniversary publication, *Two Decades of Forever Wild*, features essays and insight from John Neff, Charlie Jacobi, Ellen Baum, Jym St. Pierre, Jensen Bissell, Barbara Bentley, and other key leaders from Friends' history. Please contact Friends if you would like a copy. – Cover photo @ Ken Wadness

Two Decades of Forever Wild

By Aaron Megquier

Friends of Baxter State Park recently reached a major milestone: twenty years of steadfast support for Baxter State Park! After early discussions in 1999, our meeting of founding members took place on May 16, 2000, in Fairfield, Maine. Friends was incorporated in June 2000 and we received our nonprofit status a few months later. Our founding Board of Directors got right to work on a range of issues related to Baxter State Park and didn't ease up the pace for the next twenty years.

As our 20th anniversary approached, we decided that a major celebration was in order. Our goals were threefold: honor our founding members, celebrate our accomplishments over the past two decades, and look to the future. We began meeting in November 2019 to plan an event for July 15, 2020, at Maple Hill Farm in Hallowell. The arrival of the Covid-19 pandemic a few months later foiled our plans. Public health guidelines and common sense led us to postpone the event for a year to 2021.

We rescheduled our celebration for September 9, 2021, at Maple Hill Farm. When Maine experienced a late summer surge in Covid-19 cases fueled by the delta variant, we were disappointed but not surprised – we had been making contingency plans for this scenario for months. We cancelled the in-person event and shifted to a virtual gathering instead.

Although we were disappointed to not be able to gather in person, our virtual celebration on September 9, 2021, was a wonderful suc-

cess. About seventy-five members enjoyed a lovely evening of celebrating our achievements and looking to the future. During the first part of the celebration, each of our Presidents told the story of Friends with highlights and anecdotes from their years at the helm. We heard from John Neff (2000 – 2002), Holly Dominie (2002 – 2004), Charlie Jacobi (2004 – 2007, and 2013 – 2015), Barbara Bentley (2007 – 2013), Dick Klain (2015 – 2019), and Ellen Baum (2019 – present). It was very moving to listen to all of these incredible leaders weave the thread of our story as an organization.

Next, Maine Governor Janet Mills gave a heartfelt account of her own connection to Baxter State Park. She reminded us how vital the Park is to our well-being and the importance of preserving these sacred spaces for all Mainers. We were deeply honored to have her join us, and her remarks were a testament to our contributions to the Park over the last two decades.

Hearing from our 2021 Baxter Youth Conservation Corps Conservation Fellows was a highlight for many attendees at our celebration. We enjoyed a video produced by Jake Kowalski (BYCC 2021) that featured each of our Conservation Fellows describing their work.

Friends would like to thank our Host Committee for their generous support of our celebration: Ellen Baum, Barbara & Bill Bentley, Steve Cartwright, Holly Dominie, Richard Emmel, Don Hudson, Charlie Jacobi, Richard Klain, David Little, David Loeb, Josie Quintrell, Carla Richie, Steuart Thomsen, Linda Thomsen, and Howard Whitcomb.

We are so grateful to our generous sponsors who provided financial support to make this event possible. Our Gold Level sponsors were Kimberly J. Bailey-Shaw, DC Chiropractic Family Health Center, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Kennebec Savings Bank, Burdick & Associates Landscape Design, and Barbara & Bill Bentley. Our Silver Level sponsors were Ellen Klain Landscape Gardener & Herbalist, Dead River Company, and Katahdin Trust Company. Our Bronze Level sponsors were Bangor Savings Bank and BenchDogs Cabinetry & Millwork.

Friends also published a 32-page commemorative publication called *Two Decades of Forever Wild*. We mailed a copy to all current members in November 2021. If you have not received a copy of this publication, please let us know and we would be happy to mail you one.

???

Baxter State Park Trivia

What is the highest elevation pond in Baxter State Park that is not reachable by trail? (Bonus points if you have bushwhacked to it). Please send trivia answers to rachel@friendsofbaxter.org.





Friends of Baxter State Park

PO Box 322

Belfast, ME 04915

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Send to:

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Thank you!

2022 Sign Auction

In partnership with Baxter State Park, Friends is holding our sixth annual sign auction to make historic Park signs and other special items available to the public. This year's auction includes signs from Doubletop, Hamlin Ridge, Kidney Pond, the Marston Trail, Middle Fowler, and much more. Friends will donate 50% of the proceeds directly to Baxter State Park, and 50% will support our programs. Bidding opened at 10:00 am on November 7 and closes at 10:00 pm on December 8. Please visit the auction website below to learn more, check out this year's items, and join the bidding!

www.32auctions.com/fbsp2022