

Community
has key role
in monument
development

After visiting six states last week to celebrate the National Park Service's 100th birthday, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell wrapped up her whirlwind week of travel in Maine, where she helped celebrate the formation of the park service's latest unit, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Jewell paddled the East Branch of the Penobscot River with Lucas St. Clair, president of Elliottsville Plantation Inc. and son of Burt's Bees co-founder Roxanne Quimby, who donated more than 87,000 acres to the federal government in order to form the monument.

After an often rancorous battle about various park proposals over the past two decades, Jewell said she understood the underlying concerns that prompted many to oppose the park. But she said she's looking forward to Mainers working together to make the monument the best it can be.

"Change is hard for us as human beings. All of us," Jewell said. "It's hard to let go of the 'from' if you don't know what the 'to' is."

Jewell is familiar with Maine's particular "from." She grew up in Washington state, where timber harvesting was a key industry. And she said she sees similarities in Maine, where many in the area near the monument have watched their economy crumble.

That, she said, is the "from." She said it's incumbent on the National Park Service to respond to the needs of those communities, rather than simply roll into town and tell longtime Mainers what the new reality will look like.

"Everybody would like to have an opportunity for their children that mirrors some of the things that were special to them about their childhood," Jewell said. "That's where the 'to' is. And I think that it's just natural that we work with communities to help create that 'to.' And I mean create it collectively."

Beginning Sept. 12, the National Park Service will begin holding listening sessions and expects to visit five towns to stage those events. The dates have not yet been set, but park representatives will be on hand to hear suggestions and concerns of the public during the meetings.

"[I hope people] think about what would they like," she said. "What's so important to preserve? What would they like to see changed? How can they see themselves in this picture? That's a big part of the process that's going to happen over the next few years, as we work with the community to figure out what that 'to' is going to look like."

After spending some time in the new national monument, she's confident that Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument will emerge as a four-season recreational destination.

"Lucas was describing to me in the boat what it's like here in the winter, what it's like to ski along the river," Jewell said. "Or to enjoy the fall colors, or to come here when the leaves are gone and you can see so much more. Or to enjoy the burst of green in the spring."

Over the past four years or so, St. Clair has heard many say that the land his mother wanted to donate to the federal government didn't meet the standard of other units in the national park system. He never believed them and kept plugging away at changing those opinions, one person at a time.

"I always thought this was a good idea, and eventually [we'd] get there," St. Clair said.

And although green forests and wild rivers might seem common to Mainers, those features are far from common for people who visit from many other places. St. Clair said he has become friends with writer and conservationist Terry Tempest Williams, and he joined her on an airplane ride over the monument lands before it was transferred to the federal government.

Her comments resonated with him.

"She said, 'I have never seen so

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Baxter State Park plant guide published

BY AISLINN SARNACKI
BDN STAFF

Baxter State Park now has its first comprehensive plant guide. The book, part of a five-year project that involved dozens of volunteers and contributors, will inform park management in future conservation-related decisions and may just change the way some visitors view the mountainous, 200,000-acre park. It's designed to be useful to both botanists and recreationists.

"I think it's safe to call this a conservation milestone for Baxter State Park," said Friends of Baxter State Park Director Aaron Megquier at the book launch on Aug. 23, held in the Fogler Library on the University of Maine

campus in Orono.

The 492-page field guide, titled "The Plants of Baxter State Park," was published by the University of Maine Press in association with Baxter State Park, Friends of Baxter State Park and Maine Natural History Observatory. It includes 857 plant species documented in the park, organized with useful keys and brought to life through 2,000 color photos.

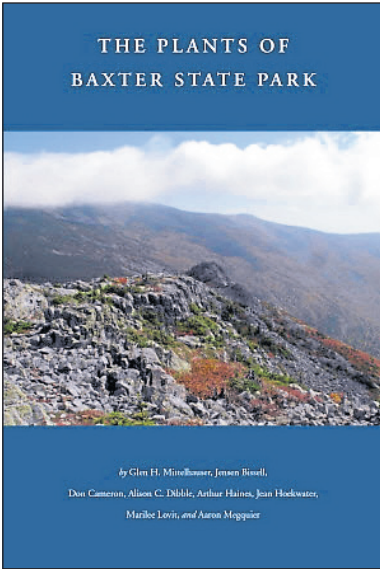
"This guide will help many people who visit the park enjoy it more and understand it more, and that will help them protect it more," said Baxter State Park Director Jensen Bissell. "Someone years from now, maybe 100 years from now, will thank God for all this work that was done."

That was the case for Maine's

Acadia National Park. In 1894, the first complete flora of Acadia was compiled by Edward Lothrop Rand, William Morris Davis, John Howard Redfield, and that plant inventory continues to be a valuable resource to researchers today. For example, without that 100-year-old flora, researchers wouldn't know that about 20 percent of the plants found in Acadia 100 years ago no longer exist on the island.

The authors of "The Plants of Baxter State Park" are Glen Mittelhauser, lead botanist for the project and director of the Maine Natural History Observatory; Bissell; Don Cameron, botanist with the Maine Natural Areas Program; Alison C. Dibble, assistant

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The sky is reflected by the calm water of Schoodic Bog in Schoodic Bog Preserve in Sullivan recently.

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1-Minute Hike:
Schoodic Bog Preserve

Difficulty: Easy to moderate. The entire hike, from the parking area to Schoodic Bog and back, is about 3 miles. Most of the hike is on old gravel roads and a gravel multi-use trail, however, there are a few small hills and rocky sections along the way.

How to get there: From the Sullivan side of the Hancock-Sullivan Bridge on Route 1, drive 3.4 miles, then take a left on Punkinville Road. Drive 2 miles, then bear left onto Punkin Ledge Road. Drive 0.7 mile, then turn left onto Schoodic Bog Road. A short distance down Schoodic Bog Road, on the right, you'll find the parking lot for Schoodic Bog Preserve.



AISLINN SARNACKI

Watch the video
bangordailynews.com

Information: At the foot of Schoodic Mountain in eastern Maine, the 150-acre Schoodic Bog is filled with water lilies and cattails, carnivorous pitcher plants and eastern painted turtles. Industrious beavers also have made their homes there, living in great lodges made of sticks and mud. And with open water at its center, the bog also attracts one of Maine's most



Two eastern painted turtles stand on a log in a wetland in Schoodic Bog Preserve in Sullivan recently.

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skilled fishers: the osprey.

This area is protected thanks to the nonprofit Frenchman Bay Conservancy, which purchased the bog and surrounding upland forest in 2005, creating the 500-acre Schoodic Bog Preserve. This was made

possible with help of a grant from Land for Maine's Future.

Since the establishment of the preserve, the conservancy has constructed a parking area and blazed an easy trail leading

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Pilot recalls 'Hardscrabble' life

New book focuses on Spencer Lake sporting camp adventures

BY JOHN HOLYOKE
BDN STAFF

The day began like many others in Jake Morrel's career as a bush pilot: He was to pick up a group of outdoorsmen and fly them to a far-flung lake so they could have a look around.

"[These camps] were for sale, and they thought maybe it would be a great place," said Morrel, who now lives in Sangerville. "They'd fix up some of the derelict camps and they could have

sort of a retreat where each guy could have his own camp."

That's not how the day turned out.

"They looked all around, just disgusted that they'd spent all their money flying that far to look at [camps in such disrepair]," Morrel said. "I looked at the location and what could be done with the buildings that remained, and I made up my mind right then — I didn't tell [my wife] that night: I'm gonna get it."

He did, and for nearly a decade,

he and his wife, Beth Morrel, owned and operated Hardscrabble Lodge on Spencer Lake, 40 air miles from Greenville, and easily accessible only by float plane.

At the urging of a friend, Morrel has written 36 short stories about his life as a bush pilot and sporting camp owner. Called "Hardscrabble Lodge: True Maine Bush Flying Stories," the 170-page paperback provides plenty of backwoods adventure tales for Mainers who have grown up hear-

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