



woods & waters

FRIENDS OF KATAHDIN WOODS & WATERS ANNUAL REPORT 2021



FRIENDS OF
Katahdin
Woods
& Waters

Dear Friends,

2021 invited us to see time differently, and perhaps to look beyond the horizon of our day-to-day to see how our work connects deep into the past and far into the future. Once a month, on the new moon - the start of a month in Wabanaki lunar calendars - we gathered around the light of our computers for the New Moon Teachings series.

The series was a generous gift, produced in partnership with representatives of the independent Native Nations that constitute the Wabanaki Confederacy – Mi'kmaq Nation, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Penobscot Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe Motahkomikuk and Sipayik. Presenters shared beautiful and challenging knowledge. You can read more about these events and others on page 3.

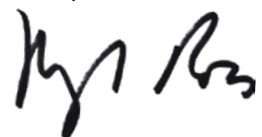
Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is within traditional territory of the Penobscot Nation and sits at a crossroads sacred to Wabanaki people who have been caretakers of this landscape for over 11,000 years. Through the New Moon Teachings series and other efforts, we strive to be in authentic collaboration with Wabanaki peoples and commit to centering Wabanaki people in sharing about their own knowledge.

For the past three years, we've also measured our time by Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters' first strategic plan. In 2021, we celebrated a crowning achievement within the infrastructure pillar of that plan and gifted the National Park Service two group sites and five single-party sites at the historic Lunksoos Camps. The gift, made possible with support from L.L. Bean, National Park Foundation, Roxanne Quimby Foundation, and Friends members, demonstrated the power of our public-private partnership. It is its own achievement and a preview of transformative gifts to come.

Powered by the addition of two new positions, the Development Associate and Program Associate, and the establishment of a program office in Patten, Maine, we also made strides in our work supporting visitation and community revitalization, particularly through the continued successes of Katahdin Learning Project. Read more about our program work on page 1.

We recognize all those who contributed time, talents, and treasure to our work in 2021 starting on page 5. Thank you for all you did to make 2021 everything that it was and for your continued support as we continue to fulfill our mission for the inspiration and enjoyment of all generations.

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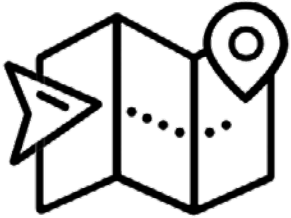
Cover photo: dusk at Orin Falls on the Wassataquoik Stream; Opposite: Stair Falls & Bald Mt. Credit: Nolan Altvater (Passamaquoddy)

Nolan Altvater shared the photos featured in this year's annual report. Learn more about Nolan on Page 12. In this year's report, Nolan's photography is highlighting the natural beauty of the national monument - inspiring memories and future trips to this special place.

program

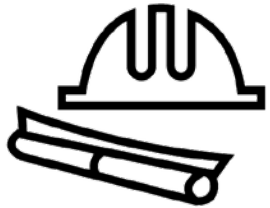
In 2021, we worked within the framework of our strategic plan, adopted in 2018. The three pillars of that plan are visitation, infrastructure, and revitalization. Relationships are at the heart of that work, and so we extend our thanks to all those who are Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters.

With the increased capacity and growth of National Park Service staff, we began a process of relying more on the visitation materials the park service provides: a tearaway map, the unigrid brochure, the Katahdin Woods and Waters website, and the NPS app. We also leaned into key relationships with Wabanaki tribal members. This year, that work was focused on the New Moon Teachings series and the second year of our partnership with Wabanaki Youth in Science for the Ancestral Lands Trail Crew. We will continue to forefront that relationship as we seek to advance the monument and connected communities. In our work with the Katahdin Learning Project, largely what comprises the revitalization pillar, we worked often with Katahdin region schools, businesses, and non-profits. We thank our partners and collaborators from the National Park Service, Wabanaki communities, the Katahdin region, and places beyond.



VISITATION

- Provided visitors with the Loop Rd Map, Dark Sky Guide, Winter #AllInKatahdin Guide, and draft copies of the Three Rivers Paddling Guide. These materials are available by request from Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters.
- Co-published the Map Adventures Katahdin Woods and Waters map (available for purchase on our website).
- Hosted 11 webinars in the New Moon Teachings series. While these webinars took place virtually, we hope they will influence how people visit Katahdin Woods and Waters and other places within Wabanaki territories.



INFRASTRUCTURE

- Donated seven new tent sites at the historic Lunksoos Camps to the National Park Service, providing an ADA-accessible tent site and doubling the number of tent sites accessible by vehicle.
- Funded a Maine Conservation Corps Environmental Steward to work on priority park maintenance projects.
- Provided space for National Park Service visitor contact stations at 200 Penobscot Ave in Millinocket and at the Lumbermen's Museum in Patten.
- Provided rent-free office space for park service staff at the "Patten House."



REVITALIZATION

- Provided 2430 student experiences through the Katahdin Learning Project with 451 teachers and volunteers.
- Completed a three-year strategic framework for Katahdin Learning Project (print copy available by request, digital version on our website).
- Partnered with Wabanaki Youth in Science and the National Park Service on the second year of the WaYS Ancestral Lands Trail Crew.
- Hosted 16 teachers from across Maine for Teacher Camp, a place-based learning professional development workshop.
- Took part in the Maine Working Communities Challenge application, resulting in \$375,000 implementation grant for regional collaborative group working on systems change to create career paths for the local outdoor economy.

Photo opposite: the trail to Stair Falls View. Credit: Nolan Altvater (Passamaquoddy)

A wooden signpost stands on the right side of a dirt path in a dense forest. The signpost is made of two vertical wooden posts and a horizontal wooden sign. The sign is dark brown with the words "STAIR FALLS VIEW" written in white, bold, sans-serif capital letters. The path is made of dirt and small stones, leading away from the signpost into the forest. The forest is filled with tall, thin trees and lush green foliage. Sunlight filters through the trees, creating dappled light on the path and the forest floor. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

STAIR FALLS VIEW

events

2021 saw the world beginning to emerge from COVID-19 disruptions, while still trying to figure out the “new normal” and how to safely return to seeing each other in person once again. Through it all, we maintained our communities, relationships, and opportunities for connection and learning, whether in person or on a screen. Here is a recap of the events we hosted that were open to our community.

WABANAKI REACH TRAININGS

In January, Friends hosted two virtual training sessions led by the team at Wabanaki REACH. These interactive webinars are designed to educate attendees about the long history of colonization in Maine and ongoing impacts today.

ANNUAL MEETING

Friends held our first ever annual meeting in February over Zoom with updates from leadership of Friends and NPS and the debut of the new Winter #AllinKatahdin Guide. Breakout rooms at the end of the meeting allowed for more informal interactions between attendees and fun conversations about why we love and support Katahdin Woods & Waters.

NEW MOON TEACHINGS

This monthly webinar series centered the voices of Wabanaki people in telling their own stories and characterizing their connections to the landscape of the eastern woodlands and Katahdin Woods & Waters. The topics, in order of the new moons in 2021, were: Teachings from the Elders, Wabanaki Place Names, Medicine Wheel Teachings, Erasing Treaty Rights & Responsibilities, 1980 Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act history and the proposed changes to the 1980 settlement act, Music of the Wabanaki, Archeology with an Indigenous Eye, Wabanaki Guides, Indigenous People's Day and Wabanaki Activism, Water, and Black Ash Basket Making. The final New Moon Teachings webinar took place in 2022. We extend our profound gratitude to the presenters who shared their knowledge during this series.

5th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS

We were delighted to gather again in person to celebrate the milestone 5th anniversary of Katahdin Woods & Waters in August at Shin Pond Village. With a picnic dinner, live music by the Fogtown Family Band and the RezDogs drum group, and great company, Friends marked the occasion and accomplishments of the first five years and looked ahead to all that will come in the next five! We heard remarks from James E. Francis, Sr. (Penobscot Nation's Director of Cultural & Historic Preservation), Molly Ross (Board President), Lucas St. Clair (Friends Board Member and President of Ellitsville Foundation, Inc.) and Tim Hudson (Superintendent of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument). This was the last Anniversary Celebration before Tim's retirement in the fall, so it was a poignant moment as we shared thanks for Tim's leadership through the monument's first chapter.

STARS OVER KATAHDIN

Our annual fall celebration of the region's dark skies was once again virtual in 2021, featuring presentations about the October night sky, creatures of the dark, community science and the globe at night, telling time with the moon, and how to make a difference for dark skies. This program was made possible through our partnership with Dark Sky Maine and also featured a presentation from our colleagues at the National Park Service.

Photo opposite: the Swift Brook Rd on the way into the national monument with Katahdin in the distance. Credit: Nolan Altvater (Passamaquoddy)



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Andrea & Rollin Thurlow
Sheryl Tishman
Alan & Maria Tjeltveit
Andy Tolman
Joel Tompkins
Jerry Tone & Martha Wyckoff
Terry Towne & Diana McDowell
Toyota Dealer Match Program
Barbara & Richard Trafton
Tim Traver & Delia Clark
Julia Trotman Brady
Waino Tuominen
Steve Urkowitz & Callie Wronker
David & June Vail
Christiaan van Heerden
Verisk Analytics
Lewis Vespoli
Louisa Vestner,
in memory of Dianna Emory
The VIA Agency
Lisa & Jeff Wahlstrom
Sally Walker Madore &
Jeffrey Madore
Brad Wallace &
Ann Fowler-Wallace
Candace Walworth &
Ted Walworth MD
Maria Weeg
Doug Welch & Caitlin Guthel
Heidi Welch & Patricia Tierney,
in memory of Dianna Emory
Patrick Welch & Ellen Pope,
in memory of Dianna Emory
Betty Welt
Amy & Steve Wenke
Gerald Whitcomb & Bridget McGill
Kay White
Jane Whitney & Richard Hero
Bob Whyte
The Wilderness Society
Margaret & Steve Wight
Mary & Brad Wilkinson,
in memory of Dianna Emory

Jim & Fran Willard
Liz Williams
Mary Williamson
Annie & Jock Winchester,
in honor of Cathy Johnson
Susan Wind
Jeremy Wintersteen
Nat Winthrop,
in memory of Dianna Emory
Kent Wommack & Gro Flatebo

David Wood
Robin & Jonathan Wood
Mark & Bridgett Woodward
Wright-Ryan Construction
Elizabeth Wyatt
Marlena & Jimmy Yates
Lenfrey Young
Robert & Judith Zeitlin
Shirley & Robert Zinn,
in memory of Dianna Emory

We make every attempt to provide an accurate listing of donors and volunteers. If we have omitted your name or if other changes should be made, please contact us at (207) 808 - 0020 and we will correct your record immediately.

You may have noticed our gratitude list looks a little bit different this year. To more fully capture and value the many ways in which support is offered to Friends throughout the year, we have listed our supporters alphabetically, rather than by dollar amount with separate categories for in kind or volunteer support. We are deeply grateful to all who support Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters through generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please reach out to Meghan Cooper, Development Director, at meghan@friendsofkww.org.

Want to become more involved in volunteering with Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters? Send us an email at info@friendsofkww.org!

finances

Below, we present abbreviated versions of our financial statements for the fiscal year 2021. Audited financial statements were prepared by PGM, LLC. Complete copies of the organization's audited statements and the Form 990 are available at www.friendsofkw.org/about/annual-info/

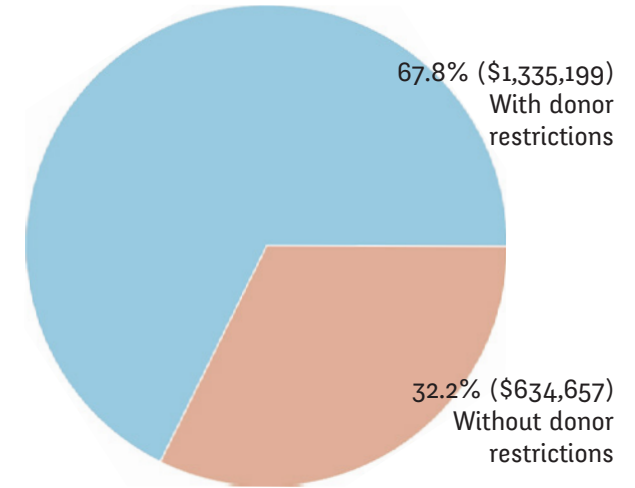
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Total Current Assets	\$2,797,486
Property and Equipment, Net	\$185,130
Total Other Assets	\$253,293
Total Assets	\$3,235,909
Total Current Liabilities	\$1,266,053
Total Net Assets	\$1,969,856
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$3,235,909

CURRENT RATIO

\$2.2
of Current Assets for every
\$1
of Current Liability

COMPOSITION OF NET ASSETS



STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Total Revenue	\$4,395,380
Total Expenses	\$3,369,146
Change in Net Assets	\$1,026,234
Net Assets, Beginning of Year	\$943,622
Net Assets, End of Year	\$1,969,856

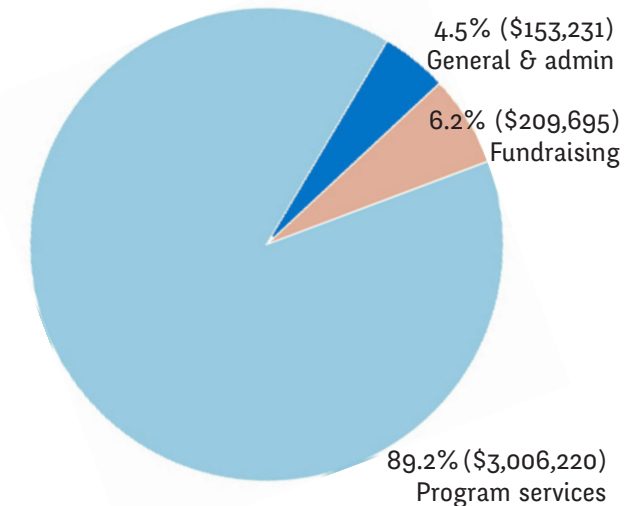
FUNDRAISING EFFICIENCY RATIO

\$.05
of fundraising expense for every

\$ 1

raised from gifts & grants

EXPENSES BREAKDOWN



Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters is 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 strategic plan, adopted in 2018, visit www.friendsofkww.org/plan

REPORT CREDITS

This report was produced through a collaboration of the 2022 Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters communications team. The communications team includes Sarah Andre, Meghan Cooper, Sam Deeran, and Elise Goplerud. Graphic design by Sam Deeran. Copyediting by Ruger Pearson and Meghan Cooper. Photos without attributions (those faded behind the donor list) are provided by Friends staff.

All other photos are shared by Nolan Altvater. Nolan Altvater is a Passamaquoddy from Sipayik and the current Curator of Education for the Abbe Museum. Although mainly a landscape photographer, their work includes Wabanaki community gatherings and social events, as well as short documentary and educational film production. Beyond being behind the lens, they have received their Masters in Education Policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and Bachelors Degree in Secondary Education from the University of Maine.

THANK YOU

We end this report with gratitude to the landscape and the Friends community that brings our shared stories to life. Thank you.

Photo right: The Milky Way shines onto the national monument. Back cover: the sun descends behind Katahdin, "Greatest Mountain" in Wabanaki languages. Credit: Nolan Altvater (Passamaquoddy)



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