

Katahdin Excursion: August 21-25, 2008

“Katahdin, said to mean Highest Land”

“Why should we, who have renounced the King’s authority, have our national preserves, where no villages need be destroyed, in which the bear and panther, and some of the hunter race, may exist, and not be “civilized off the face of the earth.” – our forest, not to hold the King’s game merely, but to hold and preserve the King himself also, the lord of creation, - not for idle sport or food, but for inspiration and our own true recreation?”

Henry David Thoreau, *The Maine Woods*

About the Weekend

Join members of the Thoreau Society for a long weekend of hiking, camping, swimming and wildlife watching in Baxter State Park, Maine. Mount Katahdin, Maine’s highest peak was a destination of Thoreau’s on his Maine Woods journey of 1846. Now protected within this 200,000-acre state park, Katahdin and its surrounding wilderness offer hundreds of miles of trails, streams and mountain peaks.

Like last year, Trout Brook Farm Group Sites at Baxter State Park have been reserved for up to 18 of us for 4 nights, August 21-24, 2008. For those of you unfamiliar with that site, it is approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Grand Lake Matagamon gate on the northeastern side of the park with green grass, plenty of sun and shade. There is also a camp store, which has showers, just a quick ride out of the gate.

This year, climbing Katahdin may not be an option, as it is a 2 ½ hour drive to the trail head. There are a number of other mountains to climb, trails to hike, ponds, streams and waterfalls to bathe in, and canoes to paddle. There is also a canoe rental spot just beside our campsites, and we are right on Trout Brook, which leads into Grand Lake Matagamon. Trout Brook proved to be a great place for swimming last year. Relaxing in a camp chair with a good book has also been known to be a good activity. We will hopefully be adding some optional evening activities and programs. If you have any ideas or would like to lead a program, let us know.

Several years ago, we extended the trip to Monday as we have found that the traffic leaving Maine on a Sunday reverses all the relaxation that we have stored up from Thursday through Saturday.

Staff

The staff members will be going up on Wednesday to get the site prepared, the dining pavilion and camp kitchen assembled, and to insure that everything will be ready for your arrival on Thursday afternoon.

What’s Included

Included in your registration fee will be camping sites for 4 nights, eleven meals that will be served from dinner on Thursday through breakfast on Monday morning. There will be some new menu features this year as well, and we can accommodate Vegetarian diets. Trail snacks, granola bars, etc will be available for your use, and Ice Tea, Lemonade, coffee, tea and cocoa will be available as well. A menu will be included in your registration packet. You will be responsible for any other food. There will be a large dining pavilion that the Thoreau Society owns, and the site does have several picnic tables for our use.

There is no running water at the site, and we have to pack it in, so we do require each person to bring 5 gallons of drinking water with them. You will be responsible for your own camping equipment (tent, tarps, sleeping bags, mats, cots, camping chairs, etc), your own transportation (we can help arrange carpools if needed), and any other food or beverages not listed in the packet.

Registration Fee

The cost of the trip is \$200.00 for members and \$225.00 for non-members.

All participants will be responsible for paying the \$12.00 per vehicle entrance fee. In the past, we have reimbursed this amount to you, but this year, that cost was not factored into the budget.

A full info packet will be sent to all registered participants.

Any remaining profits from the trip will be used to help fund the Thoreau Society's ongoing mission as a non-profit, educational organization.

How to Register

If you would like to hold a space for this year's excursion, please fill out the attached registration form and mail it, along with full payment, to the address on the form.

Registrations will be accepted on a first come, first served basis.

We cannot refund any registration fees due to cancellation after July 25. We also cannot refund any fees due to weather related cancellations or other unforeseen circumstances.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

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Suggested Reading

Check out the following books and products on Katahdin at the Thoreau Society Shop at Walden Pond website: www.shopatwaldenpond.org

The Maine Woods, by Henry David Thoreau

Walking With Thoreau, commentary by William Howarth

Wilderness and Spirit, A Mountain Called Katahdin, documentary by Huey on VHS or DVD

2008 Katahdin Registration Form

Please fill out, enclose payment and mail to the address below.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number _____

Email _____

How Many People in Your Party? _____ How Many Vegetarians? _____

Please List All Names _____

Do You Plan to Leave _____ Sunday or _____ Monday

Please enclose a check (payable to The Thoreau Society) or credit card information for the following amount per person:

_____ \$225.00 Registration for non-members

_____ \$200.00 Registration for Thoreau Society Members

Credit Card: MC / Visa / Discover / AmEx (Circle One)

Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ / _____

Signature: _____

Mail to:

John Chateauf

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