



WILDERNESS MATTERS

Maine Chapter
Appalachian Mountain Club
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Is Wilderness in the Eye of the Beholder? *By Scott Olsen*

Where is the wilderness? In Baxter State Park, or Maine's 100-Mile Wilderness, at the Maine Wilderness Lodges, along the Allagash Wilderness Waterway, or in Caribou-Speckled Mountain Wilderness Area, or one of the Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge wilderness zones?

A couple of recent personal events have me beginning to wonder.

This past August, I dropped my wife off at the Abol Bridge trailhead so she could hike the 100-Mile Wilderness. After we said our goodbyes, and she tromped off down the trail with gear and food for a week or more, I was a bit discouraged at the nearby convenience store, abundance of traffic and the casually dressed dog-walkers that we met heading into the "wilderness" with one fanny pack for the two of them.

Also, this past summer, the Bryant Pond 4-H Camp, where I work, was chosen as "Maine's Best Wilderness Training Summer Camp" by DownEast magazine. We were grateful for the recognition and honored to be chosen, but I was a bit taken aback at the "wilderness summer camp" label.

Years ago, as a forestry undergraduate at UMass—Amherst, I read Roderick Nash's *Wilderness and the American Mind*, one of the few textbooks I have actually enjoyed reading



Kidney Pond and Katahdin in Baxter State Park. Photo by Carey Kish

(and have even re-read!). This book, now in its 4th edition, chronicles the history of our relationship with our wild lands, from fear and conquest to love and preservation. It is a must-read for anyone interested in conservation.

I particularly enjoyed reading about the relationship between Teddy Roosevelt, Gifford Pinchot and John Muir, which resulted in the formulation of many of the national land

management systems still in place today. And while I admired all three men greatly, I found myself most intrigued by John Muir, whose religious connection with wilderness and his zealous determination that it be preserved, left a lasting impression on me through my college years. I went on to earn a MS in Forestry, working on a wilderness area fee & permit system in what is now the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in southern Utah.

I have always thought of wilderness in the classic sense, a vast expanse of wild forestland, a place "... where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain," as defined by The Wilderness Act OF 1964.

Wikipedia defines wilderness as "a natural environment on Earth that has not been significantly modified by human activity." Per the WILD Foundation, wilderness areas may also be defined as the most intact, undisturbed wild natural areas left on our planet, those last truly wild places that humans do not control and have not developed with roads, pipelines or other industrial infrastructure.

Lately, however, I have begun to question the meaning of the word *wilderness*, which is

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Explore Baxter State Park with Naturalist Jean Hoekwater

A Meetings and Education Evening Program in Brunswick on February 20

Join Park Naturalist Jean Hoekwater for a visual exploration of recreational opportunities and popular trips in Baxter State Park, including backcountry locations as well as short day hikes. Along the way, Jean will share ideas for experiencing the Park's beauty with friends and families of all ages and abilities. Jean will introduce some of the wildlife and plants visitors can hope to encounter in the Park's array of natural communities and will share tips on how visitors can help the Park in their preservation



Jean Hoekwater at Little Wassataquoik Lake in BSP

efforts. There will be plenty of time left for questions at the end for those planning their 2014 visits to the Park! **Join Jean on Thursday evening, February 20, 2014 at Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St. in Brunswick, ME.**

Jean has been coordinating Information/Education efforts at Baxter State Park since 1988. Following an internship in the Park, she guided on Maine rivers, worked for The Atlantic Center for the Environment and the A.M.C. at Pinkham Notch Camp prior to returning to work with the visitors and staff of Baxter in her current position. In the mid 1990's, Jean established and trained the first alpine steward positions to provide visitor contact and information above treeline on Katahdin. This program continues to yield important benefits today, using interns each summer to protect the wilderness resources and experience on Maine's highest mountain. Jean oversees the Togue Pond Visitor Center, summer programs and children's programming in the Park, outreach to schools, community groups, and the AT thru hiker community. Jean also serves as staff liaison for researchers and media projects in the Park.

Join us for this informative program on Thursday February 20, 2014 at the Curtis Memorial Library,



Jean Hoekwater on Hamlin Ridge in BSP

23 Pleasant St. in Brunswick, ME. Optional potluck at 6:00PM (please bring a food item to share and your own plates and utensils); program by Jean at 7:00PM. This event is free and open to the public. FMI and directions go to www.amcmaine.org/meetingsandeducation or contact M&E co-chair, Fran Leyman at education@amcmaine.org.

WINTER CALENDAR: OUTINGS | EVENTS | MEETING | EDUCATION

A note about the listings: The listings below—presented in date order by category—include only those posted online prior to the submission deadline for this issue of Wilderness Matters. **For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check out the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.** For general questions or comments regarding these listings, contact Peter Roderick, Outings Chair, outings@amcmaine.org or (207) 293-2704.

Note: Please be courteous when contacting trip leaders by doing so before 9:00 PM unless otherwise specified, please and thanks.

Next Deadline for Wilderness Matters (Winter Issue) is March 1, 2014. Wilderness Matters is your chapter newsletter. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to contribute, be it stories, news, opinions, photos, or whatnot. We want to hear from you! Please send submissions to newsletter@amcmaine.org. Thank you!

MEETINGS & EDUCATION

Executive Committee Meeting, Freeport. Maine Chapter Executive Committee meets every odd month (January, March, May, July, September, and November) on the second Thursday to discuss chapter business. Chapter members are welcome to attend. Contact: chair@amcmaine.org or excom@amcmaine.org. **Next ExCom meetings are January 9 and March 13.**

Tuesday, January 7: August Camp in the Northern Cascades Program and Potluck Dinner, Fields Pond Audubon Center, Holden, ME. Fields Pond Audubon Center, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden, ME. Potluck dinner starts at 5:45 PM; program starts at 7 PM. Leader: Gerald Sawyer, 207-234-2425, gerry.sawyer@gmail.com. **Please see full description of this program on page 7 of this newsletter.**

Thursday, January 16: Climb through the History of Katahdin and Baxter State Park, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME. Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. 6:00 PM potluck (please bring a food item to share and your own plate and utensils); program at 7:00 PM. FMI and directions go to www.amcmaine.org under meetings & education committee or contact co-chair, Fran Leyman at education@amcmaine.org or 207-838-9660. **Please see full description of this program on page 8 of this newsletter.**

Thursday, February 20: Tour Baxter State Park with Naturalist Jean Hoekwater, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME. Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. Potluck starts at 6:00 PM (please bring a food item to share and your own plate and utensils); program starts at 7:00 PM. FMI and directions go to www.amcmaine.org under meetings & education committee or contact co-chair, Fran Leyman at education@amcmaine.org or 207-838-9660. **Please see full description of this program on page 1 of this newsletter.**

Tuesday, March 11: Hiking through Baxter State Park from End-to-End, Fields Pond Audubon Center, Holden, ME. Fields Pond Audubon Center, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden, ME. Program starts at 7:00 PM. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under meetings & education committee. FMI, email Education Co-Chair Gerry Sawyer at education@amcmaine.org or 207-234-2425. **Please see full description of this program on page 5 of this newsletter.**

Thursday, March 20: Thoreau's Historic Journeys through the Maine Wilderness, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME. Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. Optional potluck starts at 6:00 PM (please bring a food item to share and a plate and utensils); program starts at 7:00 PM. FMI, contact Fran Leyman, co-chair meetings and education committee at education@amcmaine.org or 207-838-9660. **Please see full description of this program on page 7 of this newsletter.**

Thursday, April 17: An Evening with Seguin Island's Volunteer Lighthouse Keepers, Curtis Memorial Library, Brunswick, ME. Optional potluck at 6:00 PM, please bring a food item to share and a plate and utensils, followed by the presentation at 7:00 PM. The talk is free and open to the public. FMI go to www.amcmaine.org/calendar or for driving directions to www.amcmaine.org/meetingsandeducation or contact Fran Leyman, co-chair meetings and education at education@amcmaine.org. **Please see full description of this program on page 6 of this newsletter.**

Wilderness Matters

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HIKING, SKIING & SNOWSHOEING

Wednesday, January 1: Sawyer Mountain, Limington. 3.6-mile hike on rough woods road. Elevation gain 600 ft. with interesting views. Start the New Year off right. Leader: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444, rnhussey@maine.rr.com.

Saturday, January 4: Mount Kearsarge North (Young Members). 6.2-mile trip/2600' of elevation gain at moderate pace. Full winter gear required. Hike to the summit of Mt. Kearsarge North (3268') via the Mt. Kearsarge North Trail to enjoy one of the finest views in the White Mountains. About 200 feet of exposure at the top to the fire tower. Leader: Kim Sanders, 207-712-0862, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 4: Pleasant Mountain Winter Hike. Start the New Year off with a snowshoe hike up Pleasant Mountain near Bridgton, ME. Enjoy great views of the White Mountains and lake country. Good hike for beginner and intermediate snowshoers with moderate to good conditioning. Approx. distance 6 miles. Elevation change 1,900 feet. Mostly forested with rocky ledges with possibility of ice on trail. Leaders: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708, jeanne.christie@aswm.org; Lawrence De Hof, 207-310-8952, ldehof@access4less.net.

Saturday, January 4: Cranberry Peak Snowshoe, Stratton. Experienced winter hikers with full winter gear needed for fun day in the Maine woods. With car spot we'll hike from trailhead near Stratton to Cranberry Peak and on to Cranberry Pond and the junction of AT; then head south on AT to Route 27. Trip length = 8 miles. Incredible views of Bigelows. Beautiful woods walk, especially between the peak and the pond. Leader: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net.

Sunday, January 5: Pineland Farms Cross Country Ski Trip (Young Members). Join us on a cross country ski trip at Pineland Farms (www.pinelandfarms.org). Can rent skis if you need them. Great ski area close to Portland with rolling hills and some easier areas for beginners. Will pick trails that work well for the group. Beginners and more advanced skiers are welcome. We can also stop at the cafe to rest, a bite to eat and view of Mount Washington. Leaders: Sarah Keats, 207-756-4226, slkski@gmail.com; Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708, jeanne.christie@aswm.org.

- Tuesday, January 7: Fields Pond Hike/Snowshoe/X-C Ski Outing.** Mid-afternoon outing prior to the potluck and program (see Meetings and Education listings). Join us to explore the Fields Pond Audubon Center trails. Type of outing (ski, snowshoe, hike) will depend on snow conditions. Headlamps required, perhaps microspikes. Leaders: Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us; Stan Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.
- Wednesday, January 8: Hike Chocorua Mountain, NH.** Hike Chocorua Mtn. (3,500 ft.) via the Brook Trail, a 7.2-mile round trip at a moderate pace. Visit what is reputedly one of the most frequently photographed mountains in the world, and certainly one of the most frequently ascended peaks in the White Mountains. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, January 11: Puzzle Mountain.** Hike to the south summit of Puzzle Mountain (2900') from Grafton Loop Trail parking lot on Route 26. R/T distance 6.4 miles, elevation gain 2170' at moderate pace. Winter gear required, including snow shoes with crampons. Suitable for intermediate winter hikers. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, bill@mesoft.org.
- Wednesday, January 15: Belknap Woods - Center Harbor, NH.** Visit the Belknap Woods (90 acres) and explore this lovely tract of land. Contact leader for more details. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, January 18: Little Bigelow via AT.** Experience winter hiking on one of Maine's most revered mountain ranges. We'll ascend Little Bigelow (casually referred to in oxymoron-speak as "Little Big") via the AT. The 3.5 miles to the summit gains 1750 feet and includes some open ledges. Total hike is 7 miles. Open ledges afford great views without risk of full summit exposure. Come experience moderately steep terrain in winter in a low-risk setting. Great for beginner/intermediate winter hikers but all welcome. Snowshoes with cleats, crampons, or heavy-duty traction system (such as Kahtoola Micro-Spikes) may be required depending on conditions. Leaders: Wayne Newton, 207-897-3072, hikerfig@myfairpoint.net; Laura Flight, 207-215-5306, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com.
- Sunday, January 19: Back Woods Ski, Brownfield, ME.** Intermediate, off trail, 2-4 hour trek. Start along Burnt Meadow Brook and gently climb to open views of the White Mountains. Leader: Jim Tierney, 207-795-7855, run437@hotmail.com.
- Wednesday, January 22: Pawtuckaway North and South Mountains, Nottingham, NH.** Visit Pawtuckaway State Park and enjoy snowshoe hike to north and south summits. Good trip for beginner snowshoers looking to get some experience in safe environment at moderate pace. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, January 25: Hike Baldpate West and East Peaks.** Hike to the West Peak (3,662 ft.) and East Peak (3,780 ft.) of Baldpate via the AT from Old Speck parking lot in Grafton Notch. Elevation gain 2,300 feet, 8 miles round-trip, moderate pace. Suitable for experienced intermediate to advanced winter hikers. Full winter gear required including winter boots with crampons and snowshoes with crampons. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, bill@mesoft.org.
- Wednesday, January 29: Brunswick Area Cross-Country Ski or Snowshoe.** Location will be based on conditions at the time. There are a couple great golf courses to ski on or at Crystal Spring Farm. We'll head out in the morning for a couple hours and follow it up with lunch out. Join us for good company and some winter fun. Stan prefers to snowshoe so folks can join him for some snowshoe fun instead. Leader: Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us; Stan Moody, 207-319-7355.
- Saturday, February 1: Beginner Winter Hike or Snowshoe at Tanglewood, Lincolnville/Camden Hills Area.** Tanglewood trails are beautiful this time of year and this is a perfect place to practice winter hiking skills. Depending on trail conditions, we will use snowshoes and/or traction footwear such as micro-spikes. Along the way, we'll discover natural features of the winter woods, such as lichens, animal tracks and interesting rock and ice formations on the Ducktrap River. Appropriate winter gear and clothing required. Email leader for details and gear needed. This hike is a follow-up to the January Beginner Winter Hiking Workshop. Snow date is Feb 2, Leaders: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net; Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.
- Saturday, February 1: Burnt Mountain Mid-Winter Hike.** If you have some experience with winter hiking, here's your chance to bag a snow-topped mountain. Mid-winter hike to 3595' summit of Burnt Mountain. Outstanding views of Sugarloaf, Abraham, Crockers, and Bigelows. 6 miles total with rise of 1600' vertical. Good introduction to above-treeline conditions. Easy pace, intended for advanced beginner hikers with full winter gear and some winter hiking experience. Snowshoes and other traction device (i.e. Kahtoola Micro-Spikes) required. Leaders: Jeff Aceto, 207-650-5674, acetojt@gmail.com; Kim Sanders, 207-712-0862, kimberlyannsanders@gmail.com.
- Wednesday, February 5: Mount Agamenticus - Hike to Three Hills.** Hike to high points on Mount Agamenticus; great views for moderate effort. Excellent beginner winter hiker trip. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, February 8: Old Speck in Grafton Notch.** Hike to the summit of Old Speck (4,170 ft.) in Grafton Notch State Park via the AT for a round trip distance of 7.6 miles and elevation gain of 2,720 feet. This is a moderate to strenuous hike suitable for experienced intermediate to advanced winter hikers. Full winter gear including snowshoes with crampons/cleats and crampons or micro spikes are required. Leader: Bill Brooke, 207-549-5100, bill@mesoft.org.
- Wednesday, February 12: Whiting Hill and Amos Mtn.** 3-4 mile hike/snowshoe to two small peaks Whiting Hill (800 ft.) and Amos Mtn. (955 ft.) with nice views. Easy pace. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444, NLhussey@maine.rr.com; Jo Anne Diller, 207-647-2117, jsdiller@roadrunner.com.
- Wednesday, February 12: Gerrish Island, Kittery Point.** Visit the southern tip of Maine and explore Gerrish Island with trip leader Carla Dow right in her own backyard. Depending on conditions this will be a hike, snowshoe hike or ski. Contact leader for details. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, February 15: Bald Pate Mtn.** 3-4 mile hike/snowshoe to lovely summit of Bald Pate Mtn. (1,150 feet) with nice views. Easy pace. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com; Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, dlkantor@aol.com.
- Saturday, February 15: Crockers via the AT.** Two 4,000-footers in winter (conditions permitting)! Start at Route 27 and go south on the AT. North peak of Crocker (4,228 ft.) is 5.5 miles with 2,500 feet of elevation gain. Conditions and group sentiment permitting, we will continue on another 1 mile and 250 feet of vertical (after losing 500 feet) to South Peak (4,050 ft.). Total trip is 13 miles and 3,750 feet of vertical. Full winter gear required. Leaders: Laura Flight, 207-215-5306, flyrodflight@systemfolder.com; Frank Brooks, 207-749-2093, thenextb@aol.com.
- Saturday, February 15: Goodell Falls and AT Snowshoe.** Hike on the AT in winter and enjoy a waterfall on a short side trip from Route 15 in Monson. Let's try out the new bridge into the start of the 100 Mile Wilderness. Hike distance will be based on group wishes and ability, probably 3-5 miles. Snowshoes and warm winter clothing are a must. Leaders: Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us; Stan Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.
- Wednesday, February 19: Mount Roberts, NH.** Hike up Mount Roberts and ski down very gradually from Flyaway. Contact leader for details. Mt. Roberts is the westernmost peak in the Castle in the Clouds complex in the Ossipee Mountains. While the summit features strong views to the north, perhaps the most scenic portion is the ledge area along the Mt. Roberts Trail. The Lake Winnepesaukee views from this section are second to none. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, February 22: Backcountry Skiing. Mt Washington Valley: Gulf of Slides to Hillman's Highway.** Ready for an Advanced Backcountry skiing objective? The Gulf of Slides - Hillman's Highway traverse takes in two classic NH backcountry routes. Trip will skin up gulf of slides trail, ascend steep gully to ridge of Boott Spur, traverse across to Hillman's and ski down this 40 degree couloir to Hojo's & then down to Pinkham Notch via the Sherburne. Participants need to be advanced skiers/snowboarders, with current AT/tele/splitboard equipment, comfortable on ungroomed, steep ski trails. Trip will ascend/descend 3000 + vertical feet. Ice axes/crampons recommended for gully ascent. Limited to 6 skiers due to advanced nature of trip. Leader: Albert Mandell, 607-316-5773, mandell.ah@pg.com.
- Wednesday, March 5: Coast and Woods Walk, York, ME.** Leaders choice: woods and coastal walk. Contact leader for details. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Wednesday, March 12: Ocean Walk - Seapoint Beach, Kittery Point, ME.** Join leader, Carla Dow, for another of her hometown outings. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.
- Saturday, March 15: Baldface Circle Shelter.** 5-mile R/T hike to shelter. Elevation gain 1,450ft. Moderate pace. Leaders: Lorraine Hussey, 207-619-9444, RNLhussey@maine.rr.com; Debby Kantor, 207-854-3431, dlkantor@aol.com.
- Saturday, March 15: Saddleback and The Horn.** Snowshoe/hike to the summit of Saddleback Mountain (4,120 ft.). Begin at the Saddleback Ski Area base lodge and ascend the approved ski trails gaining 2,000 vertical ft. in approx. 2 miles. We'll get complimentary uphill access passes from the ski area before we go up. Group sentiment and weather conditions permitting, we will continue on 1.6 miles above treeline and travel to summit The Horn (4,041 ft.), then retrace our route back to the lodge for a R/T total of about 7.5 miles. Après hike food, beverages & entertainment (Caroline Cotter w/Tricky Britches) possible in the Swig N' Smelt Pub. This hike is intended for physically fit, experienced winter hikers with full winter gear. Leaders: Jason Toner, 207-649-2448, jandstoner@roadrunner.com; Sarah Toner, 207-649-2449, jandstoner@roadrunner.com.

Wednesday March 19: Mount Shaw Hike, Ossipee Range, NH.

Join Carla Dow for a late winter hike to Mount Shaw, the highest point in the NH Lakes Region. Great views of Lake Winnepesaukee from summit. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.

Wednesday March 26: Early spring hike - Oaklands Town Forest, Exeter, NH.

Kick off the spring hiking season with an easy hiking tour local forest. Leader: Carla Dow, 207-439-9369, treetopschool@comcast.net.

OVERNIGHT TRIPS

January 18 – 20: Carter Notch Hut weekend. Maine Chapter annual MLK weekend snowshoe to a hut. Saturday snowshoe/hike to Carter Notch Hut via 19 Mile Brook Trail. Sunday climb a 4,000-footer or just lounge around the hut. Bring wine/cheese/hors d'oeuvres to share for the evenings. Monday hike back out. \$110 covers 2 nights lodging, 2 dinners, 2 breakfasts and 1 lunch. Limited space, reserve early. Call leader for registration and payment details. Leader: Roger David, 207-737-9870, rd04342@gmail.com.

January 26 – 31: Lodge to Lodge Ski Trip in Maine Woods Initiative Area. Join Maine Chapter leaders for lodge-to-lodge-to-lodge ski trip. See the MWI in its winter splendor. We will stay in bunkhouses at Gorman Chairback and Little Lyford lodges and cabins, and shared cabins at West Branch Pond Camps in the 100-Mile Wilderness. Enjoy delicious meals prepared by AMC chefs, ski and snowshoe in pristine wilderness backcountry on mostly groomed trails as well as snowshoe to the Appalachian Trail and nearby mountains. Visits to nearby Gulf Hagas, a spectacular river gorge on the West Branch of the Pleasant River and The Hermitage, a stand of 100-year old white pines are possibilities. Comfort with intermediate back country skiing and/or intermediate snowshoeing skills required. Contact leader for further details and registration information. Trip limited to 10 participants. Leaders: Peter Roderick, 207-293-2704, roderick1027@fairpoint.net Richard Morse, 207-752-0703, richardmorse3@gmail.com.

January 31 – February 2: Cross country skiing in Acadia National Park. Join us for a weekend of outdoor activities in Acadia National Park. Stay in Downtown Bar Harbor hotel and dine in local restaurants. \$111/person in shared double room, \$222/person for single room. Conditions permitting, we will ski on the carriage trails; if not enough snow, we will hike or snowshoe on the hiking trails. Registration required, email leader for more information and trip details. Leader: Ginette Beaudoin, 207-294-6302, ginette4000@yahoo.com.

February 15 – 16: Beginner Winter Backpack Camping. Are you new to backpacking? New to winter camping? Join us for an easy snowshoe to a shelter and spend the night. Enjoy a meal around a campfire and sleep overlooking the ocean. Hike out in the morning possibly via a longer route. Contact leader for full details and equipment requirements. This trip is part of the Great Maine Outdoors Weekend. Leader: Roger David, 207-737-9870, rd04342@gmail.com.

February 17 – 21: Claybrook Mountain Lodge Ski Week. Join us for a week of great cross-country skiing on the Maine Huts and Trails system of well-maintained trails. We'll have the opportunity, weather permitting, to visit each of the four huts. Enjoy the luxury of skiing with just a small daypack while enjoying the magnificent trails and scenery in the Bigelow area. Accommodations will be in shared twin or triple rooms at the Claybrook Mountain Lodge in Highland Plantation. The lodge is owned by Greg, a certified EMT and Maine Guide, and his wife Pat. Pat is a fantastic cook who will spoil us with her homemade bread, muffins, cookies and multi course meals. Made to order breakfast, trail lunches and dinner are included in the trip fee. All meals from supper on Feb 17th (day of arrival) through and including lunch on the 21st (day of departure). We will eat our trail lunch at one of the MHT huts whenever possible, so we can purchase hot food items as well. The Claybrook Lodge is clean, cozy and rustic surrounded by an array of mountain peaks. Leader: Ginette Beaudoin, 207-294-6302, ginette4000@yahoo.com.

March 1 – 2: Camden Hills State Park Cabin Overnight. Have you always wondered what it might be like to do a winter backpack but not ready to sleep in the snow in a tent? Join us for hikes and an overnight backpack to a cabin in Camden Hills State Park instead. This is the old ski lodge that was totally rebuilt. Wood stove, 6 bunks, picnic tables, flagstone floor, privy. First three to book get bunks. You can also bring an air mattress for the floor or tables, or bring a tent for winter camping outside. We will hike up the old road to the lodge, drop off our stuff, start a fire to warm up the place and then head out for a hike/snowshoe. Let's do a potluck of appetizers and then fix your own dinner on the wood stove or bring your cooking gear. We'll do a side trip in the morning for another view spot at Bald Rock. Call to register. Date may change as we cannot book until after Jan. 1. Leaders: Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us, Stan Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us; Judy Oneal, 207-567-3840, judyoneal@fairpoint.net.

WORKSHOPS

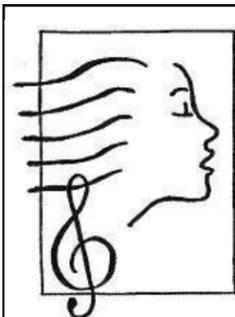
Saturday, January 4: Beginner Winter Hiking Workshop. Want to get out and hike in the winter but not sure: How to Stay Warm and Safe? What to Wear? What Gear You Need? What to Eat and Drink? Who to go with? Where to Go? We can help! Join us for a beginner winter hiking workshop designed for those who want to get out in the snow and ice but have little experience. Michelle Moody and Judy Oneal, experienced winter hikers and AMC hike leaders, will answer these questions and more for you. Morning presentations at the Stockton Springs Town Office will be followed by a potluck lunch with several AMC leaders available to answer any questions. There will be two follow-up beginner hikes in January and February in the Camden/Belfast area. Please email Judy Oneal to register and receive an information packet. Snow date will be January 5. Leaders: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net; Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

Saturday, January 25: Cell Phone Videography for Outdoor Enthusiasts. Learn to make short videos with your iPhone and post them on Facebook and You Tube, and share with friends and family. Besides exploring the wilderness we will discuss when and where to pull out the camera, being mindful of the natural experience and the mediated experience we share through photos and video. Will cover technical aspects such as lighting, camera angles and framing and will introduce cellphone editing and apps to share your created media masterpieces. Workshop will take place both indoors and outside. Leaders: Jeanne Christie, 207-310-8708, jeanne.christie@aswm.org; Richard Morse, 207-752-0703, richardmorse3@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 8: Freeride/Backcountry Skiing Workshop: Mt Washington Area. Workshop will cover backcountry skiing 101 using AT/tele gear. Focus areas: packing for backcountry skiing, uphill travel techniques, traveling in avalanche terrain, steep climbing techniques, steep skiing techniques. Requires current AT/tele gear, ability to climb & ski 3,000 vertical ft., advanced skier. With today's freeride/backcountry focus in the ski industry, this workshop will provide participants with the fundamentals of backcountry uphill and downhill travel. The day will be spent primarily in the field, following some morning discussion on how to plan backcountry ski trips in New England, tour planning, skinning techniques, ski mountaineering basics, and steep skiing skills. Actual tour destination to be determined based on conditions, but Gulf of Slides, Tuckerman Ravine, Ammonoosuc Ravine are primary spots. Participants should be advanced skiers, comfortable on ungroomed advanced trails and have current Alpine Touring (AT) or telemark skis with skins. Recommended ski width is at least 90 mm underfoot. This is the first workshop in a series of two on backcountry skiing. Leader: Albert Mandell, 607-316-5773, mandell.ah@pg.com.

Saturday, February 22: Sled Building Workshop. Tired of the heavy winter backpack? Try constructing and then pulling a sled at this workshop. You can make one at this workshop led by sled maker/user extraordinaire, Dale Temm. We will make sleds using materials found at local hardware and sporting goods stores. You will receive a list of materials you need to bring to the workshop and leave with a finished and tested sled. After the sleds are built, we will enjoy a light lunch at a local restaurant and then go to Sears Island to test out our sleds and practice. Register early; group size will be limited. Snow date is Feb 23. Leaders: Judy Oneal, judyoneal@fairpoint.net; Michelle Moody, 207-319-7355, meamc@micstan.us.

For the most complete and accurate information and up-to-date listings—and so you don't miss spontaneous outings—please periodically check out the calendar online at www.amcmaine.org/calendar.



Women in Harmony Chorus Presents All One Planet Concerts

Women in Harmony, a sixty-member chorus in the Portland area, is performing two concerts entitled *All One Planet*, with a theme of environmental appreciation and stewardship.

The pieces on the program range from contemplative to energetic and from serious to funny.

Performances are at Woodfords Congregational Church, 202 Woodford Street, Portland, on Saturday, January 25 at 7 pm, and Sunday, January 26 at 4 pm. Tickets are \$12 and available in advance at Longfellow Books and Starbird Music in Portland, and Nonesuch Books in South Portland, or via Women in Harmony's website at www.wihmaine.org. General admission is \$15 at the door.

Wilderness - continued from page 1

difficult to define. As Nash debates, sometimes it is used as an adjective and sometimes as a noun. This leaves a lot to personal interpretation. While one person's idea of wilderness might be an unmapped and trail-less expanse of forest, another might consider their local town forest or park to be wilderness. Some consider the inner city to be its own type of wilderness.

The "Wilderness Camping" page on the Maine Campground Owners Association (www.campmaine.com) states: "Of course, wilderness camping is a term that means many things to many people. Some think of a resort campground where they can park their RV. Others picture a remote site where they can drop their backpack and pitch a tent. Still others imagine a sporting camp, where they can enjoy a week by a lake in an old cabin."

So, perhaps there is a spectrum of wilderness, and what constitutes a wilderness experience is truly up to the individual. Wilderness is not the same for everyone. It's personal, and you know it when you see it, or feel it. Some folks think that a cabin on Daicey Pond in Baxter State Park is in the middle of nowhere, while others can't wait to leave that very same cabin and hike off into the "forever wild" park to get away from it all. Wilderness is in the eye of the beholder.

I asked Shannon LeRoy, Program and Office Manager for AMC's Maine Wilderness Lodges and past president of the Maine Wilderness Guides Association, how she would define wilderness. Shannon grew up in Wyoming and spent considerable time camping in wilderness areas out west. And while she felt there are obvious differences between eastern and western wilderness, what they have in common is "the opportunity to get away and reconnect with the natural world." Sounds like something Muir or Thoreau or Abbey might have said. "... Confront the essential facts of life;" "The clearest path to the universe...;" "Wherever we find it, wilderness allows us to lose ourselves and find ourselves again."

It's also a pretty good marketing term, the word "wilderness." When AMC began acquiring and managing property near the Appalachian Trail in Maine we called it the "Maine Woods Initiative." However, Little Lyford, Medawisla and Gorman-Chairback have now become the "Maine Wilderness Lodges." And for good reason. Who, after all, would book a long weekend stay at the Maine Working Forest Lodge?

For some, these AMC lodges represent a true wilderness experience, for others they are a jumping off point for an adventure into the wild woods, and for some they are out-of-place luxury accommodations. But if these lodges attract folks who might otherwise never venture into the wild, and give them an opportunity for a wilderness experience, then I'm all for it, because whatever or wherever it is, **wilderness matters!**

Hiking through Baxter State Park from Gate-to-Gate

A Meetings & Education Event with Maine Audubon in Holden on March 11



Fran at Wassataquoik Lake, Baxter State Park

Sometimes "dream trips" linger on the to-do list for quite some time, like this dream of AMC Maine Chapter member Carey Kish, a Maine-based adventurer, writer and photographer who makes it his business to do the adventures the rest of us just dream about. But thinking about it long enough just makes doing it all the sweeter, and after years of tossing it around in his head,

Carey finally planned it for real, scheduled it, and completed it. **Join Carey & Fran on Tuesday, March 11th at Fields Pond Audubon Center, 216 Fields Pond Road in Holden for their talk and slide show at 7 PM.**

In late summer Carey and his wife Fran Leyman embarked on a backpacking trek that took them from Togue Pond Gate at the southern end of Baxter State Park to Matagamon Gate in the far northeast corner. Because this was a long-term dream, they didn't want to rush through it. Over 12 mostly leisurely days the pair covered about 90 miles total while combining all or a portion of at least a dozen trails on this winding and scenic wilderness journey, a Baxter thru-hike.

Four food drops stashed along the way as well as nights spent in lean-tos and one cabin meant reasonably light packs. From Katahdin to Doubletop, Nesowadnehunk to Russell Pond, South Branch Pond to the Freezeout Trail, it was a long but leisurely walk that proved very much worth the wait.



North Turner Mtn. from Russell Pond, BSP

On **Tuesday, March 11th, join Carey and Fran at Fields Pond Audubon Center, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden, ME for their talk and slide show at 7 PM**, when the two will share their photos, tales and joy (and challenges) about walking through Baxter State Park. Free and open to the public. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings & Education committee. FMI, email M&E Co-Chair Gerry Sawyer at education@amcmaine.org.

Chapter Youth Program Participates in Teens to Trails Rendezvous

By Jeanne Christie

Over Columbus Day weekend, three Maine Chapter Youth Program (CYP) leaders participated in the *Teens to Trails Rendezvous*, leading two workshops apiece in fire building, nature videography and natural history.

Teens to Trails is a unique Maine-based nonprofit dedicated to increasing the opportunities for teens to experience the out-of-doors through a variety of programs that promote and support high school outing clubs all over the state through a variety of activities, such as providing safety and skills training, small grants, workshops, and outdoor rendezvous like the one this fall.

The Maine Chapter Youth Program is one of many partners of *Teens to Trails*, helping to lead high school outings, identifying service projects such as trail maintenance and providing outdoor skill training.

The fall rendezvous almost didn't happen. Acadia National Park, the site for the rendezvous, was closed on Columbus Day weekend due to the government shutdown. But the folks at Adventure Bound in Caratunk stepped up and offered their facility and the event was relocated to their wonderful location along the Kennebec River.

CYP leader Lawrence De Hof provided instructions on four ways to start a fire without matches, showing how to combine unusual materials such as a battery and steel wool, and cotton balls and hand sanitizer. CYP leader Richard Morse's workshop focused on using cell phones to take pictures and videos. Richard demonstrated basic video techniques such as panning, close-ups and composition. He also provided guidance on how pictures and video can be joined together though simple editing apps available on cell phones to make a short movie to forward via e-mail or Facebook.

On my natural history hike we examined the landscape closely to discover clues to its past and identify current inhabitants. We pondered



the history of pieces of long abandoned iron tools and other implements found along the river, and deliberated over the likely succession of plants and trees. Halfway through the hike everyone spread out in a wide band to go off trail on a "silent walk" to explore a pond hidden in the interior of the property. At the edge of the water we stopped and stood and observed, letting nature soak into our senses. Elsewhere we found signs of beaver, skunk and bear. We detected signs of erosion and sought to understand the geology hidden beneath the soil.

The weather wasn't perfect, and the scenery was no match for the dramatic shore and mountains of Acadia, but no one seemed to notice. People who like the outdoors are adaptable. Being in the outdoors with like-minded people is just plain special. It doesn't matter if you are 15 or 50. The Teens to Trails Rendezvous was a great success!

Maine Chapter Annual Meeting Recap

The chapter held its annual meeting for the second year running at DiMillo's Floating Restaurant on the Portland Waterfront on Saturday, November 2. A robust crowd of about 75 persons showed up to socialize for an hour and then enjoy a four-course dinner.

After dinner, elections were held for the Executive Committee for the coming year. The slate was approved by show of hands.

Please welcome your new 2014 Executive Committee: Roger David, Chair; Peter Roderick, Outings; Fran Leyman and Gerry Sawyer, Meetings and Education co-chair; John Mullens, Maine Woods Initiative; Carey Kish, Newsletter Editor; Paul Hahn, Nominating Committee and At-Large; Larry Dyer, Past Chair; Mary Riendeau, Secretary; Kim Sanders and Sarah Keats, Young Members co-chairs; Tim Flight, E-Communications.

Next up, volunteer recognition and awards were presented by Larry Dyer with assistance from Peter Roderick.

The Appie of the Year was awarded to Al Mandell, who unfortunately could not attend in person. Al was presented the coveted walking stick which is inscribed with the names of past winners of this award as well as a gift certificate from a local outdoor retailer. Lorraine Hussey and Sarah Keats were also nominated for Appie of the Year.

A certificate of appreciation for service to the chapter was presented to Larry Dyer, outgoing Chair. Larry also received a gift certificate in recognition for his years of service as Vice-Chair and Chair.

The following individuals were awarded certificates of appreciation for their service as members of the Maine Chapter Executive Committee: Scott Dyer; outgoing Member at Large; Denise Courtemanche, outgoing Treasurer; John Mullens, outgoing Meetings and Education chair.

Finally, we were pleased to welcome once again the president of the AMC, John D. Judge, who gave us an overview of the AMC, its current initiatives, and a look into the future.

A good time was had by all!

Awards from Annual Meeting:

Appie of the Year: Al Mandell

Al was presented the coveted walking stick which is inscribed with the names of past winners of this award as well as a gift certificate from a local outdoor retailer

Lorraine Hussey and Sarah Keats were also nominated for Appie of the Year.

Certificates of Appreciation: Larry Dyer – Chair

Larry received a certificate of appreciation as well as a gift certificate in recognition for his years of service as Vice-Chair and Chair.



Featured speaker, John Judge, AMC president



Right, John Mullens, outgoing meetings and education chair



Al Mandell - Appie of the Year



Right, Denise Courtemanche outgoing treasurer



Left, Larry Dyer outgoing chair



Right, Scott Dyer, outgoing member at large

The following were awarded certificates of appreciation for their service as members of the Maine Chapter Executive Committee:

- Scott Dyer – Member at large
- Denise Courtemanche Treasurer
- John Mullens – Meetings and Education Committee
- Karen Herold – Conservation Committee
- Douglas Ofiara – Trails Committee
- Rick York – Trails Committee
- Keith Chapman – Trails Committee
- Carrie Walia-Rasmussen – Past Chair

Outings Committee Leader Recognition By Michelle Moody



Leaders and trip participants on Blueberry Ledge. Photo by Michelle Moody

As past chair of the Outings Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the leaders and co-leaders that made 2013 a successful year. Special congratulations go to Al Mandell as the new Appie recipient and to Lorraine Hussey for posting the most trips this past year. Below is a list of the leaders who were active this past year. Next time you join them on an outing be sure to say *thank you*.

Leaders with 1 to 4 outings for the past year: Carolyn Welch, Judy O'Neal, Ginette Beaudoin, Jane Gibbons, Sarah Toner, Laura Flight, Lisa Graves (new leader), Jeff Aceto, Larry DeHof, Jeanne Christie, Bill Brooke, Denise Fredette (new leader), Frank Brooks (new leader), Mike Boutin (new leader).

Leaders with 5 or more outings: Kim Sanders, Roger David, Al Mandell (new leader), Sarah Keats, Debbie Kantor, Ray Cooper, Peter Roderick, Michelle and Stan Moody, Lorraine Hussey.

Really new leaders (no outings on their own): Carla Dow.

Co-leaders: Robin Fiske, Jay Evans, Andrea Hafner, Keith Chapman, Jeff Brown, Dave McCarthy, Denise Anderson, Colleen Craig, Brian Le.

Workshops: Peter Broderick and Laura Flight - Winter Hiking; Ray Cooper – Backpacking; Al Mandell and Michelle Moody (with help from Lisa Graves and Stan Moody) – Self and Assisted Kayak Rescue.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting offerings already posted on the calendar at www.amcmaine.org, so if you haven't joined us in the past be sure to plan on doing so this coming year.

Thank you to those of you who have made our outings fun by joining us; hope to meet you on the trail. And good luck to Peter Roderick, our new Outings Committee Chair; thank you Peter for stepping up.

Seguin Island's Volunteer Lighthouse Keepers

A Meetings & Education Event in Brunswick on April 17

Join Mary Hillery and her husband Greg Guckenburg for their presentation on their unique experiences as 2013 Lighthouse Keepers on Seguin Island off the coast of Maine. They will talk about the history of the lighthouse and many interesting details about the lighthouse, such as the preservation of the buildings and lens.



Mary and Greg atop lighthouse

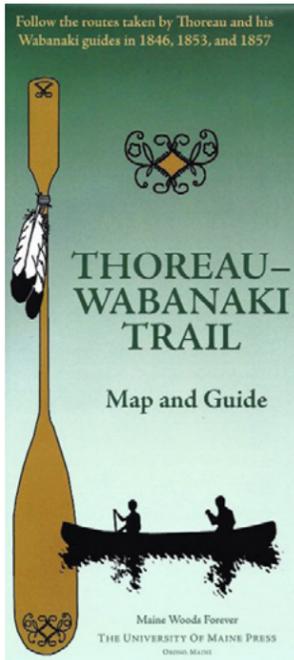
They will further discuss the varied flora and fauna of the island and the hiking trails found on the 64 acres of Seguin. A slideshow of 200+ pictures to play silently while Greg and Mary talk about the Seguin Lighthouse. The couple will share the thrills and hard work of being volunteer lighthouse keepers and let us know how they came to be lighthouse keepers.

For more information on Seguin and its lighthouse visit www.seguinland.org or find Friends of Seguin Island on Facebook.

Join us on Thursday, April 17 at Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. Optional potluck at 6:00 PM, please bring a food item to share and a plate and utensils, followed by the presentation at 7:00 PM. The talk is free and open to the public. FMI go to www.amcmaine.org/calendar or for driving directions to www.amcmaine.org/meetingsandeducation or contact Fran Leyman, co-chair meetings and education at education@amc.maine.org.

Retracing Thoreau's Ancient Wabanaki Canoe Routes in Maine's Wilderness

A Meetings & Education Program in Brunswick on March 20



Join Paul Johnson as he retraces Henry David Thoreau's trips to Maine in 1846, 1853 and 1857, each of which followed ancient Wabanaki canoe routes through vast, primitive wilderness. He climbed high on "Ktaadn" in 1846, visited Chesuncook Lake with Penobscot guide Joe Attean in 1853, and reached distant Eagle Lake in the Allagash with Penobscot guide Joe Polis in 1857 before returning to Indian Island via the East Branch of the Penobscot River. In *The Maine Woods* Thoreau wrote, "I looked with awe at the ground I trod on... This was the Earth of which we have heard, made out of Chaos and Old Night." **Join Paul on Thursday, March 20th at the Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick for this informative program.**

The Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail, a project initiated by Maine Woods Forever, consists of traditional Wabanaki canoe routes and portages in Maine's Kennebec and

Penobscot River drainages over which Henry David Thoreau traveled on his excursions into the Maine Woods, his last two with Penobscot Indian guides. In these woods and along these waterways Thoreau's ideas about nature and conservation were shaped through his observations and through the Penobscots' philosophy imparted by his guides. The goal of the Thoreau-Wabanaki Trail is to ensure the permanent availability of a traditional Maine Woods experience to all who wish to trace Thoreau's journeys and appreciate first-hand the inspirational landscapes that shaped his views.

Maine Woods Forever is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting the legacy of Maine's forests and woodlands by: 1) Promoting stewardship of these natural resources; 2) Finding common ground with diverse people and groups to foster responsible use and shared stewardship of Maine's forests and woodlands; and 3) Working with others to designate exceptional natural, cultural, and historic sites for the education, benefit, and spiritual well-being of Maine people, visitors, and future generations.

Paul Johnson, a member of Maine Woods Forever, worked as a fishery biologist for the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in the Moosehead Lake region, where he had the opportunity to become familiar with the woods and waters visited by Thoreau.

Join Paul on Thursday, March 20th at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. Optional potluck at 6:00 PM, please bring a food item to share and a plate and utensils, followed by the presentation at 7:00 PM. The talk is free and open to the public. FMI go to www.amcmaine.org/calendar or for driving directions to www.amcmaine.org/meetingsandeducation or contact Fran Leyman, co-chair meetings and education at education@amc.maine.org.



AMC's Annual Summit will be held January 25, 2014 at the Four Points by Sheraton Norwood Hotel and Conference Center in Norwood, Massachusetts.

The day's activities will include club-wide committee meetings and workshops, the 138th Annual Business Meeting, the volunteer awards and recognition dinner with guest speaker Kristen Kelliher, and the AMC expo.

Tickets to the full event are \$50, which includes any combination of meetings and workshops, along with the dinner and guest speaker presentation. The children's package for the full event including dinner is \$15. Tickets for day activities only, including meetings and workshops, are \$15.

Registration is now open online at www.outdoors.org/annualsummit.

Gary Dethlefsen "Retires" from AMC MWI

In November, our good friend Gary Dethlefsen left his position as Maine Woods Initiative Operations Manager with AMC. In a note Gary wrote: "It has truly been a great five years that I will forever remember. For those of you I have worked with, it has truly been a pleasure to work on this fantastic project and help our region grow and shine. For those that have helped me along the way, you have my heartfelt thanks!"

Gary wrote further, "I don't have any immediate 'professional' plans, but am looking forward to unwinding and having some play time this winter. It has been an extremely busy five years and I really need some time to recharge. Plenty of snowshoeing and x-c skiing are what I hope for, so if you'd ever like to come visit and experience the wonderful Moosehead Region in winter please let me know, as I'd be happy to accompany you."

We wish you the best of luck Gary. You've been a great asset to the AMC and a great friend to many. Thank you!

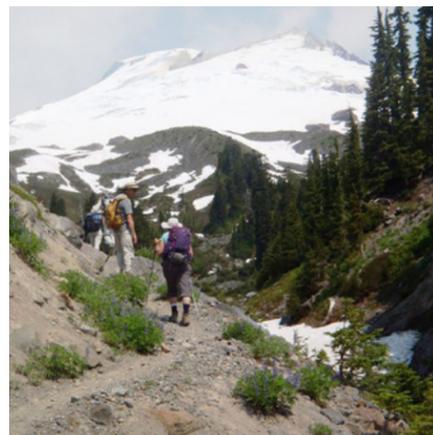


Washington's North Cascades

A Meetings & Education Event with Maine Audubon on January 7

Join Michelle and Stan Moody, AMC Maine Chapter leaders, on their photo journey of the Northern Cascades. The pair led hikes and an overnight canoe trip this year for AMC's August Camp, which was located near Concrete, Washington.

The scenery is reminiscent of the Alps with snow covered peaks, pristine lakes, waterfalls and wildflowers. The Moody's spent a second week repeating the best hikes each had done and then took in breathtaking views down the Mountain Loop Highway as they headed back to Seattle.



On Tuesday, January 7th, join Michelle and Stan at Fields Pond Audubon Center, 216 Fields Pond Road, Holden, ME. Potluck dinner at 5:45 PM and their talk and slide show at 7 PM. Optional afternoon hike with the Moody's at Fields Pond. See calendar listings for more info on the hike. Bring a potluck item to share and your own dinnerware (plate, utensils etc.). Drinks will be available. Or simply

come for the talk at 7 PM. Free and open to the public. See driving directions at www.amcmaine.org under Meetings & Education committee. FMI, email Education Co-Chair Gerry Sawyer at education@amcmaine.org.



YOUNG MEMBERS: A Journey

By Denise Fredette

We started out through mist, our steps careful and strategic along a path so many have walked. We climbed, grabbing at rocks that seemed like they would hold, slipping on wet patches, thanking the tree limbs hanging just low enough to grasp when the rocks were too high and vertical, and did not yield. We yelled "rock!" when the loose ones were set free by our intruding boots. We moved through fog, high up with no view, motivated by the prize, a place called Katahdin, named by the Penobscot Indians and meaning "The Greatest Mountain," a sacred place.

As we made our way to the signs that pointed to Baxter Peak one way and Hamlin Peak the other, we started to leave the quiet desolation of the fog behind us. As we neared the famous Baxter summit we were greeted by fellow hikers who were descending. In passing they smiled and said things like "not much longer" and "you are almost there." It felt like we were approaching the Land of Oz as we followed the yellow brick, or in this case white and pink rock, road.

The sun came out just as we made our final push to the summit. The clouds lifted just enough to make out the terrain around us. People rejoiced, smiled, and were shoed away from the fragile alpine grass by the ranger. There were so many people milling around and a celebratory feeling was in the air.

After eating and taking the obligatory summit pictures we prepared to depart but were stopped in our tracks. The most beautiful and haunting music drifted over to us. A bearded hiker stood on the summit sign playing some kind of a wooden flute. Everyone became quiet and still, and looked over. We were awed by the sheer beauty of the music, of the place, of the journey so many have taken to be standing right here where we stood, and for what this place represented to the people who named it.

As we left the Baxter Peak for Hamlin Peak the fog wrapped itself around this world once again. Our trek to this less visited peak was a quieter one. We did not see another hiker for the rest of our journey until we would arrive back at the campground. We stayed here briefly as we were aware of the time and the few hours of sunlight we had left. We descended this peak, down a steep and rocky ridge for about two miles, until we reached the dark, wet enclosed space of the woods. We were tired and hungry and looking forward to dinner and resting our bodies. We had a good day. It was an amazing hike in a place I hope to return to soon.

Go Paperless- Wilderness Matters

Do you prefer to receive this newsletter electronically, sent directly to your e-mail inbox? Register through AMC's Member Center at www.outdoors.org. If you have difficulty, please call the AMC Membership Department at 1-800-372-1758 (M-F, 9-5 PM EST) or e-mail amcmembership@outdoors.org.

The History of Katahdin and Baxter State Park

A Meetings and Education Evening Program in Brunswick on January 16

Join John Neff and Howard Whitcomb as they share their vast knowledge of the Katahdin Region's history and cultural significance and the creation of the park. Their 2012 book, *Baxter State Park and Katahdin*, draws on rich collections of archival images, many never before published, dating back to the 19th century. They will share many of these as they narrate their slides on **Thursday, January 16, 2014 at the Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant St. in Brunswick, ME.**

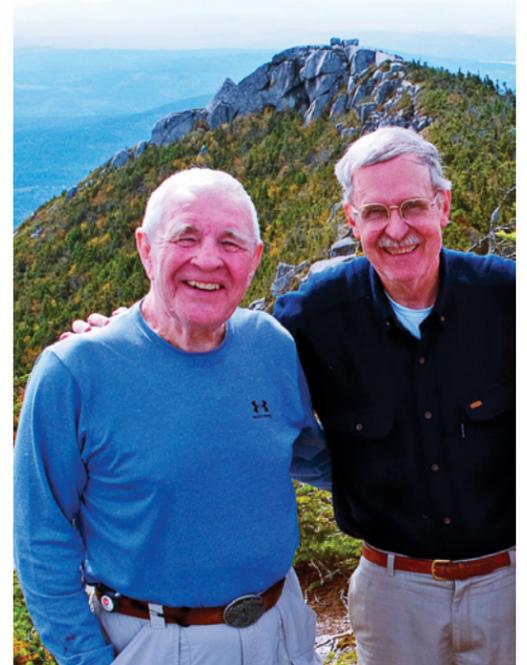
Neff and Whitcomb will share tales of the native peoples, accounts of early scientific explorations, chronicles of adventurers including Henry David Thoreau's visit to Maine's North Woods in the 1840s and 1850s, the spirited era of logging and sporting camps, and Governor Percival Baxter's bold purchase of 201,000 acres over a period of 30 years.

John Neff is a retired pastor of the United Methodist Church and lives in Winthrop. He is the author of *Katahdin: An Historic Journey*, published by AMC Books in 2006. He first climbed Katahdin in the early 1960s and was for 30 years the maintainer of five miles of the Appalachian Trail within Baxter State Park. He is past president of the Maine Appalachian Trail Club and the founding president of the Friends of Baxter State Park.

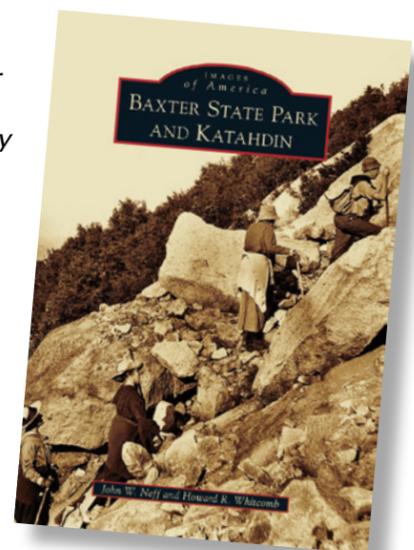
Howard Whitcomb is Professor Emeritus of political science at Lehigh University. He is the author of *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession: A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931-2006*. He also compiled and annotated a four-volume set of original materials on Percival P. Baxter's Vision for Baxter State Park. Howard's park experiences date back to the early 1950s when he climbed Katahdin three consecutive summers.

Copies of the book will be available for purchase and signing at \$22.00. All the proceeds from the book benefit the Friends of Baxter State Park which sponsored the book for the Arcadia Publishing Company Images of America Series.

Join us for this informative program on Thursday, January 16th, 2014, Curtis Memorial Library, 23 Pleasant Street, Brunswick, ME. Optional 6:00 PM Potluck (please bring a food item to share and your own plate and utensils); Presentation at 7:00 PM. This event is free and open to the public. FMI and directions go to www.amcmaine.org/meetingsandeducation or contact M&E co-chair, Fran Leyman at education@amcmaine.org.



John Neff and Howard Whitcomb
atop Doubletop Mtn, BSP



SAVE THE DATE!

AMC Club-Wide Fall Gathering

OCTOBER 17-19, 2014

Camp Wavus, Newcastle, ME

Participants and Volunteers Wanted!

Check www.amcmaine.org/calendar for more info TBD