

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

Photo: Ross Knowlton

Looking back on 2023, it is clear that this was a transformative year for Friends. From launching our inaugural capital campaign to reaching a record number of youth and coordinating closely with the National Park Service on multiple infrastructure investments, it has been a year of laying the groundwork for the future of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. On the theme of looking forward, we also started a robust strategic planning process that will be completed later this spring. Thank you for your support in making this important work possible. It has been an honor to join Friends as Executive Director during such an exciting time!

-Brian Hinrichs, Executive Director

OUR IMPACT



Katahdin Learning Project

KLP demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence in youth programming. We focused on nurturing deeper connections with students, offering them more enriching and purposeful experiences. Collaborating closely with other local organizations, KLP crafted summer programs that encourage youth to explore the Katahdin region on bikes, canoes, and trails. A standout moment was the youth overnight at Lunksoos, a campsite donated by Friends in 2021. Teacher Camp continued to offer professional development in place-based education and Stars Over Katahdin, a celebration of our dark skies, drew nearly 200 participants. In 2023, we provided 3,170 student experiences and strengthened key relationships with NPS, teachers, and community members.



Priority Park Projects

In 2023, Friends was able to take the remarkable step of granting \$2.7 million in direct support to the National Park Service for Priority Park Projects in Katahdin Woods and Waters as part of the “A Monumental Welcome” campaign. These funds are supporting projects such as endangered Atlantic salmon passage improvements, species inventories, road and signage enhancements, and much more. We will be tracking and sharing progress on these Priority Park Projects throughout 2024 and 2025 - stay tuned for more!



Tekakapimək Contact Station

The “A Monumental Welcome” campaign also fueled significant progress in the construction of Tekakapimək Contact Station, which is slated to open on August 17 and 18, 2024. Pronounced *deh gah-gah bee mook* and meaning “as far as one can see” in the Penobscot language, Tekakapimək will introduce visitors to the woods, waters, and skies through Wabanaki perspectives and artistry in what is shaping up to be a deeply impactful project for the National Park Service.



Tekakapimək, Saunders Architecture (Photo: Mir)

“— | GRATITUDE

Many thanks from the entire Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters team to all the partners and contributors who helped make 2023 so successful for the monument and for Friends. In 2023, Friends received donations toward our annual programming and capital campaign from 1,075 individuals, foundations, businesses, and organizations, as well as benefiting from countless hours of volunteer service, thought partnership, and collaborative efforts on behalf of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument and the surrounding communities. None of the work detailed in this “Year in Review” could happen without the generous support of our members and partners—thank you!

-Meghan Cooper
Development Director



Photo: Taylor Walker

BY THE NUMBERS

- \$757 thousand raised in 2023 to support Friends’ operations, programs, and ongoing success.
- As of the end of 2023, nearly \$30 million raised toward a \$35 million goal for the “A Monumental Welcome” capital campaign, announced publicly in May 2023.
- Functional expenses were 87.3% program, 7.9% general and administrative, 4.8% fundraising, and 0.1% special events.
- Audited financial statements from PGM Accounting will be available and linked online after the Friends’ summer board meeting.

OUR TEAM



Sarah Andre
Development
Coordinator



Meghan Cooper
Development Director



Sam Deeran
Projects Director



Elise Goplerud
Education
Coordinator



Brian Hinrichs
Executive Director



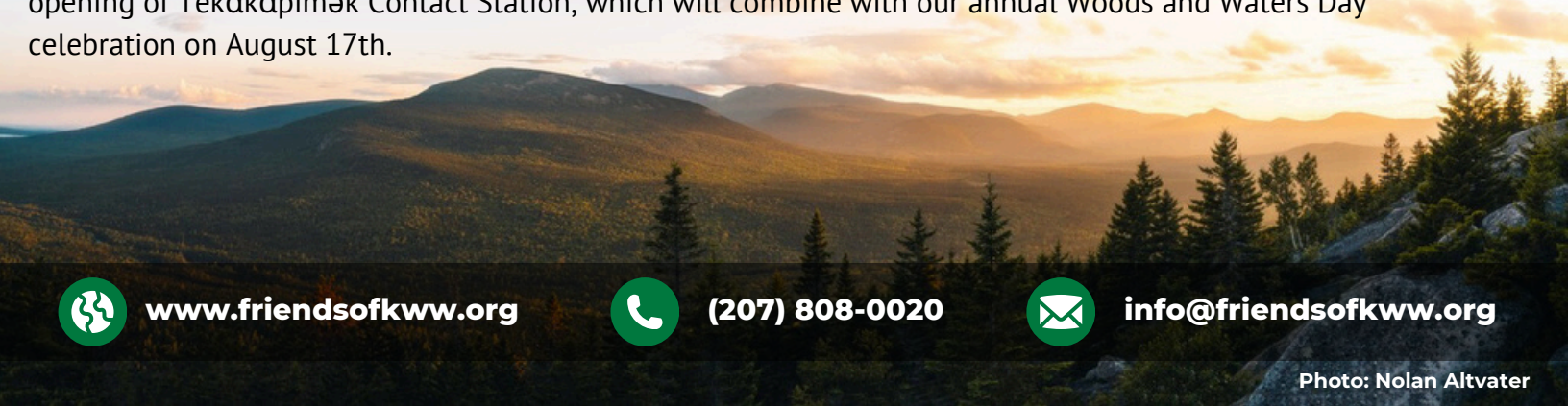
Ruger Pearson
Operations
Coordinator



Kala Rush
Education Director

REFLECTIONS & PROJECTIONS

2023 paved the way for a series of significant events slated for 2024. Three member meet-ups this May will occur across the state, where like-minded individuals can come together to share their passion for the outdoors and the preservation of Katahdin Woods & Waters National Monument. Our largest event of the year is the grand opening of Tekəkapimək Contact Station, which will combine with our annual Woods and Waters Day celebration on August 17th.



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Photo: Nolan Altwater