

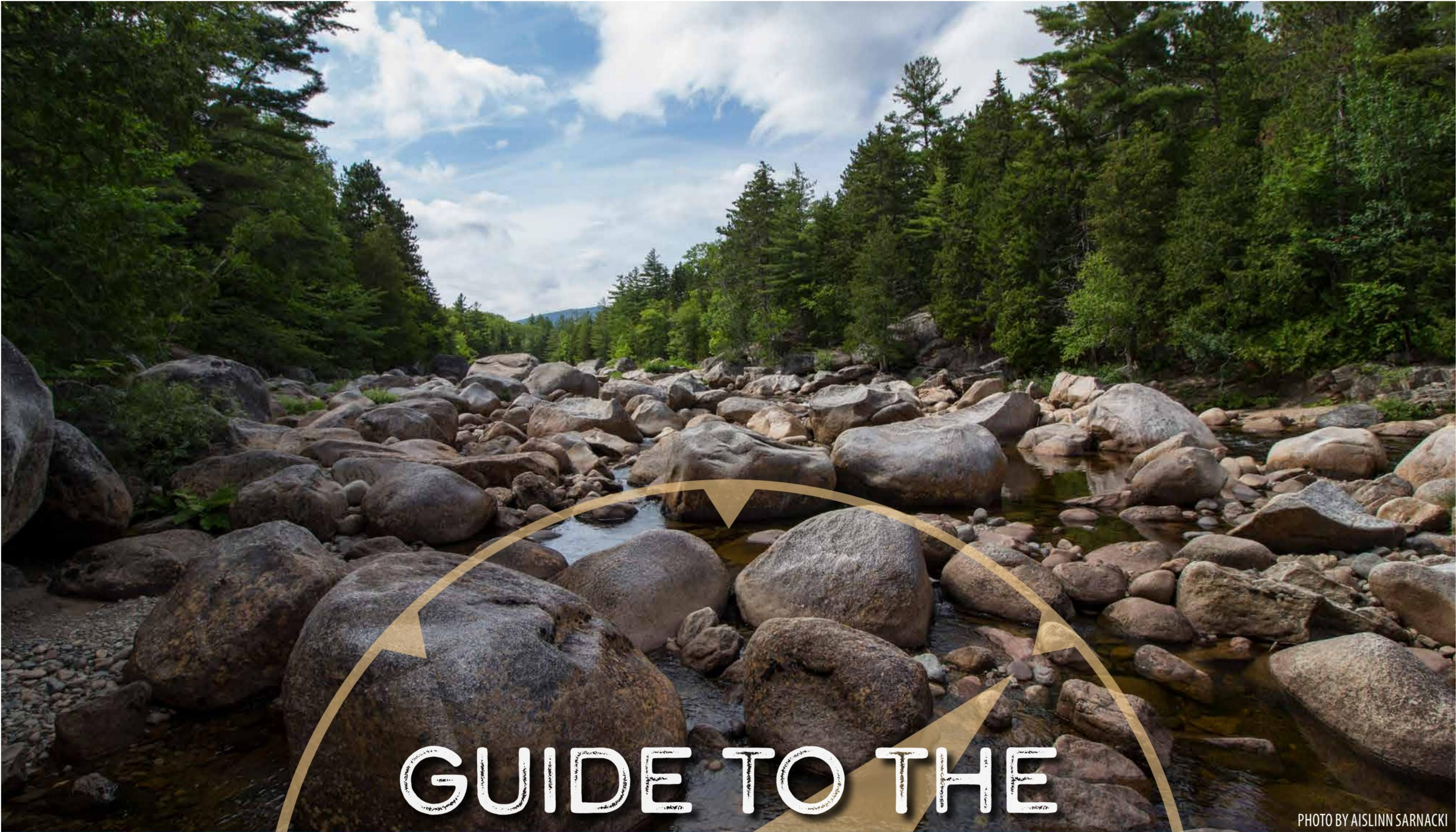


PHOTO BY AISLINN SARNACKI

GUIDE TO THE

KATAHDIN

WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT



SPECIAL ADVERTISING SECTION OF THE BANGOR DAILY NEWS • APRIL 14, 2023

WHAT'S NEW AT KWW

MEET KWW'S NEW SUPERINTENDENT & WHAT TO EXPECT THIS YEAR • BY SARAH COTTRELL

As spring transforms into summer, the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument (KWW) in beautiful northern Maine will quietly transform into a lush, green idyllic place that remains largely untouched by human hands. If you're considering where to spend your summer vacation, you might be delighted to learn that the new superintendent, Mark Wimmer, has been busy creating plans for the park to make your visit extraordinary.

Wimmer began his tenure as superintendent of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in January. Before that, he oversaw the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument in Utah, where he modernized their aging infrastructure, including adding much-needed public facilities. As Wimmer steps into the superintendent role for Maine's KWW, he brings plans to expand opportunities for visitors to experience the beauty of Mount Katahdin and the surrounding nature without damaging or overdeveloping its natural beauty.

After 20 years of working in the Department of the Interior, Wimmer explains that his job overseeing the KWW is anything but a desk job. In fact, he spends quite a bit of time experiencing the monument first-hand.

"Here at Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, I am able to get out in the monument every few weeks," Wimmer said. "I spend a lot of time working in the office managing personnel, budget, permitting, and communications with interested parties, like tribes, and adjacent landowners, among others."

The upcoming tourist season will bring plenty of visitors to the KWW, and while the park itself is still largely undeveloped — many roads are old logging roads that are impassable during certain times of the year, for example — Wimmer plans to help visitors get better access to the park.

"We are beginning to hire more seasonal staff this year to take care of the roads, trails, campsites, and other infrastructure. Our staffing will include more

rangers to interact with the public in the monument and staff to work on developing more signage and kiosks for visitors," he said.

He explains that this type of work will take time to develop into on-the-ground results, but the goal is to make navigating the monument easier.

"We encourage visitors to download the NPS app to plan their trip and use the navigation features to get around the monument," he said. "We hope visitors know that the monument is a relatively undeveloped experience. Although cars can access the monument, many roads are rugged, and visitors should be prepared for a less-developed park experience."

Anyone planning a trip to the KWW should know that there are no paved roads on the monument, and cell phone coverage is unreliable across the more than 73,500 acres of National Park Service-managed lands.

Wimmer has a few suggestions for places to check out for anyone who has yet to visit the beautiful monument.



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“The monument accesses the east branch of the Penobscot River on the north end of the monument, off of State Route 159, near Matagamon. Canoeing, camping, hiking, bird watching, sightseeing, and general wildlife viewing are ways for the public to enjoy this area,” he said.

If you visit this particular section of the park, plan to stay awake until the skies grow very dark — you’ll be in for a special treat of star gazing.

“The night skies are exceptionally dark in this area of the monument, and we hope more visitors can come and experience that,” Wimmer said. “Campgrounds are open to reservations starting on April 15, 2023, through recreation.gov.”

To learn more about the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, including downloading the navigation app and planning a trip, check out their website at www.nps.gov/kaww/index.htm.



(Above) Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument’s new superintendent Mark Wimmer. PHOTO COURTESY OF NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

(Left) Hiring more seasonal staff and developing more signage around KWW is on Wimmer’s list of goals to make navigating the area easier for visitors. PHOTO BY AISLINN SARNACKI

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A MONUMENTAL GAIN

KWW MAKES REAL IMPACT ON LOCAL ECONOMY • BY ANNE GABBIANELLI

The National Park Service (NPS) describes Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument as “spread across a wild landscape offering spectacular views of Mount Katahdin” and inviting visitors to discover its “rivers, streams, woods, flora, fauna, geology, and the night skies that have attracted humans for millennia.” It’s this invitation — to a national monument in the remote northern Maine woods — that’s generated over \$3 million in economic benefits to the region, according to NPS.

The economic gains attributed to KWW are documented in a news release based on visitor surveys. NPS Communications Specialist John Warren noted it’s the “secondary effects” that comprise the bulk of the economic benefit to the area, including local employees regenerating their income into the local economy.

The 2021 NPS figures show close to 40,000 visitors since the monument’s inception who have traveled the rough gravel roads, hiked the trails, and enjoyed the picnic areas. The land was designated as a National Monument in 2016, preserving more than 87,500 acres located on the eastern border of Baxter State Park, including a section of the East Branch of the Penobscot River. The waterway, a traditional transportation route of the Wabanaki people, was also instrumental in the region’s logging history.

The small Penobscot County town of Patten is the main gateway to KWW and is seeing healthy economic activity these days. The 60-year-old Patten Lumbermen’s Museum has seen a hike in visitors, according to curator Rhonda Brophy.

“The museum has logged visitors from every state, including Hawaii and Alaska, along with foreign countries such as Germany, Norway, Sweden, and England. Some visit the museum, some seek information on the Monument, or to have their National Park book stamped,” Brophy said. “There is a staffed station for KWW in the museum’s reception center, so visitors to the KWW station often tour the museum, realizing the vast history in our collections and the history of the Katahdin area.”

Sam Deeran is the acting executive director of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Water, a philanthropic group that supports the monument. He said a Visitor Contact Station is currently under construction on Lookout Mountain, and will be nearly 8,000 square feet when complete.

“To the greatest extent possible, materials for the project are being locally sourced,” Deeran said. “Road and site construction is being performed 100 percent by local contractors, and of the \$13 million project building cost, about 82 percent of expenditures to-date have gone to businesses and contractors in northern Maine.”

Nate Richardson has seen an economic boost at his hardware store in Patten. “Business has been good and the monument has helped,” he said. “The biggest increase is supplying a lot of material to the [Visitor Contact Station] which is under construction.” The Patten native said in 2017 alone, his family business grew by about 60 percent thanks to new customers.

Admittedly, the pandemic sent people flocking to the woods. “This place was like an ant hill of people escaping the cities,” said Richardson. “It’s a blend — the hunters, fishermen, and recreational visitors have increased quite significantly since Covid, be it for recreational purposes, the monument, and the dark skies. It’s all a huge benefit.”

An increase in traffic has also been noted because of mining interests in the area. Pickett Mountain, said to offer a rich source of metal, is just east of Baxter State Park and KWW. In addition, this past winter saw an increase in recreational traffic to the area for a stellar snowmobile season.

In May, a capital campaign will be launched to further support the Visitor Contact Station construction with an expected completion date next year. “This is an important project for the monument, tribal nations, and the surrounding communities,” said Deeran. “It will draw new people to the Katahdin region, and create a fun, inspirational, and educational attraction for visitors.”



A sign marks the entrance to Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument just before the start of the Katahdin Loop Road. PHOTO BY AISLINN SARNACKI

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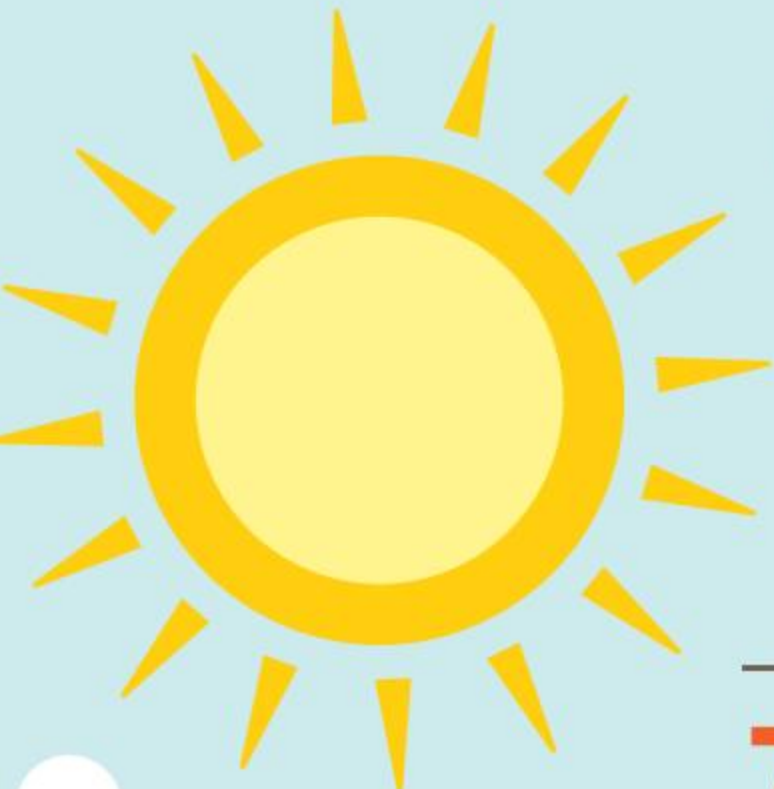
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The Nature Conservancy 2010, LandscapeProfessionals.org, Miyazaki et al 2011, OutdoorFoundation.org, Woodheat.org.
For a complete list of sources, visit: dontmovefirewood.org/getreadyforadventure.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONUMENT



Since its formation in 2016, Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument has slowly developed into a place that's more and more visitor-friendly. Roads have been improved, outhouses erected, trails created, and boardwalks built.

Yet it can still be intimidating to plan a visit in such a remote chunk of wilderness — one where cell phone service is usually nonexistent and moose may just outnumber people (at least sometimes). The property is free of structures, aside from picnic tables, lean-tos, a backcountry hut, and spiffy outhouses.

To help you map out an adventure in the KWW, which covers approximately 87,500 acres, we've compiled a list of top destinations within its borders. The list includes mountain trails, ponds that are great for birding, interesting rock formations, and waterfalls.

Keep in mind that the monument is a vast place with multiple access points and long stretches of gravel road. For this reason, a detailed paper map is key for navigating during your visit. Check out the recreational map provided online by the National Park Service. Another great map is created by Map Adventures, a Maine-based company.

Usually when people talk about the monument, they divide it into two parts: the north and south (or Katahdin Loop Road). It takes about an hour to drive between those two access points, therefore, when visiting for the day, people usually choose one or the other to explore.

SOUTH

To reach the south end of the monument, turn onto Swift Brook Road in Stacyville and drive about 12 miles. You'll pass through parcels of the monument along the way, as well as the Sandbank Stream campsite. The road will lead you to the 17-mile Katahdin Loop Road. This gravel loop road leads to many destinations where you can park and explore. Here are just a few highlights.

ESKER TRAIL

This 0.5-mile hiking trail travels along the top of an esker, which is a sand and gravel ridge formed by a meltwater stream running beneath a retreating glacier thousands of years ago. Along the trail, there's a spot where you can see Katahdin, Maine's tallest mountain, peeking over the trees. The trail also visits the edge of Sandbank Stream, a great spot to look for wildlife.

LYNX POND

A wonderful place to view waterbirds and moose, Lynx Pond can be reached by a short trail that was designed to be wheelchair-accessible. The trail ends at a platform at the edge of the water.



WATERFALLS, REMOTE MOUNTAINS, SCENIC PICNIC AREAS, AND MORE

STORY & PHOTOS BY AISLINN SARNACKI



KATAHDIN OVERLOOK

One of the most accessible, well-known spots in the monument, this scenic overlook is located just off the Katahdin Loop Road and includes a picnic area. It offers one of the best views of Katahdin in the monument. No hiking is required.

BARNARD MOUNTAIN

Home to the most easily accessible mountain trail in the monument, Barnard Mountain rises 1,621 feet above sea level, and an overlook near its peak offers a stunning view of Katahdin. There's also a picnic table at the overlook, so you can rest for a while and have lunch. The hike is about 4 miles, out and back, and much of it follows an old logging road. This is also an opportunity to walk part of the IAT — International Appalachian Trail.

ORIN FALLS

A series of cascades and rapids tumbling around giant boulders, Orin Falls is located on the beautiful Wassataquoik Stream. To reach it, you'll need to bike or hike 6 miles, out and back, on an old logging road and a very short stretch of traditional hiking trail right before the falls. To find the trailhead, you'll have to jump off the Katahdin Loop Road and drive 2.4 miles down Orin Falls Road.

DEASEY MOUNTAIN

On the way to Orin Falls, you can veer off course and ford Wassataquoik Stream to hike Deasey Mountain. This remote peak reaches 1,942 feet above sea level, making it the highest point in the monument, and it features a historic fire lookout. This challenging hike is about 10 miles out and back. And for the truly ambitious, the summit of neighboring Lunksoos Mountain is just 1.3 mile farther on the IAT.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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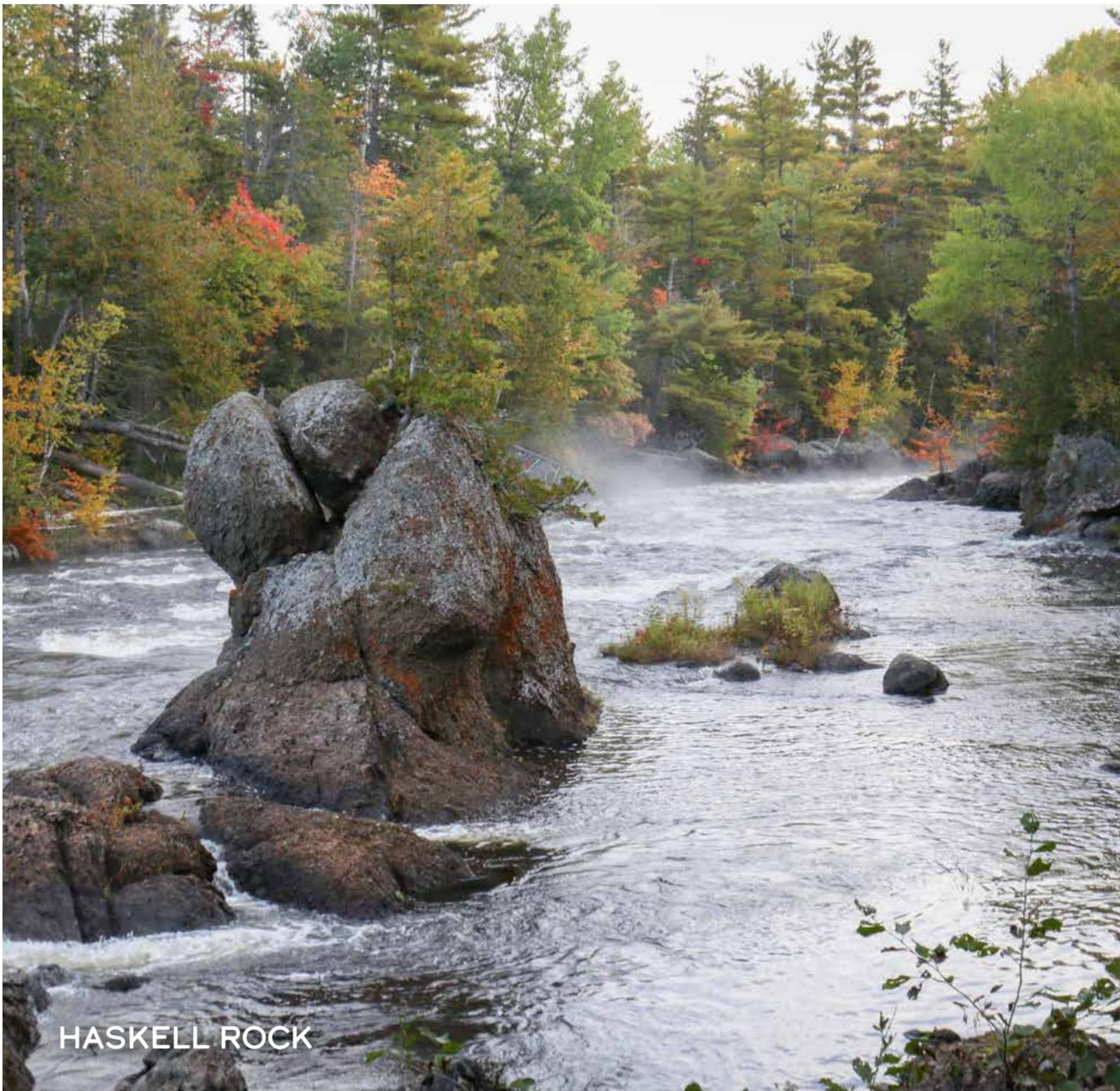
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HASKELL ROCK



THE LOOKOUT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

NORTH

To reach the north entrance from the intersection of Route 11 and Route 159 in Patten, drive about 30 miles northwest on Route 159, passing through Shin Pond Village along the way. Take the second left turn after you cross the East Branch of the Penobscot River near Grand Lake Matagamon. This is called Messer Pond Road, also known as New River Road. Winter parking is about 1 mile down the road, while summer parking is about 4 miles down the road at Haskell Gate.

HASKELL HUT

A rustic cabin with a wood stove, Haskell Hut sits right on the East Branch. It fits up to eight people, and you can rent it for overnight stays. It's just about 1.5 miles from Haskell Gate on old woods roads.

Deeper into the monument, Big Spring Brook Hut is another place you can rent. And numerous backcountry campsites are scattered throughout KWW.

HASKELL DEADWATER

A beautiful, tranquil section of the East Branch, Haskell Deadwater is just downriver of Haskell Hut. It's home to a campsite and picnic spot. It's also a place where people portage around Haskell Rock Pitch.

HASKELL ROCK PITCH

A fascinating rock formation in the middle of the East Branch, Haskell Rock is a 20-foot high conglomerate pillar. It's surrounded by a series of impressive rapids and was named after a logger, William Haskell, who died at the location. This unique landmark can be reached by hiking or biking about 2 miles from Haskell Gate — a 4-mile out-and-back trip.

GRAND PITCH

Farther south on the East Branch, Grand Pitch is a section of river that drops 20 feet over a horizontal distance of about 200 feet, forming a series of cascades along the way. This roaring waterfall is about 3.5 miles from Haskell Gate, so prepare for a 7-mile round trip adventure.

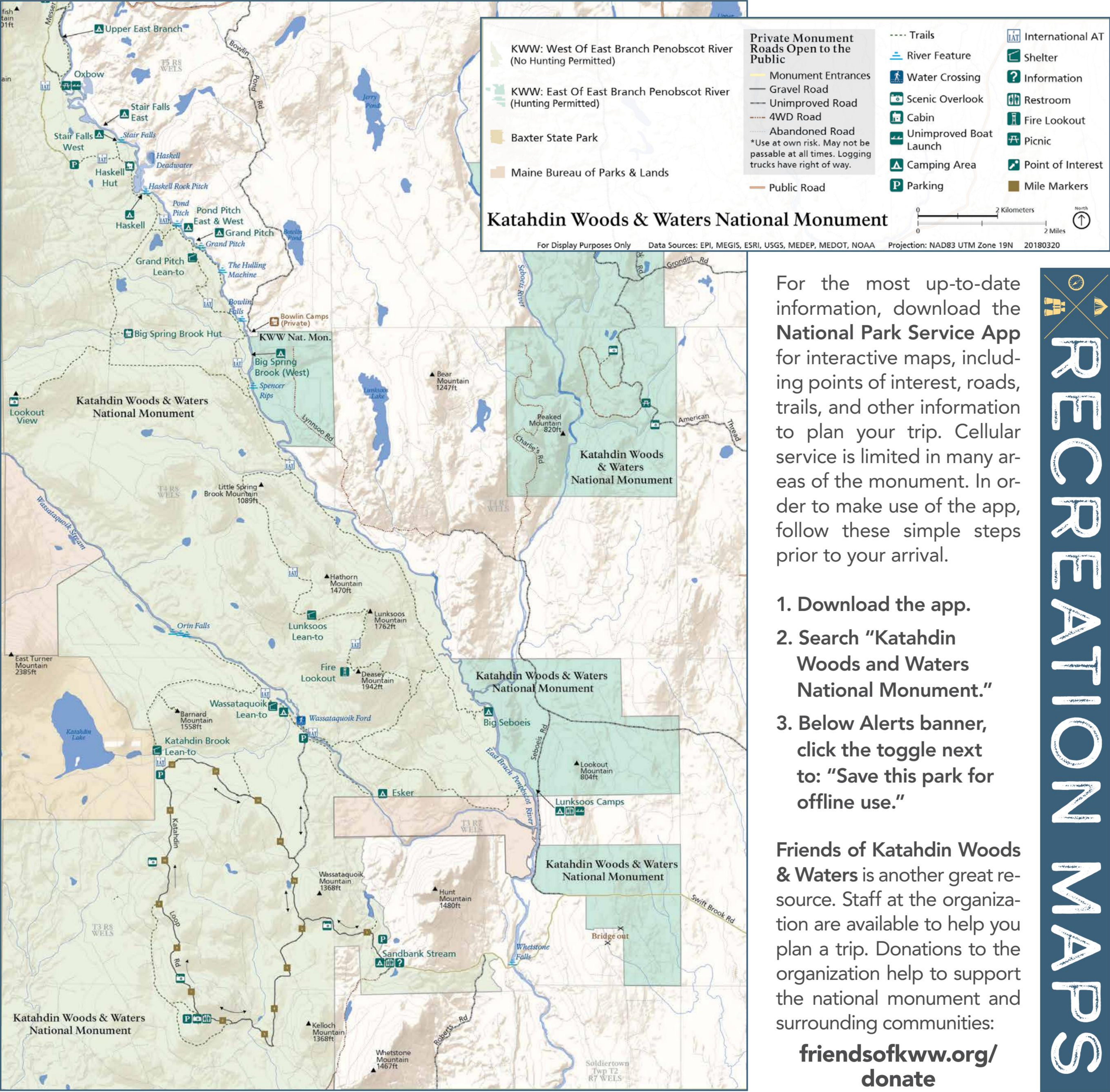
MESSER POND

A short hiking trail leads to the shore of this pristine pond, where you're bound to spot ducks and other wildlife. It's one of five Heritage Ponds in KWW, meaning it has special protection because it contains a population of eastern brook trout that are self-sustaining. The pond was last stocked in 1961. To reach the hiking trail, it's a 4-mile trek (or bike) on old woods roads — 8 miles out and back.

THE LOOKOUT

This remote peak offers a breathtaking perspective of the mountains of Baxter State Park, but it takes some effort to get to. From Haskell Gate, it's just over 5 miles on old logging roads to the hiking trail, which is about 2.5 miles long. Therefore, out and back, the trip is about 15 miles. A mountain bike would be helpful for covering some of those miles more quickly.

You could never reach all of these places in one day, but don't worry, you can always stay the night at one of the monument's many scenic campsites. Or you could book a stay at a local campground, cabin, lodge or motel. No need to rush your exploration of Maine's only national monument.



For the most up-to-date information, download the **National Park Service App** for interactive maps, including points of interest, roads, trails, and other information to plan your trip. Cellular service is limited in many areas of the monument. In order to make use of the app, follow these simple steps prior to your arrival.

1. Download the app.
2. Search "Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument."
3. Below Alerts banner, click the toggle next to: "Save this park for offline use."

Friends of Katahdin Woods & Waters is another great resource. Staff at the organization are available to help you plan a trip. Donations to the organization help to support the national monument and surrounding communities:

**friendsofkww.org/
donate**

PEDAL POWER



A few years ago, I was walking along an old logging road in Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument when someone riding a mountain bike pedaled past. I had a six-mile walk ahead of me, and boy did I wish I had a set of wheels like him. The route, I realized, was perfect for biking.

So, when I returned to the monument this past fall to photograph the bright foliage, I decided to bring my mountain bike. My goal was to cover as much ground as possible.

KWW is a big place, comprising more than 87,500 acres. There's much to see.

I began my day before sunrise, pedaling into the monument in the dark, the path illuminated by my headlamp. My handlebars shook as I navigated along bumpy woods roads to visit rapids and waterfalls on the East Branch of the Penobscot River.

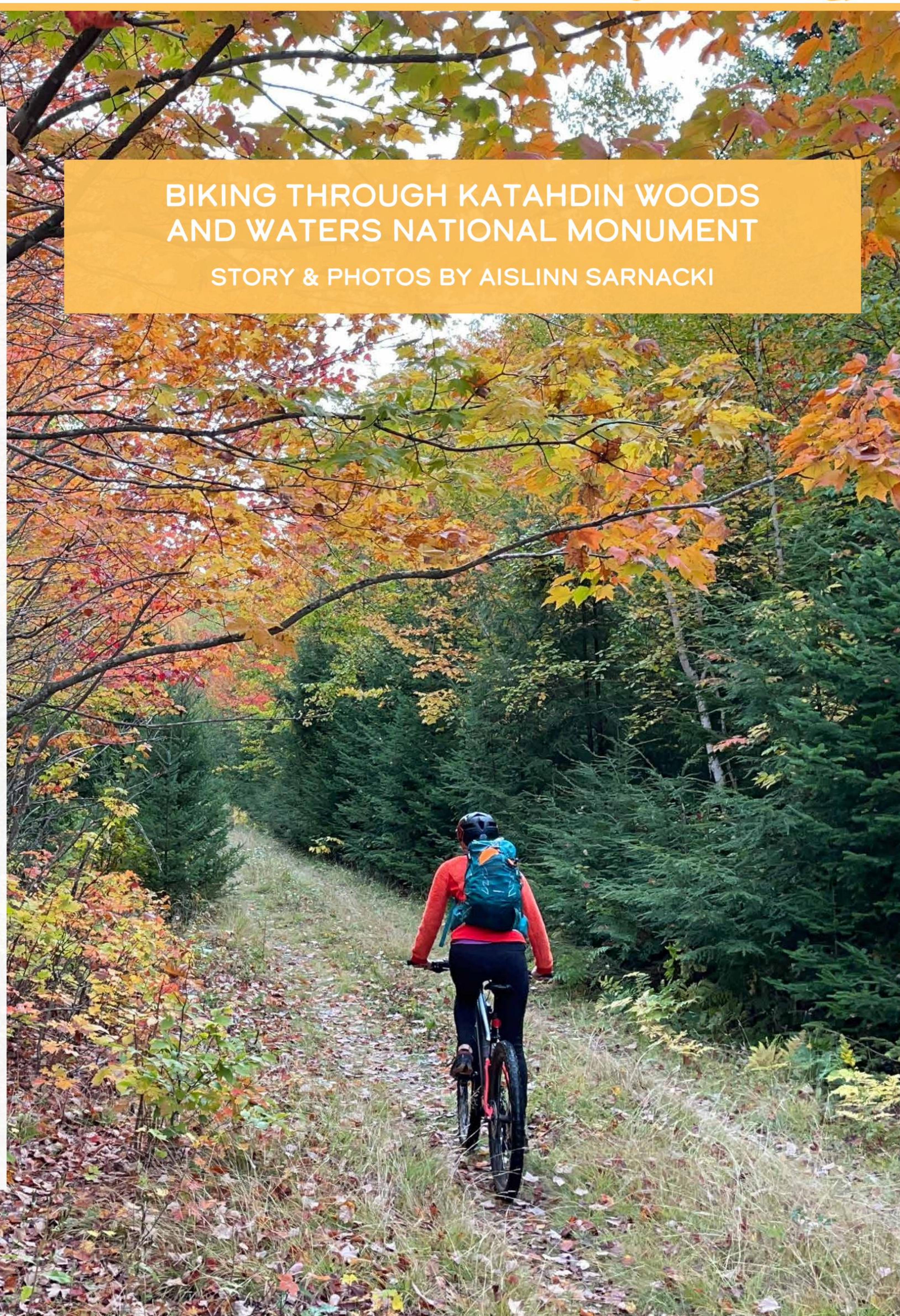
That day, I biked and hiked about 23 miles, visiting some of the major destinations in the north end of the monument: Stair Falls, Haskell Hut, Haskell Deadwater, Haskell Pitch Rock, Grand Pitch, Messer Pond, Little Messer Pond, and a mountain overlook called The Lookout. And if I'd had time, I could have seen a lot more. The monument is filled with places to bike.

"Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument is one of the few National Park Service units in the Northeast that offers a high amount of gravel road riding," said Jeanne Roy, interpretation and education program manager for KWW. "It's remote and lightly trafficked, with options to ride where cars are not permitted."

Within the monument, biking is currently only permitted on park roads, which includes miles and miles of old woods roads that are closed to motor vehicles. Vegetation is creeping in on many of these roads, making them feel more trail-like. And rocky sections are fairly common.

BIKING THROUGH KATAHDIN WOODS AND WATERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

STORY & PHOTOS BY AISLINN SARNACKI





“The roads can be rough, so bikes should have durable tires and riders should carry tools and know how to patch a punctured inner tube,” Roy said.

With numerous campsites, lean-tos, and back-country huts, the monument is also a great place for bikepacking, Roy said. And you can easily combine biking with other activities such as hiking mountains and paddling rivers and streams.

Eric Hendrickson of Presque Isle, author of the book “Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument,” estimates that he and his wife, Elaine, have biked more than 270 miles of old woods roads in KWW.

“With a car, you go too fast. You don’t really get to see anything,” he said. “With bicycling, you can go farther than you can hiking, but you still have time to stop — and you can stop anywhere. You don’t need a parking spot.”

The Hendricksons have been exploring KWW since before it became a national monument in 2016, and they often do so by bike.

“There’s quite a bit of nice biking,” Eric Hendrickson said. “In particular, the north has some tremendous biking.”

From the north entrance, cyclists can visit numerous destinations in one day.

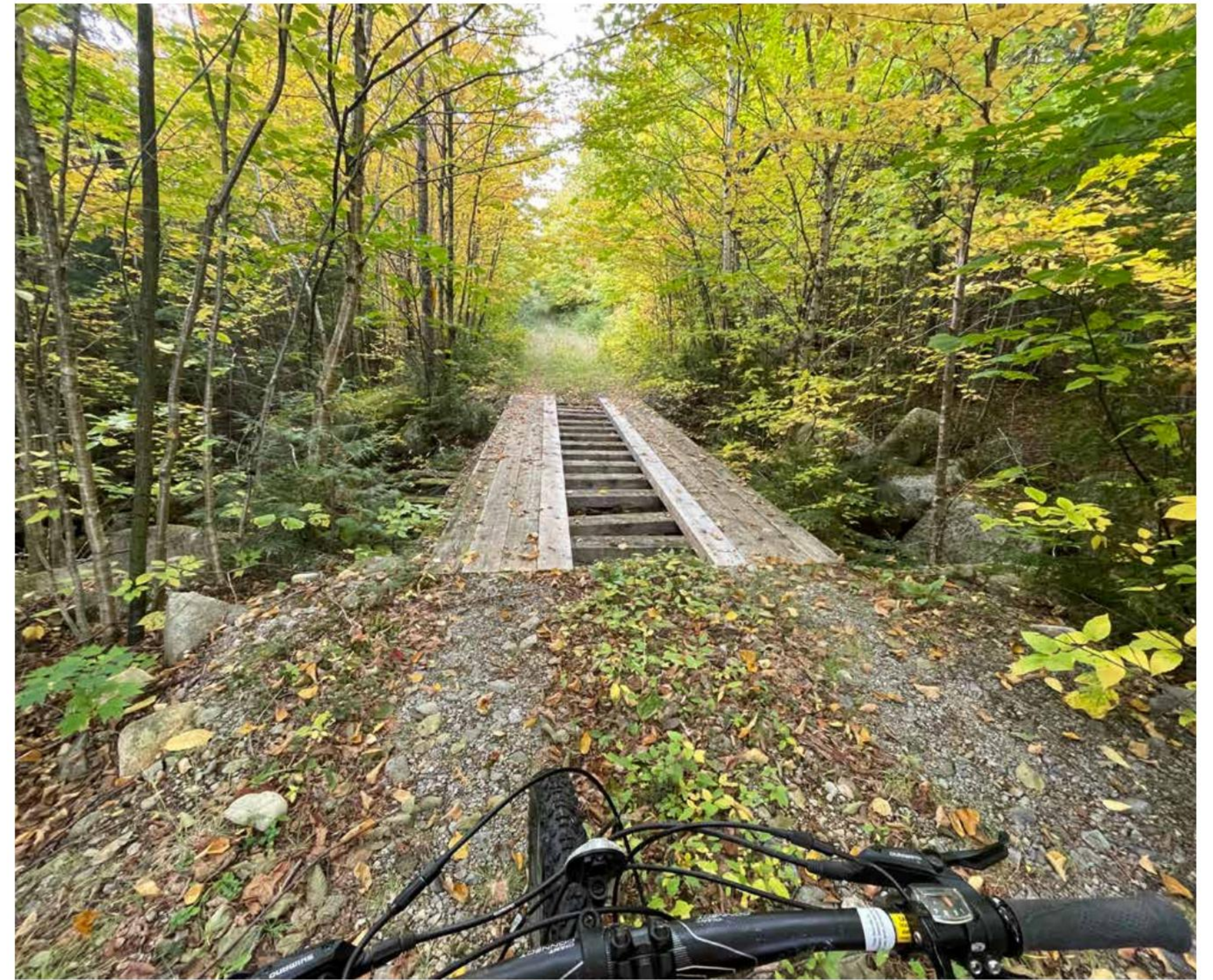
The main roads are maintained, and intersections are marked with signs pointing to major landmarks and campsites.

Another popular bike route in the monument is the 17-mile Katahdin Loop Road, which is at the monument’s south end and open to vehicle traffic. The road visits several scenic overlooks, picnic spots, hiking trails, and campsites. However, Eric Hendrickson cautioned that the road is hilly and rough in some places. It often takes cyclists longer to complete than they anticipate.

“There are many people that like to do the Katahdin Loop Road,” Eric Hendrickson said. “We’ve talked to a bunch of them, and they say they expect to be able to do it in an hour or so. Then they find out it takes closer to four or five hours. There are some steep hills and rough riding. It’s not a place to go fast.”

One of Eric Hendrickson’s favorite things to do is wander off the well-traveled Katahdin Loop Road to explore some of the woods roads that branch off of it.

“Every road you see there is a dead end road,” he said. “There really aren’t many ways to get lost. Just turn around and come back out the way you go in.”



That being said, it’s important to carry a map and know how to read it, he said. Also, beware that in most places within the monument, you won’t have any cell phone reception. So don’t rely on your cell phone for navigation.

Branching off the Katahdin Loop Road, Orin Falls Road leads to a parking lot for Orin Falls. There you can hop on your bike to ride the three-mile woods road leading to the waterfall — which is really a set of rapids that flow around large boulders on Wassataquoik Stream. It’s an easy trip, and you can lengthen it by following a woods road over to Barnard Mountain, where you’ll find a hiking trail.

In another segment of the monument, the Seboeis parcel, bicyclists can enjoy the fairly smooth, gently rolling American Thread Road to Philpott Bridge at the Seboeis River.

Cycling is a great mode of travel if you’re interested in spotting wildlife and other things in nature such as lichens and wildflowers, Eric Hendrickson said. Together, he and his wife have found 14 different species of orchids in the monument. They’ve also seen plenty of animals, including lynx, moose, otters, and black bears.

“We’ve seen a lot of bears that way,” he said. “The most I’ve seen in one day is eight.”

No plans have been announced regarding future development of bike routes or trails in KWW, but Eric Hendrickson is hopeful. He believes that biking is one of the best ways to explore the vast swathe of wilderness.

“There’s been tremendous growth in six years, from what there was to what there is now,” he said. “The trails grow every year, and the staff has increased. I think before long you’ll see a nice guide for hiking and biking.”

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10 YEARS OF STARS OVER KATAHDIN

BY SARAH COTTRELL

PHOTO: ADOBESTOCK

Stargazing may become a thing of the past. According to National Geographic, 80% of Americans can't see the Milky Way due to light pollution. And according to research that includes data collected from global citizen scientists, light pollution increases by 10% each year, meaning that soon, an entire generation of people living in or near cities won't be able to see stars at all.

That is why the wild skies of the Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument are so precious; visitors can still see a nearly pristine view of stars as they sparkle in the night sky over Mount Katahdin.

"By its very nature, the monument is remote and rural, making for exceptional night sky viewing," said Mark Wimmer, the superintendent for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. "National Park Service (NPS) regulations are limited to lands we legally manage. However, we can collaborate with nearby towns and communities to encourage night sky-friendly lighting installations and retrofit existing light structures."

To learn more about how the National Park Service manages night skies, check out their publication, "Managing Lightscapes" at www.nps.gov/subjects/night-skies/management.htm.

For visitors wanting to see the wild skies at KWW, Wimmer suggests heading to a few specific parts of the park.

"Night skies are impressive across the monument, but many of our visitors go to the South Loop Katahdin

Overlook in the southwest part of the monument, off of the American Thread Road, in the northeast parcel of the monument, and campgrounds in the far northern end of the monument," he said.

Stargazing may feel like a summertime activity, but the KWW is open year-round, and according to the American Meteor Society, winter is a perfect time to catch some dazzling meteor showers and planetary movements.

"During the winter, stargazers can reserve the Haskell

tions have you covered. For example, Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters is a nonprofit, philanthropic partner of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument. They host a stargazing celebration each year called Stars Over Katahdin.

"This summer, we are hiring park rangers who will be emphasizing night-sky viewing with the public," Wimmer said. "Monument staff will also be collaborating with the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters this summer for the 10th annual Stars Over Katahdin event."

If you've never been stargazing at KWW, it is easily one of the most beautiful natural wonders in the world.

"I have taken my friends and family to the above-mentioned locations for stargazing. The northern end of the monument boasts some of the darkest skies in the northeastern United States," Wimmer said. "Coming to the monument is an excellent way to get away from city lights and enjoy the night sky outdoors, any time of the

year, pending clear skies."

To make your stargazing trip memorable, make sure to check local weather conditions to ensure a clear sky, pack for chilly evenings, and bring along a cozy seat like a folding camp chair. For those who don't know their constellations, try downloading the Night Sky app, which uses your phone's camera and GPS to tell you exactly what you're looking at, including stars, satellites, and planets.

IF YOU'VE NEVER BEEN
STARGAZING AT KWW, IT IS EASILY
ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL
NATURAL WONDERS IN THE WORLD.

Hut through recreation.gov and cross-country ski into the northern entrance of the monument, near Matagam-on," Wimmer said. "Many winter visitors take advantage of Maine's Integrated Trail System to access monument lands by snowmobile, allowing snowmobilers to stay late and stargaze for a few moments before heading in for the night."

If you plan to add stargazing to your bucket list but are unsure where to start, some groups and organiza-

Find your own space.

Trout Mountain Preserve

On the Baxter Park Road, just south of Togue Pond.

Debsconeag Lakes Wilderness Area

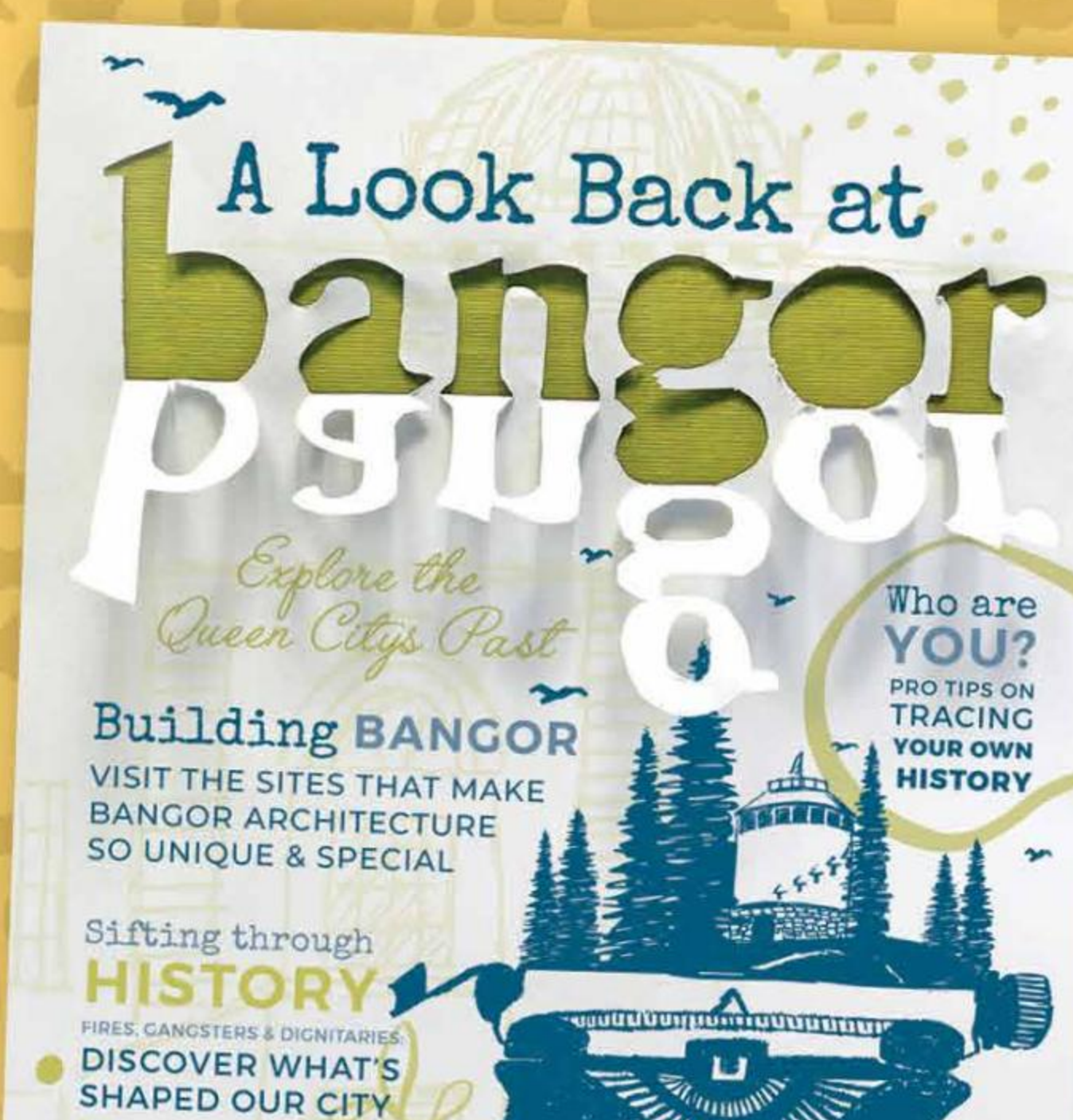
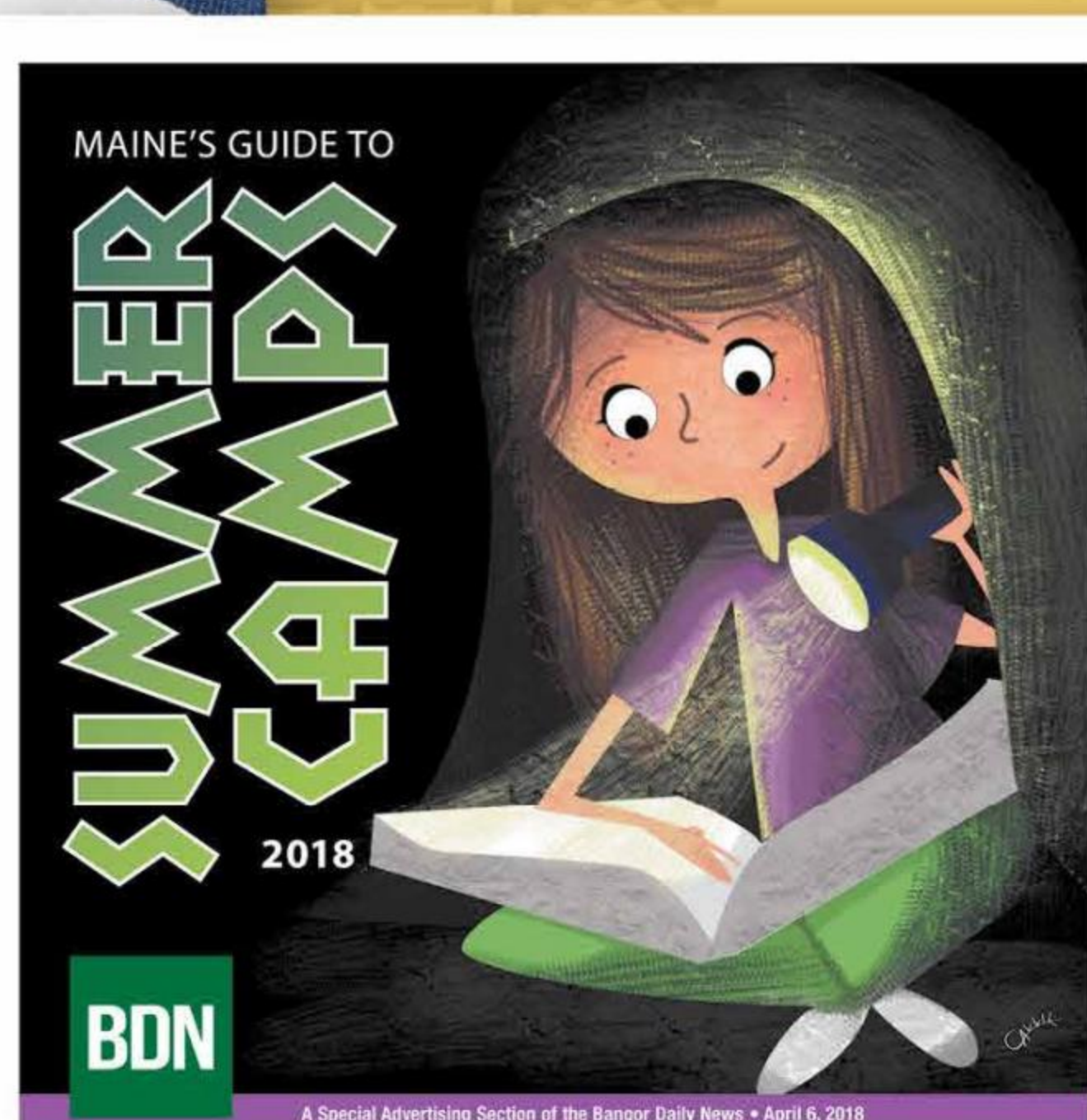
South side of the Golden Road, just past Abol Bridge.



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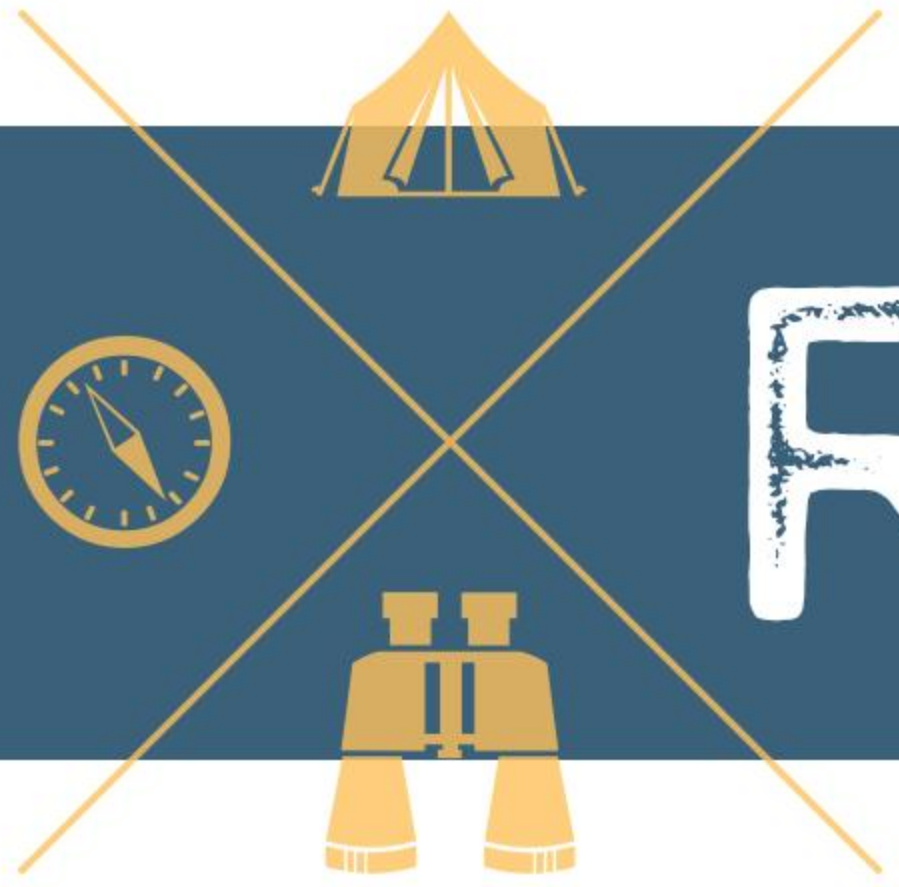
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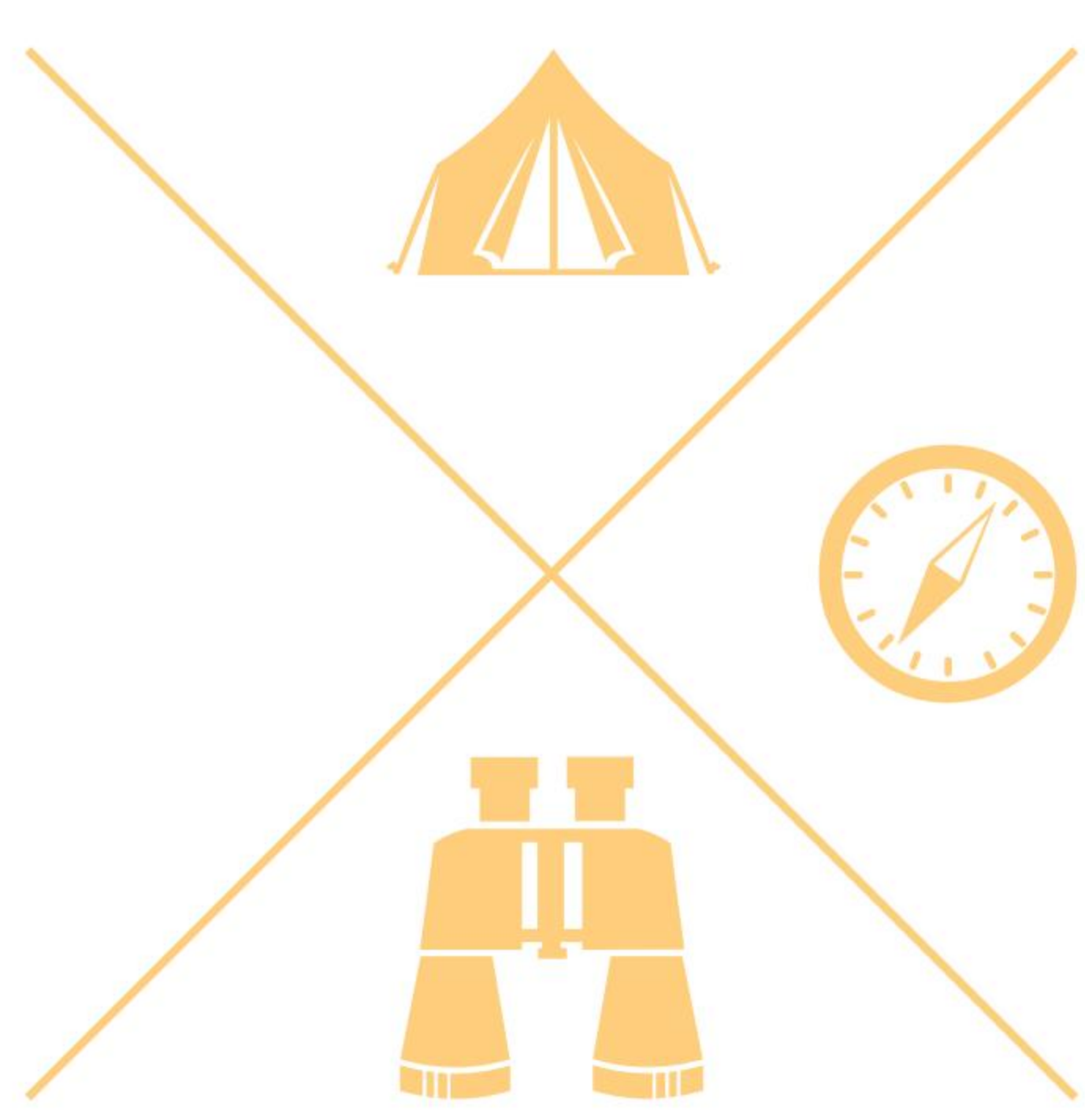
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A BRIEF HISTORY OF HOW THE BIG MOOSE INN WAS ESTABLISHED, AS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK "KATAHDIN: AN HISTORIC JOURNEY BY JOHN NEFF"

MILLINOCKET LAKE CAMPS

Irving O. Hunt and his brother Lyman built some rough camps on Millinocket Lake before they became interested in the Nesowadnehunk Stream region. Whether or not their old camps were at the same site as the present camps on Millinocket Lake we do not know.

The Millinocket Lake Camps, known today as Big Moose Inn, are located on a narrow spit of land separating Ambejeus Lake and Millinocket Lake. Before a dam controlled Ambajeus' water level, it was possible to pole up the short stream from Millinocket Lake into Ambejeus.

Fred Spencer build the camps, originally named Camp Eureka, in 1899 or 1900 and ran them with his brother. With the founding of Millinocket only a few years earlier and lumbering roads nearing Katahdin, the two lakes became more easily accessible. Camp Eureka was advertised as the only camp reachable by both boat (from Norcross) and road (from Millinocket). In 1905, the rate was \$1.50 per day, meals included. Spencer also claimed the lakes had no flies or mosquitoes during spring and summer—a phenomenon caused by the way winds blow across the lakes, which makes it difficult for insects to gain a foothold.

The camps' name changed to Camp Spencer and later to Spencer's Camps. Around 1929 the lease was transferred to Elmer Woodworth, who lived with his wife on a nearby island while they operated the camps. Elmer, a well-known guide, trapped over the winter, and his wife served as the camp cook. The couple soon renamed the camps Millinocket Lake Camps and Trading Post. They also maintained an outlying camp on Sandy Stream for their guests. In 1941, a major fire broke out in the area. The Woodworths saved the camps by wetting them down, but lost their island home when a stray spark jumped the cove. There is some evidence that, for a short time, a gentleman named Johnny Given either held the lease or managed the camps for the Woodworths. Except for that brief change the Woodworths operated the camps for many years until they passed the lease on to their son Ray, who ran them with his wife Muriel.

In 1977, the lease was transferred to Bob and Frederica ("Teddy") Boynton, who in 1981 sold the trading post to Erwin and Maureen Bacon. The Boyntons retained the sporting camp operation and later added a public restaurant. Teddy renamed the camps Big Moose Inn. Bob and his son Bruce made many renovations to the camps, while Teddy decorated and furnished them. The Boynton Family has remained involved in the success of the inn and restaurant. After Teddy's death in 1991, management passed to Bruce and his sister Laurie, but Bob and other family members are still very involved.

The dam separates the flowages of the two lakes. Millinocket Lake is about eight feet above its original level, and Ambajeus is now some 21 feet above its original level. Today several West Branch rafting companies make the inn their seasonal center of operations.



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