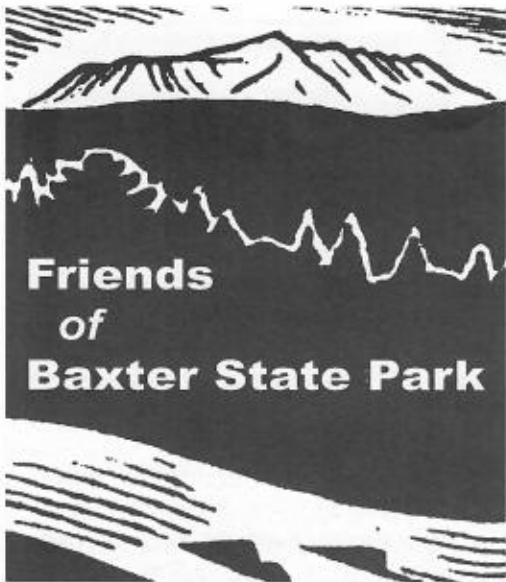


Forever Wild

NEWSLETTER OF THE FRIENDS OF BAXTER STATE PARK
SUMMER 2009 VOL. 8 NO. 3



**Friends
of
Baxter State Park**

President's Column

by Barbara Bentley

First, welcome to our new Board members! Each of them brings fresh energy, talents, and enthusiasm to Friends. The departing Board members are staying involved with FBSP – a very good thing, I hasten to add – and FBSP members are volunteering in increased numbers, thus expanding the team that does the work of our all-volunteer organization. Many thanks to all of you! And thanks are also in order to BPWF Commissioner Buzz Caverly, who worked with Rep. Herb Adams and Governor Baldacci to make it possible for the Park to accept unconditional and undirected monetary gifts regardless of size. There are many ways to support the Park.

As we focus on our mission to preserve and protect the wilderness character of the Park, we also keep an eye on what goes on in the neighborhood. Fresh from BSP Resource Director Carol Redelsheimer's presentation on the Scientific Forest Management Area (SFMA) at the FBSP Annual Meeting, I listened with interest as DOC Commissioner Pat McGowan described the changes in land ownership in the Maine North Woods since 1950. In an area where there was a single landowner, there are now 30. And land is changing hands at a great rate. McGowan envisions a Maine economy in which strategically located sources of renewable energy will provide fuel for industrial centers located near a "green" Maine North Woods in which a combination of public and private efforts conserve

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Retiring FBSP Board Members Linda Rogers McKee, Charlie Jacobi, Sally Daggett, and Howard Lake (Don Hudson not shown here) were honored at the 2009 FBSP Annual Meeting, and each received a fabric patchwork map of the Park showing all 31 parcels, color-coded by year of acquisition.
– Photo © Bill Bentley

Friends Holds 9th Annual Meeting in Augusta

At the Pine Tree State Arboretum in Augusta on Saturday, April 25th, the 9th Friends' Annual Meeting featured a business meeting and presentations by former BSP Authority Chairman Steven Rowe and by BSP Resource Director Carol Redelsheimer. The fifty-plus attendees enjoyed coffee and member Mary Cooke's homemade muffins prior to the meeting and a soup and sandwich luncheon prepared by Board member Anne Huntington and her daughter, Adrian. Paintings of the Park by Friends' members Evelyn Dunphy and David Little graced the meeting space. In addition, Friends' authors Phyllis Austin, John Neff, and Howard Whitcomb were available to sign copies of their recent books about the Park. Attendees viewed a slideshow preview of the 2010 BSP calendar published jointly by the Park and Friends. In the early afternoon, two dozen individuals participated in

a walk in the Arboretum's 225 acres that was led by its director Steve Oliveri and FBSP Board members Al Howlett and Ken Spalding.

The business portion of the meeting included Barbara Bentley's report on the wide-ranging activities of the past year; committee reports; and the election of five new directors, each for three-year terms: Denise Clavette, Jonathan Milne, Ralph Pope, James St. Pierre, and Milton Wright. Also of particular note were reports by Laurie Rich, Friends' new Volunteer and Events Coordinator, and Linda Rogers McKee, project coordinator for Friends' 2009 Maine Youth Wilderness Leadership Program. Laurie encouraged everyone to keep an eye on the FBSP website, email alerts, and future newsletters for volunteer opportunities and outreach events. Linda gave impassioned, impromptu

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

President's Column *Continued from p. 1*

the land for multiple uses, including recreation and sustainable timber practices. In his view, people values, timber values, and conservation values are not only compatible but necessary for the future of a healthy Maine North Woods. He is working with the Obama administration, and its desire for "green jobs in green energy for America," for land conservation in the last great forest in New England.

In the bright economic future McGowan envisions, the forest products industry needs a reliable supply of wood, sustainably harvested. The Park's SFMA is a model operation in this regard, certified as well-managed according to the principles and criteria of the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). To be certified, one must demonstrate a) that forestry operations are economically viable, b) timber management practices do not under- or over-harvest, c) laws are followed, d) management maintains ecological diversity, and e) employees, contractors, and their employees are treated fairly. In addition to annual audits, there are full-certification audits every five years.

The SFMA sells most of its SFC-certified spruce logs to Pleasant River, and builders can purchase certified lumber at EBS, Hammond Lumber, and Hancock Lumber. Maine-grown trees, Maine-owned mill, and Maine-owned retail stores - it doesn't get any better. And in the Park's dooryard, on the shores of Millinocket Lake, you'll find a building project aspiring to Gold Certification with the US Green Building Council. Go to www.neoc.com and *Coveside Cabins* for details. Owner Matt Polstein says that not only is it the right thing to do, it also makes economic sense to build energy efficient structures and to buy locally produced materials while reducing the environmental footprint. Contractors working with him have found additional benefits as well. So, congratulations to the Park's SFMA for leading the way, just as Governor Baxter envisioned.

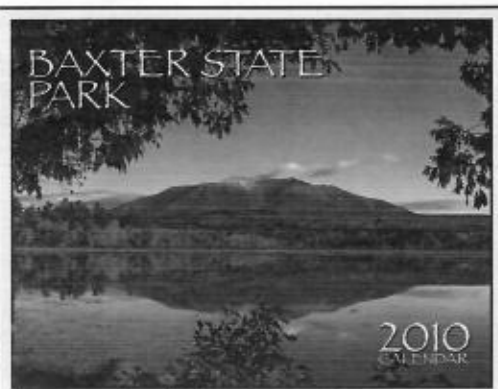
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Available for Purchase

NEW

2010 BSP Calendar

26 Photos by BSP Staff & FBSP - \$11.98

*Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession:
 A Documentary History of Baxter State
 Park, 1931-2006*

by Howard R. Whitcomb - \$19.95

FBSP Notecards, Photos, Hats, Patches
 Prices available on web or by contacting us.
 Additional charge for postage and handling.



This clear-winged sphinx moth was enjoying Katahdin Lake Wilderness Camps without a reservation. You can get yours at:
www.katahdinlakewildernesscamps.com

~ Photo © Bill Bentley

Membership Matters

Have you renewed your membership to FBSP? Renewals have slowed down a bit since the spring but are still coming in steadily. With several events and volunteer opportunities coming up, you will want to make sure your membership is current and that your contact information is up-to-date. Have you changed your mailing or email address recently? If so, drop us a line or send a quick email so that we can update the database.

~ Rosemary Hastings, Admin. Manager

9th Annual Meeting *Continued from p. 1*

remarks on Friends' first major educational initiative coming up this August that will provide a seven-day backcountry camping experience in BSP for ten high school sophomores and juniors thanks to a grant from the Quimby Family Foundation.

The recognition portion of the meeting focused on the multi-faceted contributions of the five retiring directors – Sally Daggett, Don Hudson, Howard Lake, Charlie Jacobi, and Linda McKee – each of whom received a framed print and a miniature patchwork quilt (parcel by parcel) of BSP, crafted by President Bentley. Bob Riker of Pottstown, PA, received recognition for traveling the greatest distance to attend this year's annual meeting.

Former BSP Authority chairman Steve Rowe's remarks ranged from personal recollections of family trips to the Park to observations from his tenure as a member of the Authority that included the rerouting of the Appalachian Trail from Daicey Pond; removal of structures, including two historic cabins at Daicey Pond; and the acquisition of the Katahdin Lake parcel in 2005. He acknowledged fiscal challenges facing the Park that will call for some belt-tightening but also provide increased opportunities for volunteers. He was particularly pleased with the Friends' pilot program coming this August that will enable 10 Maine teenagers to experience the Park's wilderness first-hand. He reminded all of us that ultimately the Park is about wilderness, not people. In conclusion, he commended Friends for its leadership role in helping to preserve "this special place."

Keynote speaker Carol Redelsheimer focused her keynote remarks on the Scientific Forestry Management Area (SFMA), the nearly 30,000 acres in the most-northerly reaches of the Park where sustainable forestry management is practiced. This area in T6 R10 and a small portion of T6 R9 was purchased by former Governor Baxter in 1955 with the specific intent that it would be managed for timber harvesting using

the best scientific practices. Carol briefly recounted the history of SFMA and reminded us that current Park Director Jensen Bissell was brought to the Park in 1987 to manage the SFMA. She went on to provide a fascinating account of current management objectives and operations. Her remarks elicited numerous wide-ranging questions from the membership. All in attendance left the meeting with a greater appreciation of the SFMA's unique role in the overall complexion of the Park's mandate.

Our Readers Write...



Teddy Roosevelt repressor Joe Wiegand returns to the Katahdin area to perform in August. – Photo © Joe Wiegand

Teddy Roosevelt in Maine...

In 1878, following the death of his father, 19-year old Theodore Roosevelt travelled to the North Woods of Maine. In Island Falls, he stayed with the William Sewall family and became lifelong friends with Sewall and Sewall's nephew Wilmot Dow. In 1879, Sewall and Dow joined Roosevelt in a climb to the top of nearby Katahdin.

This year in August, to commemorate the 130th anniversary of TR's climb, a group of Theodore Roosevelt admirers from throughout the country will return to the region to celebrate the impact that these North Woods experi-

Dinner with Teddy Roosevelt

Celebrate the 130th Anniversary of
TR's Ascent of Katahdin

Sunday, August 23, 2009 at 6 pm
River Drivers' Restaurant
Millinocket

Includes performance by Joe Wiegand
\$30 per person

Please make reservations
by calling 1-800-766-7238 or online at
www.neoc.com – reservation #40426
Proceeds go to Jerry Pond Project

ences had on a young TR. Led by Joe Wiegand of DeKalb, Illinois, and Lieutenant Rebecca Rickey (U.S.N. Ret.) of Vero Beach, Florida, the group will spend Saturday, August 21st, touring TR sites in and near Island Falls and visiting the Lumbermen's Museum in Patten. On Sunday, the group will split up for Katahdin climbs of varying difficulty in Baxter State Park.

The events, including performances by Wiegand, a living history Theodore Roosevelt repressor, are open to the public with small fees of varying amounts charged to cover expenses. Details of the *Theodore Roosevelt Strenuous Life Weekend* are available at <http://home.comcast.net/~trkatahdin/> or jwiegand@tbc.net or 847-373-0691.

– Joe Wiegand, DeKalb, IL

Warm Winter Outing at Twin Pines...

Thank you for organizing such a great Warm Winter Weekend again. We were pleased to be part of such a fine group once more.

– Ian & Jane MacDonald,
New Brunswick, Canada

Annual Meeting Thanks...

Thank you for the invitation to speak at your annual meeting yesterday about the SFMA. I appreciate your interest in this lesser-known part of the Park and hope it was informative. Several people mentioned an interest in seeing the SFMA so if you decide it's worthwhile to organize a Friends' Walk there sometime, please do let me know and I'll be happy to work with you to identify a

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Looking Back ...

An Anniversary – First Ladies to Reach the Great Basin

This year marks the 150th anniversary of that moment in 1859 when the first ladies reached Katahdin's Great Basin, only 12 years after the first non-native (Marcus Keep) reached that very special place. Harriet Scribner was identified as the first one to walk into the basin. She was part of group, including several other ladies, led by Col. Luther B. Rogers, a logger in the area north of Katahdin. Their guide was John Stacy who had helped lay out the famous Keep Path from Katahdin Lake to Pamola in the 1840s.

"In recognition of Ms. Scribner's achievement, the group decided, as they gathered on Chimney Pond's shores, to nominate her for president of the United States in the next election. Further, so grateful were they for his leadership, they nominated Luther Rogers for vice president. Whether or not this act represented a political commentary upon the then-presidency of James Buchanan, a Democrat, we do not know. It was only a year later that Abraham Lincoln was nominated for president by the Republican Party." (p. 54)

– John Neff, Author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*, can be contacted at jhneff@myfairpoint.net

Forester Leads Tour of BSP Harpswell Property

On Saturday, May 16th, over 31 people enjoyed an informative introduction to model forestry practices used on the BSP property in Harpswell during a 3-hour tour led by forester Barrie Brusila. The group learned the history of the area, visited areas demonstrating different harvesting practices used over the years, and witnessed the importance of a close working relationship and good communication between the harvester Joel Kinney and the forester.

Some people have the idea that a "healthy forest" is a collection of healthy, well-groomed trees with a cleared forest floor. Actually, a healthy forest may be a mix of trees – age, species, conditions, state of growth/decay, standing and fallen. "The forest doesn't care if there are dead and dying trees, these provide habitat for critters essential to the forest's health," says Barrie.

The Park faces various challenges on the Harpswell property. One is to show that timber harvest areas are not incompatible with recreational use. Old skid roads make good walking and hiking trails. However, ATV's can cause erosion, and unauthorized trails cut for recreational purposes can damage sensitive areas. Year-round access through the property is expensive, especially when the Park does not need it unless a harvest is in progress.

Evidence of old farms is visible – cellar holes, apple trees, and stag horn sumac. The land was once cut and farmed, compacting soil and retarding tree growth.

Needs identified include a bridge at a stream crossing to provide access for harvesting beyond the stream, help with the eradication of invasive plants, and reconstruction of the causeway to allow better access for tidal waters as the present flow is somewhat restricted.



Forester Barrie Brusila demonstrates a tool used in eradicating invasive plants, non-native species that, if left unchecked, can take over the habitat and crowd out native species.

– Photo © Barbara Bentley



Volunteers working on the Grassy Pond trail for National Trails Day on June 6th enjoyed this view of Doubletop along the way.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

Volunteer Ops and Walks in the Park 2009

- July 16, 17, & 18 (3 nights) – Walk in the Park at South Branch Pond
- July 18 – Annual Loon Count
- July 18 – Advanced IPP training - Mattawamkeag Lake in Island Falls
- July 19 & 20 (2 nights) – Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond
- July 25 – New Summit Sign - Carry Materials up Katahdin
- August 7th – Invasive Plants Pond Survey training at BSP Headqtrs.
- August 23 - Celebrate 130th Anniversary of Teddy Roosevelt's Ascent of Katahdin - Dinner with TR Himself (see p. 3 for how to make a reservation)
- September 12 & 13 – Trail's End Festival in Millinocket
- September 16, 17, 18, 19 – Walk in the Park at Chimney Pond- FULL
- September 25, 26, & 27 – MOFGA's Common Ground Fair in Unity
- October 3 & 4 - Chainsaw Training & Certification in Windham



above:

On May 2nd, Litter Patrol enjoyed lunch at Togue Pond. L to R, back: Tristan and Steve Plumb, Chaitanya York, Eileen Coyle, Kaytie Millay, Rosemary Hastings, BSP Ranger Ben Woodard, Barbara Bentley, BSP Ranger Bob Howes. L to R, front: Laurie Rich and Ryan Millay in front. Bill Bentley is not shown.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

below right:

Doug Rich worked on May 23 & 30 with FBSP crew members Chris Brown, Rosemary Hastings, Bill Bentley, and Barbara Bentley to clear blowdowns on over 3 miles on Wadleigh Brook and Frost Pond trails and the complete Five Ponds trail loop.

– Photo © Bill Bentley



Pitching in and Stepping Out

Laurie Rich,
FBSP Volunteer &
Event Coordinator



Over two hundred people hours have been spent in fun, toil, and bug swatting, and the season is only getting started. FBSP members have shared in the walk at the BSP Harpswell property, National Trail's Day, Chainsaw Crews, Campground Openings, Plant Identification, and more.

We have more ways both to share in a Park experience and to give of your time for a FBSP event. Coming up, people are needed to man the FBSP Booth at both the Millinocket Trail's End Festival on September 12 & 13 and the Common Ground Fair on September 25, 26, & 27. Please email me with the date and times you are interested in helping at a booth.

There is plenty of space available for the Walks in the Park: South Branch Pond on nights of July 16, 17, & 18; Chimney Pond on nights of July 19 & 20. The Chimney Pond trip in September is currently full.

In August, we will be looking for people to help host the Volunteers for Peace. This may involve getting some of the visitors to the north end of the Park if they arrive after the Park pick-up time, housing them overnight if they come in too early or if their travel arrangements are for after the Park drop-off.

And if science is your thing, several FBSP members are now participating in projects as citizen scientists. There are currently two projects: Invasive Plants and Alpine Plant Identification. Special training is needed for both. There is a basic workshop for the Invasive Plants Pond Survey on Friday, August 7th, at BSP Headquarters from 1 PM to 6:30 PM. An advanced IPP session (field methods and i.d.) has been re-scheduled for Saturday, July 18th, 8 AM to Noon, at Mattawamkeag Lake in Island Falls.

So come, join in, and have some fun. Send your requests and what you want to do to Laurie at:

friendsofbaxtervolunteers@gmail.com

Our Readers Write...

Continued from p. 3

convenient for all. ... Thanks again for the opportunity to speak to you all – I enjoyed it.

– Carol Redelsheimer, BSP

New book in the works...

Thanks for much for all your effort that went into the annual meeting. The organization has come a long way, and it showed in all the reports. ... I looked longingly at all the opportunities for helping the Park and Friends with projects. However, I am going to be in Alaska and otherwise out of state for a number of weeks this summer. I'm also working on a new book – this one about Roxanne Quimby – and thus so much of my time is being spent with this project. But please let me know if I can ever do anything for you to help, and I will try to rearrange my schedule to assist. Again know that all of your hard work for Friends counts big time. Your love of the Park is evident

– Phyllis Austin, Brunswick, ME

In Kelly's memory...

My name is Lou Testa, and I have been a Friend of Baxter for a few years now. I have an unusual request of you in that you mention the loss of my wife Kelly Testa in your next issue of *Forever Wild*. Kelly's story is told on www.caringbridge.com/visit/kellytesta

Kelly spent her honeymoon in Bax-



In Memoriam Kelly Testa

13 February 1969 – 20 November 2008

ter, and each year in September after a fishing visit to Grand Lake Stream, we would enter the Park for our annual hike to Russell Pond. Kelly loved her time in the Park and her unexpected encounters with the wildlife. A picture of her is on the website in full pack. (See photo below.)

She loved Maine very much, and I would appreciate if you could mention her loss as she enjoyed the Park and looked forward to our annual trip and the renewal visit of our honeymoon. I would be very grateful if you could honor her legacy.

– Lou Testa, Bordentown, NJ

Other sights to see...

For one who won't get out on the trails like I used to do (starting in 1947), this Spring newsletter was like a Spring Tonic. Barbara and all the contributors had lots of interesting information for us.

Specifically I want to comment on Al Howlet's *Economic Impact Study Review*. Most overnight users are so anxious to get into the Park that we speed right by the local restaurants and stores, I am sorry to report from my experiences. Our party would stock up in Bangor where the selection is better than at Bob's in Millinocket. Day users often prefer the amenities of motels and restaurants, and that is OK, helping the locals and putting less wear and tear on the Park's campsites.

Could both day and overnight users be encouraged to spend another day or more visiting area attractions? Some I have enjoyed:

- Patten Lumbermen's Museum
- Ambajesus Boom House in Millinocket
- Mattawamkeag Wilderness Park
- White water rafting
- University of Maine in Orono:
 - Farm and Art Museums
 - Arboretum
 - Composite and Paper Machine Labs
 - Planetarium
- Penobscot Nation and Historical Museums in Old Town
- Greenville and Katahdin boat cruise on Moosehead Lake
- Cole Transportation Museum in Bangor

A local attractions brochure could be produced and sent out to Park users. Thanks to all for your contributions to FBSP and hope to see you again at one of the upcoming events.

– David Alexander, Gorham, ME

Limited edition print of Katahdin...

To celebrate being the first Visiting Artist in Baxter State Park in August this year, I have produced a new limited edition giclee print of *Cloud over Katahdin*. (See photo below.) The original painting received awards at the National Arts Club in New York and in the Adirondacks Exhibition of American Watercolors. The print is available from me at 207-443-5045, on the web at www.evelyndunphy.com by email at artist@evelyndunphy.com or from North Light Gallery in Millinocket at www.artnorthlight.com

– Evelyn Dunphy, West Bath

While at North Light Gallery in Millinocket, see photos of Bert Lincoln Hall dating from 1880-1940. These are part of a travelling exhibition of 35 photos, Maine Woods Observations by Bert Lincoln Hall and Henry David Thoreau.

– Editor



Cloud over Katahdin, watercolor by Evelyn Dunphy, is now available as a limited edition print.

– Photo © E. Dunphy

Photo on p. 7, lower left:

Going to the Park? Take the first meal with you. FBSP member Joe Dicensi at Orvieto in Millinocket has the sandwich for you! Go to www.dicensiinc.com or call at 207-723-8399.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

Fort Mountain Revisited

FBSP Member Recounts his Hike to Crash Site

In August of 1946, 63 years ago, I from camp at Shin Pond and Charles V. Chapman from Patten decided to climb Fort Mtn. to examine the wreckage of an ill-fated four-engined transport, which in 1944 had come in at a grazing angle some 200 ft. below the summit. The crash site had caught the attention of many who saw the glint of its remains, easily seen from the Tableland. I had spotted it from there, in the summer of 1945.

Starting at Roaring Brook campground, we took the South Branch, Wassataquoik trail about 6 mi. to "New City", where remains of the old logging camp area and field were still visible. Overnight there. We then followed a poorly marked trail up the main branch of the Wassataquoik, roughly 4.5 mi., and pup-tent camped at the mouth of Annis Brook. Leaving our tent next morning, with compasses and inch-to-the-mile USGS 15' topographic quadrangle map in hand, we began bushwhacking up the northeast shoulder of Fort Mtn. Fighting up through scrub spruce, often without touching ground, all the way up. Although later a research geologist in western Maine's mountain country, I have never had as tough going as it was that day on Fort, in the estimated 1 and 1/4 mi. and 2000 ft. climb. Near our destination, I took a photograph looking ESE over to the high NE wall

Cooks' Corner

Backpacking Recipes for the Trail

Got a good recipe to share? Please send it in and we'll give it a try.

— Editor



The peak at the left is North Turner. At the base of the south slope of No. Turner, in the far distance, is Mt. Chase, near Shin Pond. At the height of the great north slope of Ktaadn/Russell are Ktaadn's North Peaks. Right edge of the photo cuts off most of the Northwest Basin's headwall.

— Photo © Gary Boone, 1946

of the Northwest Basin valley.

We reached the site of the doomed Air Force C-54 at about 3700 ft. elevation around noon. Inside the damaged, still partly intact fuselage, we found sad, broken fragments of English Wedgwood pottery, no doubt intended for family members, and copies of the Armed Service's "Yank Magazine." We descended roughly our same route as we took up the mountain and camped again at the mouth of Annis Brook. The topo map showed a bench mark there, but we did not find it.

Next morning we broke camp and followed the indistinct Northwest Basin trail up to a crude lean-to at Davis Pond. We camped there that night, oblivious of no-seeums and mosquitos. The following morning we made our way up what I think was then called the "Four Fools Trail" — really steep climbing — to the Northwest Plateau, and then down the Saddle Trail, stopping at Chimney Pond for a bit of lunch (not much food left!) and finally back to Roaring Brook campground. To top it all off, we had good weather all the way.

I don't believe we were required

to file our intended itinerary. I think we just went on our way, blithely ignorant of the climb ahead. On our arrival back to our Roaring Brook starting point, I can vaguely remember pack mules being readied for the climb up to the Great Basin and Chimney Pond. We then drove back to Patten and Shin Pond, and no one seemed the least interested!

In 1946, I was 17, and Charles was in his twenties. We made a good team, endowed with good reserves of energy and endurance, and we got along well. After our climb, we went our separate ways. Recently, with the help of my wife Alice and the University of Maine Alumni Association, I tracked down Charles Vaughn Chapman, age 88, now living in Florida. He remembered our climb, but couldn't recall some details — like the pup-tent!

— Gary M. Boone, Presque Isle, ME

Recent articles about the Fort Mtn. crash site have appeared in the Boston Globe on 6.01.09 and the Bangor Daily News on 6.26.09, including an interview with BSP Director Jensen Bissell about the difficulties faced in reaching the site. Current Park regulations prohibit camping except in established sites and require reservations. Full text of Gary Boone's account is available on the FBSP website. — Editor



Park Staff assemble for the all-staff Spring meeting at BSP Headquarters on June 2nd & 3rd.

— Photo © BSP Staff

Update from the Park

by BSP Park Director Jensen Bissell

The spring of 2009 has been a busy one at Baxter State Park. A gentle spring with steady melting and no strong storms provided one of the earliest and uneventful openings of the Park in many years with minimal road damage and very few downed trees.

At its May meeting, the BSP Authority addressed a number of substantial issues. The budget for the FY2010 fiscal year (running from July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010) was one of the most difficult budgets to close in my memory. Significant downward pressure on the Park's endowments, coupled with increasing personnel costs, provided a real challenge in matching Park expenditures to available revenues in the Park's \$3,500,000 budget. Spending for materials and supplies and capital projects has been pared back to 2007 levels. I would like to say that we are through the worst, but that remains to be seen. Park staff are knowledgeable about the economic situation and will work hard to consider all expenditures and be frugal with project planning. A bright spot in our budget was the increase in the contribution of the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund from \$75,000 to \$85,000 for FY2010.

The Authority also approved a proposal to modify the Park's fee structure from a per-person to a per-site basis. The approved change will take place beginning in January of 2010 and will greatly simplify the Park's fee structure and reduce the transactions necessary to complete a reservation in the Park.

The Authority also approved a proposal to provide a day-use reservation system for all Katahdin trailhead access parking at Abol, Katahdin Stream, and Roaring Brook in an effort to eliminate or alleviate the uncertainty that currently faces day-hikers of Katahdin trying to work with the Park's first-come, first-served access policy to limited Katahdin access parking.

All available day-use parking spaces at Katahdin trailhead campgrounds will be reservable beginning in April, and Mainers will be able to make a reservation three weeks ahead of non-residents. The reservation system could result in 10,000 or more telephone transactions per season. To provide funding for additional staff necessary to handle the work, the cost of a day-use reservation will be \$5.

The system will also include a hiker-information line that has just been installed at Park Headquarters. This line will provide a message, updated

daily, informing callers about parking availability at Katahdin trailheads and expected trail conditions. This information will also be provided on the Park's website with connections to Twitter and other information transfer options. Park staff will be working to inform our user base and the public about the day-use reservation process in the summer of 2009.

The Authority also confirmed several research projects on tap for this summer in the Park including two linked projects on forest stand structure and development in the Scientific Forest Management Area, a project on invertebrate life in caves in the Park, and a monitoring project by the DEP on water quality in the Wassataquoik watershed.

On June 2 and 3, the Park held its annual all-staff Spring meeting. This meeting is one of two times each year that the entire staff of the Park has an opportunity to meet new staff, train, and cover updates in policy and procedure. In addition to the material we need to cover, there is always a sense of celebration of the Park and a confirmation of how we enjoy the opportunity we have to work in such a great place. We welcomed on board Skip Martin as Trail Crew Leader and listened with great emotion as BSP

Continued on p. 9

Ranger I's Jody and Mac Browning informed the staff of their intention to retire from Park service at the end of the year. Many thanks to FBSP member and BSP Advisor Laurie Rich and Park Volunteer Jay Bertagni for their invaluable assistance filling in at Togue and Matagamon Gates while the staff was busy at spring meeting.

Prior to the spring meeting, a skilled and hard-working crew assembled the Martin Pond Lean-to. The materials for this six-person shelter were placed on site this winter as part of the winter hauling work list. Special thanks to Russell Pond Ranger Greg Hamer for his efforts leading the crew in this construction effort. Along with final sign placement and bog bridging work on the Martin Ponds Trail, we expect to site and assemble the privy at Martin Ponds by the end of July, and the site will then be ready to open for rental by Park visitors. The assembly of a second lean-to on Katahdin Lake has been postponed pending further site review. The preliminary layout of the next trail segment scheduled for construction, extending from the Martin Ponds Trail to the proposed lean-to site at the northern end of Katahdin Lake is now complete and work on clearing this segment is scheduled for later this summer and fall.

We have also been very busy updating our website. The public can now view "near real time" site availability on our website. With the click of your mouse, you can view which sites are reserved and which are open at any campground or backcountry site in the Park on any day during the camping season. Some page and text revisions are in the works to make the website more user-friendly and improve the site design, so stay tuned.

As we enter the summer months, our reservation office has been very busy, and Park use suggests a busy summer. With about 9" of rain falling at Chimney Pond in the third weekend of June, we hope that the rain has spent itself, and we are in for a stretch of real summer weather. I hope as the weather warms and the flies back off a little, I'll see you on the trail.

Need reservations?

Go to the Baxter State Park website at baxterstateparkauthority.com Under Camping and Reservations, click on CAMPSITE AVAILABILITY to plan your trip. Then call or write Park HQ's.



Heading to the north of the Park? A hike to South Branch Falls is a treat for all ages.

—Photo © Bill Bentley

Call for PHOTOS 2011 BSP Calendar

Please send photos on CD's to FBSP by October 15, 2009. Label each photo with photographer's name, title of the photo, and approximate month of the year it represents. For photos of wildlife, please indicate distance from subject and size (in mm) of lens used.

Tips for Photographers

- Adjust camera to take photos at the highest resolution possible.
- Avoid photos of rare/endangered plants or of animals that seem to be in distress or threatened by human presence.
- As the captions are designed to be educational, a "teachable moment" is welcome.
- Focus on wilderness is preferred over human activity, and photos representing less visited parts of the Park are welcome. There is a limit to the number of shots of Katahdin that will appear in the calendar.

Whitcomb and Bentley Meet with Governor

On April 6th, Howard Whitcomb and Barbara Bentley met with Governor John E. Baldacci to present him with an inscribed copy of *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession*. Baldacci asked them to sit down saying he "welcomed the reprieve" and then talked with them for 25 minutes.

He remembered the 2003 FBSP-sponsored meeting at Daicey Pond in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Percival P. Baxter's first trip to Katahdin and acknowledged Phyllis Austin and Pat McGowan's role in the eventual acquisition of the Katahdin Lake parcel, noting the very difficult and lengthy deliberations. He mentioned Sam Hodder ("that young man") and his role in the KL campaign and noted his moving to California with the Trust for Public Land, "not so far away when we need him again." He noted repeatedly "the things they went through" to complete the acquisition. The Governor also mentioned "the generous Rockport couple" who supported the KL acquisition and were instrumental in the establishment of the Baxter Park Wilderness Fund.

At one point, Baldacci told the story about the final \$1 million gift to the KL campaign and how he served as a waiter for the donor at the Baldacci family restaurant in Bangor. When the donor said he'd never been waited on by a Governor before, Baldacci replied, "I've never received a \$1 million tip before!" The donor replied, "Touché."

The Governor reiterated his admiration for Percival P. Baxter, remembering both the May 2005 Hall of Flags presentation of the 4-volume *Baxter's Vision* set and the later signing of the Katahdin Lake enabling legislation at which he showed the framed receipt for the purchase of the first parcel of the Park that hangs in the Blaine House. Baldacci said he has always been interested in Governor Baxter's career and in reading accounts of his efforts to create the Park. He mentioned that he was a history major as an undergraduate and looked forward to reading *Magnificent Obsession*.

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

We're looking for new Friends!

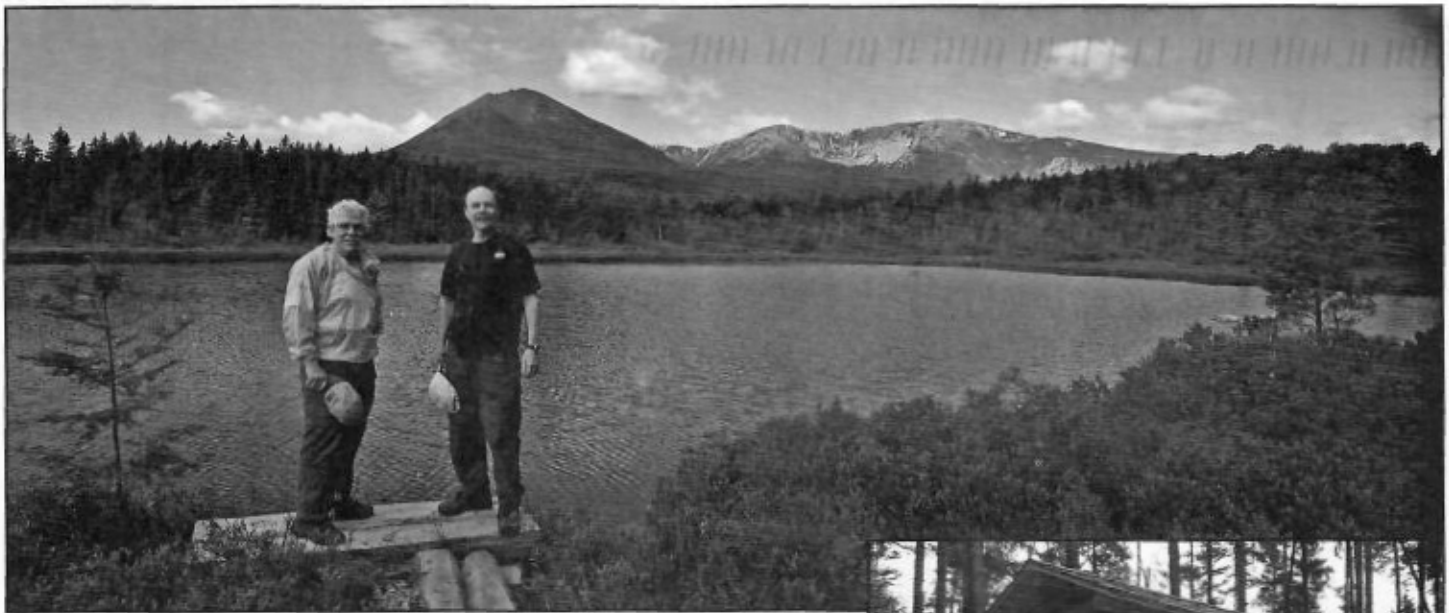
_____ \$1,000	Governor Baxter Society
_____ \$ 500	Katahdin Club
_____ \$ 250	Knife Edger
_____ \$ 100	Hamlin Peaker
_____ \$ 50	Sponsor
_____ \$ 30	Family
_____ \$ 25	Individual

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

Friends of Baxter State Park,
P.O. Box 1442, Bangor, ME 04402-1442.
Friends Website: www.friendsofbaxter.org

Thank you!

04348@3425



above:

Friends' members Bill Bentley (L) and Charlie Jacobi toured the new campsite at Martin Ponds and went on to Katahdin Lake after a day of Trail Steward training on National Trails Day in June.

– Photo © Barbara Bentley

right:

The new 6-person lean-to and canoe at Martin Ponds make the site a good destination for families. Access is from Avalanche Field parking lot.

– Photo © Bill Bentley

