

# Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK

SUMMER 2005 VOL. 4 No. 3

**Friends  
of  
Baxter State Park**



Recent timber cutting east of Katahdin Lake Photo by Bill Bentley

**President's Column**  
*by Charlie Jacobi*

## Good Neighbors

Since our last newsletter, we have been trying to get to know the Baxter State Park neighborhood better. What happens along the Park boundary is important to preserving the Park's wilderness values.

At our Annual Meeting this April, we learned from Bart DeWolf more details about the management of T5R8, the land owned by Roxanne Quimby on the east side of the Park. Proposed management of T5R8 is good news for the Park; that was no surprise, but it was reassuring.

We also learned about management of the state-owned Telos Unit of the Bureau of Parks and Lands from Director Dave Soucy. He provided a valuable history lesson about

Continued on p. 2

## State House Event Big Success

More than sixty people gathered on May 31 in the Hall of Flags at the Maine State House to celebrate the publication of a major research achievement by Friends of Baxter State Park. Charlie Jacobi, president of FOBSP, presented the first edition of the four-volume *Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park: An Annotated Compilation of Original Sources* to Governor John

Baldacci, who accepted the gift on behalf of the State of Maine.

On hand also to receive first copies were Attorney General Steven Rowe, chair of the Baxter State Park Authority, Park Director Irvin "Buzz" Caverly, and representatives of selected libraries across the state.

The hardbound collection will now be available for public use and scholarship. It brings together a vast array of original

Continued on p. 2



#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charlie Jacobi, President  
Ken Spalding, Vice President  
Sally Daggett, Secretary  
Don Hudson, Treasurer  
William Bentley  
Steve Cartwright  
Anne Huntington  
Howard Lake  
Kali Lightfoot  
John Loyd  
Linda McKee  
John Neff  
Jon Tierney  
Rex Turner  
Howard Whitcomb

#### HONORARY DIRECTORS

Eric Baxter  
Alexandra Conover  
Don Fendler  
Leon Gorman  
Jon Lund  
Libby Mitchell  
Chellie Pingree  
Kay Rand  
Neil Rolde

Newsletter Editor  
Barbara Bentley

Administrative Manager  
Mary Cooke

PO Box 1442  
Bangor, ME 04402-1442  
[www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)

Friends of Baxter State Park is an independent citizens' group working to preserve, support, and enhance the wilderness character of Baxter State Park, in the spirit of its founder, Governor Percival Baxter.

#### State House Event

Continued from p. 1

sources and personal notes that convey Governor Baxter's intent and vision for the Park, including the Deeds of Trust, legislative interpretations, Opinions of the Attorneys General, appellate court decisions, and the many Baxter speeches and correspondence.

The project coordinator and annotator is Dr. Howard Whitcomb, Emeritus Professor of Political Science, Lehigh University, who spent three years compiling this work.

"It was a great day," said John Neff, Board member who spearheaded the event, as guests gathered at the luncheon that followed. "Publication of this book has been a long-held dream and goal for our organization."



Howard Whitcomb with the bust of Percival Baxter in the Hall of Flags at the capitol in Augusta *Photo by Bill Bentley*

#### President's Column

Continued from p. 1

state lands, and we learned that a revised management plan for the Telos Unit is on the horizon. This will be an opportunity for the Friends to provide some input to encourage management of this unit with the wilderness values of the Park in mind. Motorized use of Webster Lake, including aircraft, will be on our agenda for this plan.

On June 3, we combined a field trip to the Park with Director Caverly and a flight around the Park boundary for several board members. On the field trip, we got a first-hand look at proposed changes to Nesowadnehunk Campground and environs (see the article in this issue) and expect to offer comments and suggestions soon to assist in the planning process.

On the flight, Ken Spalding, Bill Bentley, and I flew around the Park boundary with the intent of seeing the neighborhood first hand from the air, especially the East Branch Lands. What did we learn? We can report that there has been heavy timber cutting on the East Branch Lands north and south of Katahdin Lake and many roads extending their tentacles close to the Park boundary. (See photo on page 1.) Roads and cutting extend very close to the Park boundary on the west as well. All these roads provide access to the Park for poaching of fish and wildlife and other illegal activities that are difficult to control and patrol.

The Scientific Forest

Continued on p. 3

## President's Column

Continued from p. 2

Management Area in the north part of the Park looks very different from what you see on the east and west sides. Roads and cutting are much less evident in the SFMA, a testament to different forest management based on Governor Baxter's wishes and directed by Jensen Bissell.

The harvesting north of Katahdin Lake on the East Branch Lands is tragic because it includes late succession forest stands (possibly old growth) where no cutting has occurred since 1918. Governor Baxter's vision for the Park included these lands, and of course recently there has been talk of adding them to the Park. It would be a shame if all the old trees were gone when this happened.

The Friends has not been involved in any of the East Branch Lands negotiations, but we have urged their acquisition and will continue to do so. If these lands are offered up to become part of the Park, we will advocate strongly for their inclusion as wilderness, as part of the so-called Sanctuary of the Park. There was no Friends group when the West Branch Lands became a multi-use part of the Park with hunting allowed. That made little sense given that Governor Baxter's goal was a wilderness park, his feelings about wildlife were well known, and there was a natural river boundary in the

West Branch. Maybe we can make a difference with the East Branch Lands. We're good neighbors, too, even if we live all around the state and beyond.

## [www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org) Coming soon! A New Website for FOBSP

Friends of Baxter State Park will launch a brand-new website in July. The Portland-based WhatIf Networks won the bid for the project and will design and host the site as well as provide training, technical support, and assistance. Total cost of the project is \$4500.

"WhatIf has a great track record," said Publicity Committee Chair Linda McKee. "They've designed hundreds of sites and have worked with several environmental organizations. We are excited to move our organization in this new direction."

The new site will be easy to access and navigate and will be quick to download. With consistent layout and design, the site will provide an abundance of information about our organization, activities and events, policies, hikes in the Park, interviews, volunteer opportunities, and Park news, as well as a photo gallery, a membership and gift-giving section, and an online newsletter, among other plans.

Contact Linda McKee at [PlumgoodFarm@aol.com](mailto:PlumgoodFarm@aol.com) to work with the committee.

## In the Mail ...

### Readers write to us

Editor's note: Send mail to [barbarabentley@tidewater.net](mailto:barbarabentley@tidewater.net) or 546 Hatchet Mt. Rd., Hope, ME 04847

*Hi. I appreciate the solitude and wild character of BSP and applaud your efforts to further Gov. Baxter's vision. I absolutely despise floatplanes / seaplanes and wheeled aircraft anywhere, especially around wild areas. The noise and intrusion spoils the experience for everyone on the ground seeking quiet and a remote fishing or hiking experience. Please continue your efforts. I hope I can help in some way. ....*  
— Mike DiCenso

### Membership Matters

We currently have 384 active members. If you have been following the numbers, you may be wondering why there is such a decrease in reported memberships. As a new organization, we had not dropped members from the roster even if they did not renew. Now that we are five years old and have an established membership structure, we will only keep active members on the membership roll.

Contact me at 207-763-4535 or [macooke01@yahoo.com](mailto:macooke01@yahoo.com) if you would like some FOBSP business cards to hand out to your friends and associates, or if you would like me to mail a packet of information to potential new members.

— Mary Cooke, Administrative Manager

## The Changing of the Board of Directors



L to R: Retiring Board Members:  
Dave Getchell, Sr.,  
Pat Murtagh,  
Clint Dyer,  
Sandra Johnson, and  
Holly Dominie  
*Photos by Bill Bentley*

**Thank you to departing Board Members!**

**Welcome aboard to six new Board Members!**

According to the Friends' Bylaws, each year, five of the fifteen Board Members are up for renewal of their three-year terms. This year several Board Members decided it was time for them to move on with their lives, and there was also one lapsed position to fill.

We say goodbye, best wishes, and a hearty thank you to **Holly Dominie, Dave Getchell, Sr., Clint Dyer, Sandy Johnson, and Pat Murtagh**. Holly, Getch, Clint, and Pat have been involved in the Friends since day 1, and we are so lucky to have had their wisdom and leadership to guide us. Sandy, too, has pitched in 100% for her term with us. We hope Holly doesn't work too hard for FEMA, Getch gets in all the fishing Dorrie lets him have, Clint keeps cracking one liners wherever he goes, Pat's career and family benefit from her increased presence, and Sandy takes a well earned rest from volunteer activities. We thank Clint also for serving as our connection to the Baxter family.

This year, in addition to the

five regular positions, we filled one vacated position as well. It is already abundantly clear that we have filled some big shoes with some very talented and dedicated people who are passionate about the Park.

For three-year terms, we welcome **Steve Cartwright** of Waldoboro, a Maine journalist for 32 years, who has been a lobbyist for NRCM, run for the legislature, and served as a selectman. **Anne Huntington** of Wayne has degrees in special education and law and presently coordinates the Local and Natural History Program at Wayne Elementary School, is president of the Androscoggin Lake Improvement Corporation, and serves on various local boards. **Kali Lightfoot** of Portland is Executive Director of the National Resource Center for Osher Lifelong Learning. She was on the executive staff of Elderhostel for 25 years. **John Loyd** of Harpswell, who returns to a full term after joining us in midstream, is an attorney and has served on the

Baxter State Park Advisory Committee for 15 years and continues to serve on its Finance and Reservations Committees. **Howard Whitcomb** is Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Lehigh University. He has spent three years compiling and annotating Baxter source materials pertaining to the legal foundations of Baxter State Park management. And filling the vacated term for the remaining two years is **Rex Turner** of Augusta, who is Lake Science Educator for Maine Lakes Conservancy Institute and a practicing Maine Guide and has degrees in Recreation and Park Management and in Forestry.

Your board works hard on behalf of the Park and the Friends (and, we hope, smartly). But there are also many opportunities for members to participate in committees and activities of the Friends. If you have an interest, please contact us.

## Where We Stand Friends of Baxter State Park Policies

The following report was presented to the membership at the Friends' Annual Meeting in April. Please see the website for more details.

1. We urged the re-opening of the North Peaks Trail because it offers an alternative to the heavy use around Katahdin and an important link to Russell Pond, because concerns about International Appalachian Trail use can be mitigated, and because we believe the maintenance burden is manageable.
2. We supported the removal of the Outlet and Lookout Cabins on Daicey Pond because we felt it was consistent with Governor Baxter's vision and because shorelines are environmentally and experientially sensitive areas.
3. We supported the management of visitor-wildlife conflicts at Sandy Stream and Stump Ponds to protect wildlife, reduce visitor impacts to soil and vegetation, and ensure outstanding wildlife experiences for visitors.
4. We supported the limitation of opening day reservations to 20% of the sites for any campground because it is more equitable and efficient.
5. We supported the evaluation and continued monitoring of commercial use in the Park to ensure wilderness values are not compromised and to ensure an appropriate balance of commercial and noncommercial use.
6. We supported the Park's commitment to use a formal planning framework and its efforts to hire a planner to address the complex issues surrounding day use around Katahdin.
7. We urged that a suitable buffer be used on a timber cut in the SFMA bordering the Tote Road to protect wilderness experiences and avoid visitor misunderstandings.
8. We wholeheartedly supported the conservation of the East Branch Lands in public ownership to better "preserve, support and enhance" the Park's wilderness values.
9. We are actively working other issues: Maine Woods National Park, snowmobiles, a Long Range Park Plan we feel is much needed, and the proposed realignments in Nesowadnehunk Campground.  
( See article on this page.)
10. We offered our help in reducing the administrative use of snowmobiles for logistical support in Park operations.

**NOTICE:** Friends' Walk in the Park for Labor Day weekend is FULL. We've added a special Walk for four people, six nights at Russell Pond, August 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19. That is a seven-mile backpack from Roaring Brook. Interested? Call Bentleys at 207-763-3014 or email at [barbarabentley@tidewater.net](mailto:barbarabentley@tidewater.net)

## Changes Coming to Nesowadnehunk Stream Campground

Concerns about erosion of the steep bank leading down to the stream and deteriorating cribwork at some sites, safety issues from windthrown trees (large fall of trees two winters past), and deterioration of the bridge over the stream have led Baxter State Park managers to outline some major changes for Nesowadnehunk Stream Campground.

The current group camping area will become the main family camping area with all lean-tos. A few walk-in tent sites will remain on the west side of the stream, relocated mostly to areas vacated by the ranger camp, crew camp, wood shed and shop.

The bridge will become foot traffic only for these few walk-in sites west of the stream.

A new crew camp/winter bunkhouse has already been built between the picnic area and the stream. The ranger camp will be moved across the stream to be near the new crew camp. All administrative facilities will be clustered in this area.

The East Field near Little Nesowadnehunk Stream will be converted from family camping lean-tos to a group site. A new three-site group camping area will be created across the road and just north of the main field in a satellite field screened by

Continued on p. 6

**Changes Coming** Continued from p. 5

alders and other vegetation.

Three tent sites will remain north of the new group area in the East Field, and two lean-tos built at the northeastern edge of the main field.

All work will be phased in over four years, ending in 2007. In the near future, the Friends Policy Committee will be offering comments to the Park to help fine tune the plan.



New construction at Nesowadnehunk Campground east of the stream *Photo by Bill Bentley*

Featured in the next issue of the newsletter will be photos of the Park that members have sent in as well as a new column "Looking Back" featuring historical vignettes by John Neff, author of soon-to-be-published Katahdin: In History and Story. The first story will be "Governor Baxter and the Black Flies." Timely, no?

Friends of Baxter State Park  
P.O. Box 1442  
Bangor, ME 04402-1442

Visit our website!  
[www.friendsofbaxter.org](http://www.friendsofbaxter.org)  
Courtesy of gwi.net

## *We're looking for New Friends!*

Friends of Baxter State Park  
P.O. Box 1442  
Bangor, ME 04402-1442

**Do you know someone who might be interested in joining Friends of Baxter State Park?  
Each new membership adds another voice in support of Governor Baxter's wilderness.**

*I'd like to be a Friend. Sign me up!*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Name*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Address*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*City, State, Zip*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*e-mail*

- |               |                         |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| _____ \$1,000 | Governor Baxter Society |
| _____ \$ 500  | Katahdin Club           |
| _____ \$ 250  | Knife Edger             |
| _____ \$ 100  | Hamlin Peaker           |
| _____ \$ 50   | Sponsor                 |
| _____ \$ 30   | Family                  |
| _____ \$ 25   | Individual              |

Please make checks payable to Friends of Baxter State Park. Dues and contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.