



**woods & waters**  
FRIENDS OF KATAHDIN WOODS & WATERS ANNUAL REPORT 2019



# woods & waters

**letter from leadership** .... 1

**visitation** .... 2

updates on the first pillar of our strategic plan

**infrastructure** .... 4

updates on the second pillar of our strategic plan

**revitalization** .... 6

updates on the third pillar of our strategic plan

**happenings** .... 8

photos and recaps from our annual events

**gratitude** ... 11

thank yous to our donors

**finances** ... 16

audited financial statements



Dear Friends,

The year 2019 was a year of threes for the Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters and the national monument we support. Progress on the three pillars of our strategic plan: visitation, infrastructure, and revitalization. Early drafts of a paddling guide for the three rivers. Three years of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

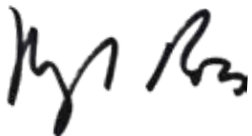
And in the making throughout 2019, was an acknowledgement that while the national monument's name calls out the woods and waters, there is a third superlative quality in the night skies above. Behind the scenes, volunteers worked with our partners at Elliotsville Foundation, Inc. and the National Park Service to submit an application for an International Dark Sky Sanctuary to be designated at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. Now officially designated in 2020, we invite our visitors to come for the woods, waters, and skies. These are the darkest skies east of the Mississippi River and the International Dark-Sky Association has recognized this special place as just the second of its kind in the National Park Service.

There are, of course, far more than three reasons to visit and support the national monument and in 2019, we focused on asking our members why they care about this special place. Many see a unique opportunity to study the effects of climate change in the northern hardwood forest. Many are inspired by the potential for place-based education and opportunities afforded to youth of the region. Many look to the landscape itself and are inspired by the woodland creatures and habitats protected now for generations to come.


In this booklet, our first Annual Report for Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters, we'll provide updates on last year's work on the three pillars of our strategic plan: visitation, infrastructure, and revitalization. We invite you to visit [www.friendsofkw.org/plan](http://www.friendsofkw.org/plan) to read the full strategic plan, adopted in 2018.

Thank you for all you did to make 2019 everything that it was and for your continued support as we look forward to fulfilling our mission for the inspiration and enjoyment of all generations. The work of this organization is made possible through your time, talents, and treasures - three gifts that endure.

Molly Ross, Board President



Andrew Bossie, Executive Director



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Cover photo: Grand Pitch falls on the East Branch of the Penobscot River. Opposite: Orin Falls on the Wassataquoik Stream.



# visitation

The photos below represent a bar chart from a survey of members asking about their favorite activities in all four seasons.

93% HIKE



A visit to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument can be a singular experience. To ensure visitors have a safe, enjoyable, and memorable adventure, we've continued our work to help visitors connect to the landscape through recreation.

In 2019, we created visitation materials to match the interests of our community. For recreationists of all kinds, we worked with Map Adventures to update the Katahdin Woods and Waters Waterproof Trail Map. We posted a hand-drawn map of a seasonal snowshoe trail flagged by Katahdin Woods and Waters Volunteers-In-Parks. Recognizing the incredible habitat the monument provides for over 150 avian species, we released a Bird Checklist created by board member and birding aficionado Anita Mueller. In spring, as the rivers began to run wild with melted snow, we released early drafts of a new paddling guide so that canoers and kayakers could ground-truth maps and river descriptions. With the help of summer fellow Anna Piermattei, we published the first edition of the Dark Sky Guide for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

69% SNOWSHOE



66% XC SKI



57% CAMP





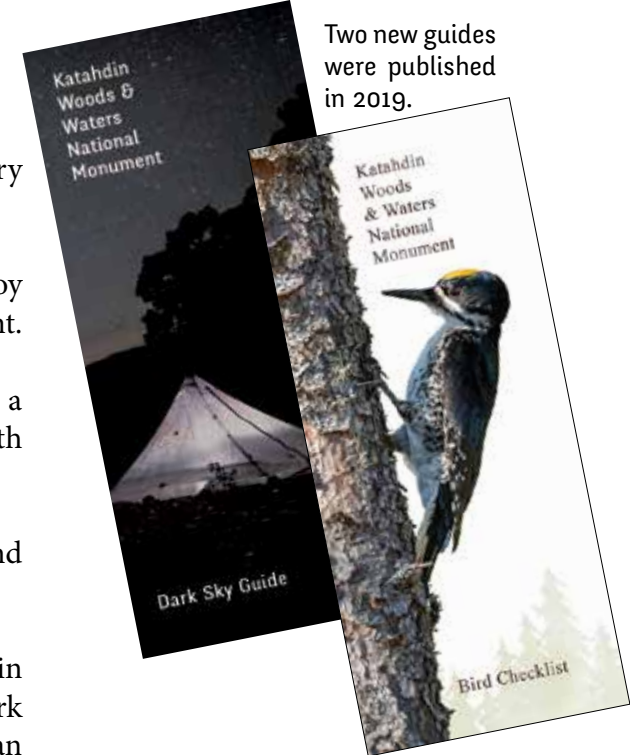
We also promoted visitation through our three annual events: Head North Ski Days, the Anniversary Celebration, and Stars Over Katahdin.

At Head North Ski Days, we loaned free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing equipment for visitors to enjoy the trail network alongside the East Branch of the Penobscot River in the north end of the national monument.

During the Anniversary Celebration in August, attendees chose between four "Monumental Experiences": a hike up Barnard Mountain, a hike up Deasey Mountain, a family hike, or a flintknapping demonstration with Penobscot Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Chris Sockalexis.

During Stars Over Katahdin, we led a history hike to Orin Falls and then worked with local astronomers and Volunteers-In-Parks to showcase the magnificent dark skies above the Katahdin Region.

Throughout the year, our staff has been available to members and supporters to help plan trips. As the park is in its early stages of development, and much of the infrastructure you might expect from units of the National Park Service is still to be developed, it always helps to put in some extra time planning. We're here to help you plan a trip that fits your interests. So, continuing on into 2020 and beyond, please feel free to reach out to our staff.



Two new guides were published in 2019.

43% Kayak • 39% Leaf Peep • 28% Fish • 27% Mt. Bike • 24% Alpine Ski  
17% Forage • 15% Winter Camp  
13% Trail Run • 9% Fat-tire bike  
7% Snowmobile • 5% Ice Fish  
4% Horseback Ride • 3% Hunt

54% PHOTOGRAPH



53% BIRDWATCH



52% CANOE



46% STARGAZE



# infrastructure

For those who have made the journey to the national monument, it's clear that this park doesn't look quite like other units of the National Park Service. It's part of the charm of the place. The park is remote, beautiful, and many visitor facilities are still being planned and developed. Outside the park's boundaries, the National Park Service and organizations in the gateway communities are providing orientation to visitors from local communities, Maine, New England, and beyond. To support the sustainable development and maintenance of infrastructure inside and outside the park, Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters funded a number of projects in 2019.

In the gateway communities of the national monument, we provided financial support to rent two visitor contact stations for the National Park Service, one at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten and one on Penobscot Avenue in Millinocket. Since early in the days of our partnership with the park service, we've provided rent-free office space and accommodations for the park staff at the "Patten House" in downtown Patten. In 2019, we completed renovations on that house, improving energy efficiency and making the office space ADA accessible. Within the park, we funded grading of the Loop Road, making the park's most popular driving route accessible to Priuses and pick-ups alike.

In the years to come, development and protection of the monument's natural and cultural resources will largely be guided by the National Park Service's Foundation Document and Management Framework. Throughout 2019, the park service hosted public meetings to gather input to draft a framework and seek feedback on that draft. Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters was an active participant and supporter of those meetings, providing food and refreshments and taking part in the discussions.



Above: the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps, the inaugural youth conservation corps in the national monument - read more about their work on page 6! Opposite: a well-loaded camper visits the Mile 6.4 Loop Road Overlook.









Above: educators taking part in Teacher Camp at Lunksoos Camp. Opposite: fall hikers near Wassataquoik Lean-to.

The year 2019 was a year of expansive growth for our revitalization efforts. Our principal youth program, the Katahdin Learning Project, serving K - 12 students of the Katahdin Region and beyond, grew by leaps and bounds! It was the first full year that the program had the full-time leadership and support of Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters Education Coordinator Kala Rush. The year included over 70 student experiences for youth, including place-based lessons on Leave No Trace, animal tracks, cross-country skiing, water quality testing, Donn Fendler, public lands, the dark skies, and local food. We hosted students and teachers from the gateway communities in the north and south, and from places farther afield like Lincoln, Mount Desert Island, and Portland, Maine.

We also worked to support the teachers of the Katahdin Region and beyond by coordinating professional development opportunities for educators to learn more about place-based education. Throughout the year, we hosted 11 professional development workshops. Over 30 educators joined us for Teacher Camp 2019, held at Lunksoos Camps.

One of the highlights of the year was made possible through a collaboration with Friends of Baxter State Park. We were proud to help coordinate the inaugural youth trail crew in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, the Baxter Youth Conservation Corps! Katahdin Region students taking part in the crew worked in both Baxter State Park and the national monument, strengthening the connections between these two neighboring conservation lands. The corps redecked an old bridge over Katahdin Brook on the popular Orin Falls Trail. They also improved the viewshed at the Mile 6.4 Loop Road Overlook and cleared portions of the Barnard Mt Trail. It was an inspiration to see Katahdin Region youth making much needed infrastructure improvements to the national monument in their own backyards.







# happenings

## HEAD NORTH SKI DAYS



Clockwise from top left: Katahdin High School students check out the north end on the map; Friends staff get stuck deep in the snowpack; visitors from the mid-coast check out skis; and local students gather by the north entrance kiosk.

Head North Ski Days 2019 featured deep, deep snow and brilliant sun for much of the week-plus event in March. Throughout the event, we rented free cross-country skiing and snowshoeing equipment to visitors and local students. The Katahdin Learning Project hosted over 250 local students who explored the north end of the national monument on skis and snowshoes. This event would not be possible without the support of Volunteers-In-Parks, Elliotsville Foundation Inc., and the Katahdin Gear Library at Millinocket Memorial Library.



### 3rd ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Clockwise from top: the event by Katahdin Lake; Andrew Bossie awards Vicki Richardson; guests gather by the Maine Beer Company bar; John Meader shows off the region's night skies.



The 3rd Anniversary Celebration was our biggest bash yet! On a brilliant summer day, we hosted over 225 people at New England Outdoor Center outside Millinocket. Guests enjoyed day trips and demonstrations, food, a silent auction, a live auction, raffle, awards program, and night sky viewing. We were proud to award Vicki Richardson with Excellence in Volunteerism, Penobscot Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Chris Sockalexis with Outstanding Public Service, and Friends of Baxter State Park with Conservation Colleague.



## STARS OVER KATAHDIN



Clockwise from top left: Nancy Hathaway at the campfire chats; sharing stories of the stars; telescopes are set up before nightfall; observers gather around telescopes in red light.



At Stars Over Katahdin in late September, we were fortunate to have clear, wide-open skies above the Mile 6.4 Loop Road Overlook. Our campfire chats featured presentations from astronomers, storytellers, and enthusiasts from around the world! With nearly 100 people in attendance, it was the biggest Stars Over Katahdin we've hosted yet. It was a wonderful prologue to some exciting news in 2020. The event, which first took place in 2014, has been a big part of spreading awareness about the dark skies — paving the way for the national monument to be recognized as an International Dark Sky Sanctuary!



# gratitude

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Volunteers were an integral part of the following committees, programs, and events. We're grateful to all those who have contributed to this meaningful work for the benefit of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities.

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Friends Volunteer Trail Day (the first!)  
Governance Committee  
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Katahdin Learning Project  
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Want to become more involved in volunteering with Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters? Send us an email at [info@friendsofkww.org](mailto:info@friendsofkww.org)!

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Barbara & Bill Bentley  
Ben & Kala Rush  
Bowlin Lodge & Cabins  
Candace McKellar  
Dan Sakura & Angela Kramer  
Elliotsville Foundation, Inc.  
Epic Sports  
Frenchies' Natural Products  
Gerald McAvoy  
Headlight Audio Visual, Inc.  
Jim & Persephone Ditzel  
Ken Olson  
L.L. Bean, Inc.  
Lucas & Yemaya St. Clair  
Maine Beer Company  
Maine Heritage Timber  
Maine Sport Outfitters  
Mainely Coffee, LLC  
MaryAlice Mowry  
Matagamon Wilderness  
Memories of Maine Gallery  
Millinocket Memorial Library  
Moose Creek Signs  
Moose Prints Gallery and Gifts  
Mt. Chase Lodge  
NEMO Equipment, Inc.  
New England Outdoor Center  
Norman, Hanson, & DeTroy  
North Light Gallery  
Pamola Creative  
Patagonia Freeport  
Randy & Anne Jackson  
Roxanne Quimby  
Scot & Marilyn Miller  
Sherman Wood Works, Inc.  
Shin Pond Village



# finances

Statement of Financial Position - December 31, 2019

## ASSETS

### Current Assets

Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 301,263
Accounts receivable	34,720
Total Current Assets	335,983

### Property and Equipment

Buildings	203,475
Equipment	3,827
	207,302
Less accumulated depreciation	10,206
Property and Equipment, Net	197,096

### Other Assets

Security deposit	675
Investments	9,968
Total Other Assets	10,643

Total Assets \$ 543,722

## LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

### Current Liabilities

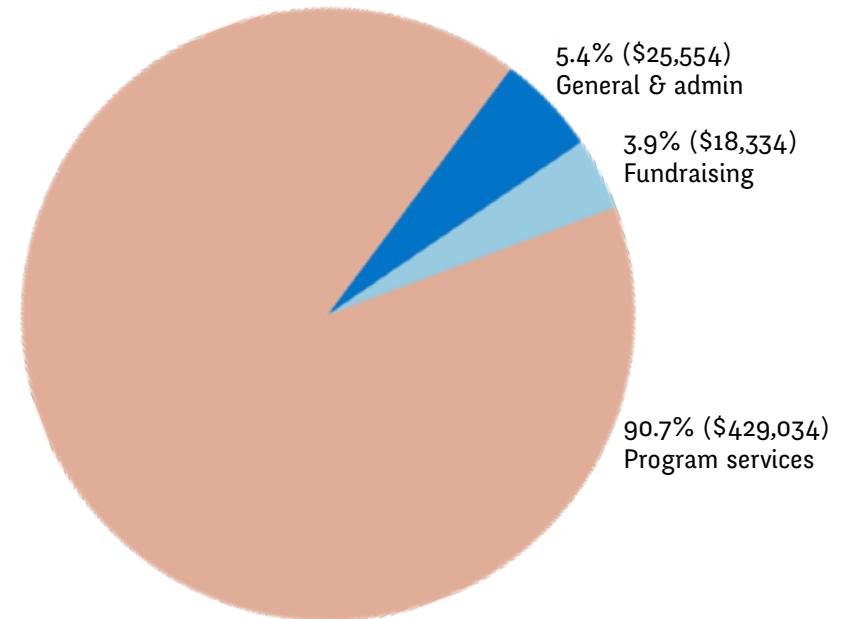
Accounts payable	\$ 1,602
Accrued payroll and payroll taxes	25,916
Total Current Liabilities	27,518

### Net Assets

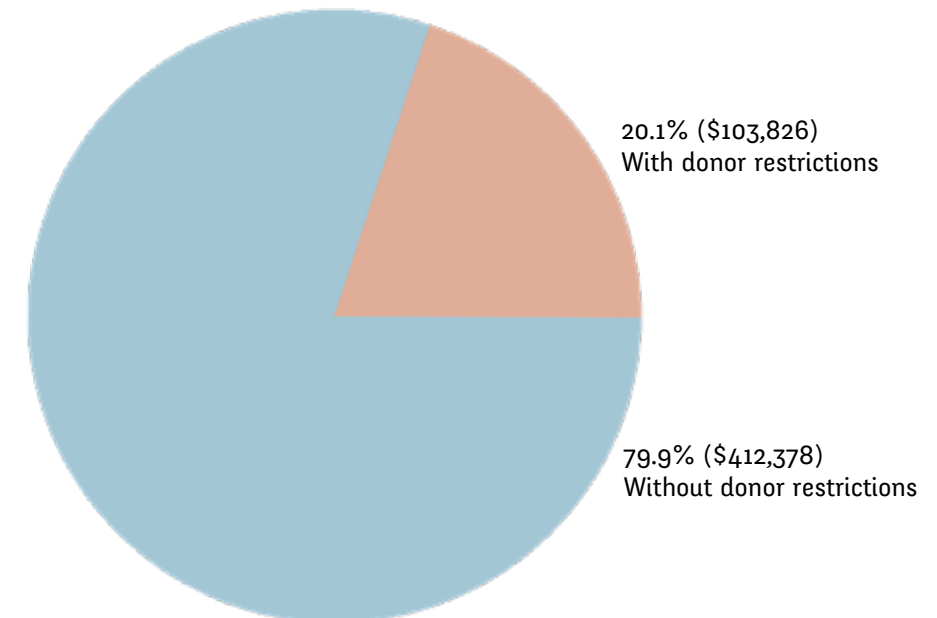
Without donor restrictions	412,378
With donor restrictions	103,826
Total Net Assets	516,204

Total Liabilities and Net Assets \$ 543,722

## EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



## COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS





Statement of Activities - Year Ended December 31, 2019

	Without donor restrictions	With donor restrictions	Total
Revenue and Other Support			
Grants	\$ 148,845	\$ 245,034	\$ 393,879
Contributions	71,863	20,030	91,893
Memberships	127,078		127,078
Events revenue less direct expenses of \$12,908	38,907		38,907
Interest income	1,468		1,468
Gain (loss) on investment	(110)	(62)	(172)
Other income	1,493		1,493
Total Revenue and Other Support - Before			
Net Assets Released From Restriction	389,544	265,002	654,546
Net Assets Released From Restriction	290,524	(290,524)	
Satisfaction of time and purpose restrictions			
Total Revenue and Other Support	680,068	(25,522)	654,546
Expenses			
Program services	429,034		431,917
General and administrative	25,554		25,554
Fundraising	18,334		18,334
Total Expenses	472,922		472,922
Change in Net Assets	207,146	(25,522)	181,624
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	205,232	129,348	334,580
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ 412,378	\$ 103,826	\$ 516,204

Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters' audited financial statements were prepared by PGM, LLC. Complete copies of audited statements and the organization's 2019 Form 990 are available upon request. We are a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

## MISSION + STRATEGIC PLAN

The mission of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality and distinctive cultural resources of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of all generations.

To learn more about our three-year strategic plan, adopted in 2018, visit [www.friendsofkww.org/plan](http://www.friendsofkww.org/plan)

## PHOTO CREDITS

Mark Picard from Moose Prints Gallery, Grand Pitch (front cover) and Katahdin in winter (back cover); Dennis Welsh, Orin Falls (table of contents); Andrew Hansen, bird on the tree (pg 3), Katahdin from the Loop Road Overlook (pg 14); John Meader, stars at the Overlook (pg 3), and Nancy Hathaway (pg 10); Lucas St. Clair, camper at the Overlook (pg 4); Charlie Hudson, Anniversary photos (pg 9); Barbara Snapp, the Overlook at sunset (pg 10); Craig Snapp, the group gathered at Stars Over Katahdin (pg 10); all other photos were contributed by Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters staff Sam Deeran and Kala Rush.



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