

The Maine Woods CONNECTION

OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME 3, ISSUE ONE

CELEBRATING THE ACQUISITION OF THE 29,500-ACRE ROACH POND LANDS



- TRAIL BUILDER**
- One acre at \$1,000
 - One hectare at \$2,500
 - Three acres at \$3,000
 - Five acres at \$5,000
- MAINE WOODS**
- One mile at \$10,000
 - Three miles at \$30,000
 - Five miles at \$50,000
 - Other _____

- PRESIDENT'S SOCIETY**
- \$1,000 Mt. Madison Fellow
 - \$2,500 Mt. Jefferson Fellow
 - \$5,000 Mt. Adams Fellow
 - \$10,000 Mt. Washington Fellow
 - \$20,000 20th Anniversary Fellow
 - \$25,000 Challenger

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Check Enclosed Bill my credit card: American Express Visa MasterCard

Card Number _____ Exp. _____

Signature _____

Please send me a payment reminder.



Members often ask me if they should give to the President's Society or to the Maine Woods Campaign. I usually reply "It is important to support both!" But this year, if you need to choose between the two, AMC's number one priority is the President's Society.

Please know that whatever you decide to do we greatly appreciate your support!

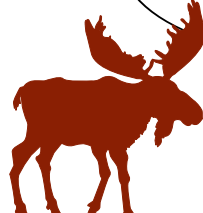
-Don

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*Pssst....
Check inside for
information on the 2010
Ski Trips!*



Explore the Roaches on the Camp-to-Camp Ski Trip!

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A MESSAGE FROM DON DOLBEN

Chairman of the Campaign for the Maine Woods

I am thrilled to announce that in September, AMC reached two astounding milestones. First, we are now the official owners of the Roach Pond Lands – a 29,500-acre parcel that connects our Katahdin Iron Works property with conservation land to the north. Second, AMC's Campaign for the Maine Woods has hit the \$45 million mark!

This started as a wild dream of a new recreational corridor, a huge conservation effort in a large landscape nearly equal to the White Mountain National Forest. It was a dream bigger than anything the AMC had ever done

before and well beyond the resources the Club.

But that dream is becoming a reality far more rapidly than we could have imagined and it is now a million-acre conservation effort in the 100-Mile Wilderness that has incredible beauty, impressive scale, and astounding grandeur. With your support, AMC has connected a corridor of protected lands that stretch from Moosehead Lake all the way to Mount Katahdin. Quite an accomplishment!

Phase I of this Campaign took us to \$22 million and included the purchase of the 37,000-acre Katahdin Iron Works parcel and Little Lyford Ponds Camps. Phase II includes the acquisition of the 29,500-acre Roach Pond Lands and Medawisla Wilderness Camps. These opportunities brought the goal to \$45 million.

After meetings, meetings, and more meetings. After years of planning. With a corps of hardworking volunteers and staff who worked incessantly and tirelessly. With the ups and downs of the marketplace, bubbles and balloons, crash and burn. We are finally approaching the finish line!

Today we celebrate! But tomorrow we continue on, as there is still much more to do than \$45 million can accomplish.

Our accomplishments are the result of people who care passionately about our vision for the Maine Woods. In short, all I can say is:

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

-Don



THE ROACH LANDS: GREAT PONDS, MOUNTAINS, AND VALLEYS

After a three-year process, AMC finalized the purchase of the Roach Ponds Lands from Plum Creek Timber in September. This keystone parcel, known as “the Roaches,” connects to AMC’s 37,000-acre Katahdin Iron Works property and offers an abundance of recreation and conservation opportunities. It is a success that was made possible by the generosity, work, and enthusiasm of AMC’s members and supporters.



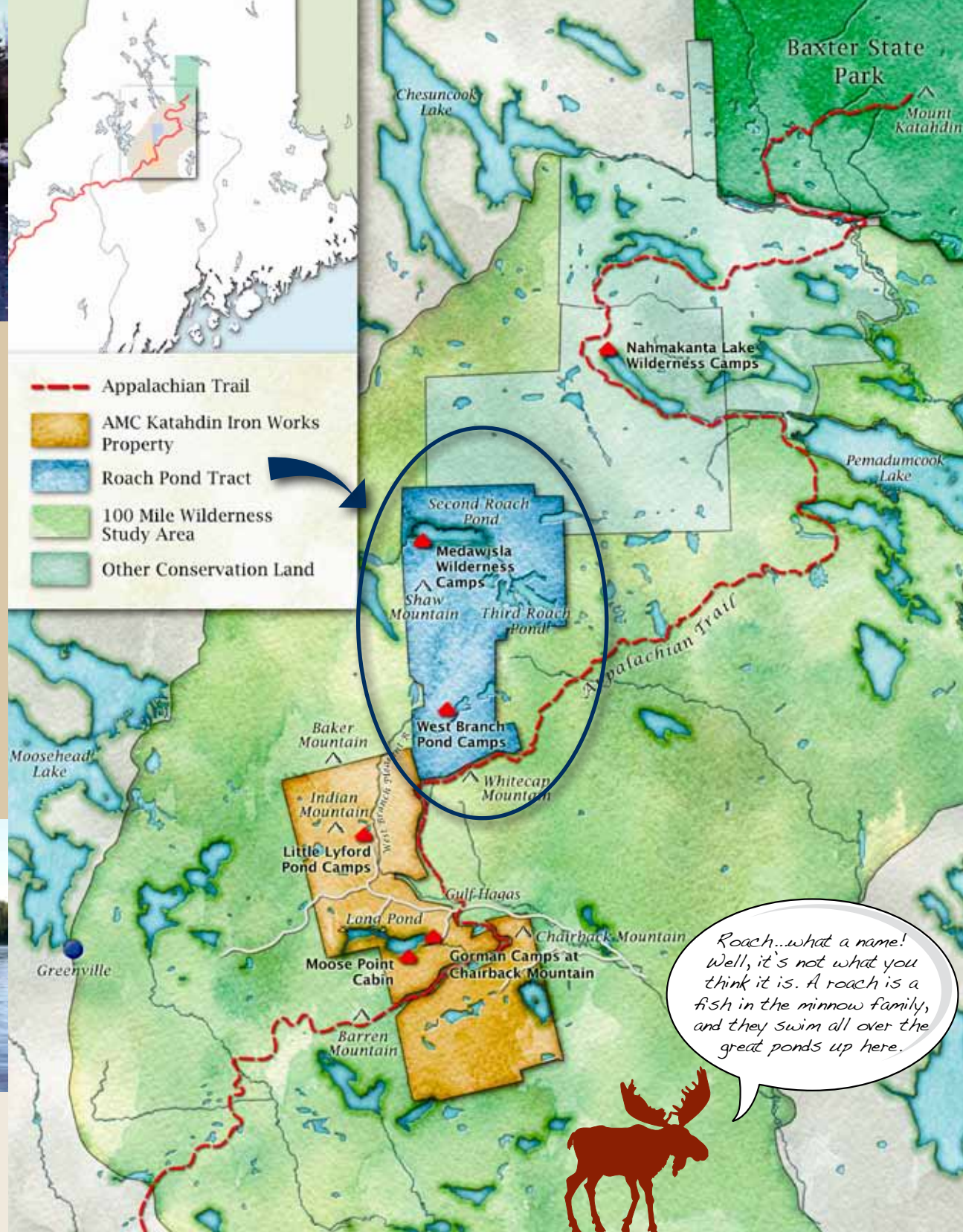
With 14.5 miles of the river now on or adjacent to AMC property, we will focus on protecting the native brook trout fishery and creating greater habitat diversity.

Medawisla Wilderness Camp, located on Second Roach Pond, has been managed by AMC since 2006, but until now was surrounded by Plum Creek forestland, limiting AMC’s ability to develop a trail network around the camps. In addition to adding trails for hiking and skiing, AMC will design single- and multi-day paddling trails. Second, Third, and Fourth Roach ponds, along with Trout Pond, are linked by the Roach River, and provide one of the tract’s most spectacular natural resources. With 38 miles of shoreline on the property’s nine large ponds, flatwater paddlers will have days—if not weeks—of exploration options.



The significance of the purchase extends well beyond the boundaries of AMC’s land. The Roaches connect a patchwork of conserved land in an area long threatened by development and forest fragmentation. In addition to spectacular recreation opportunities, the parcel also allows for the long-term survival of wildlife in a way that smaller tracts of land would not.

The southwestern corner of the property, which connects with Katahdin Iron Works, contains a significant portion of the West Branch of the Pleasant River’s headwaters. The river was deemed “outstanding” in a 1982 study by the state of Maine, a record matched by just three other rivers statewide.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2010 PRESIDENT’S SOCIETY SKI TRIPS!



Camp-to-Camp Ski Trip Monday, February 8-Friday, February 12

Ski from Camp-to-Camp and visit Medawisla Wilderness Camps, West Branch Pond Camps, Little Lyford Pond Camps & Gorman Camps at Chairback Mountain.



Lyford & Gorman Long-Weekend Ski Trips Friday, February 12-Monday, February 15 & Friday, February 26-Monday, March 1

Two opportunities to ski to Little Lyford Pond Camps with an overnight visit to AMC’s newest camp, Gorman Camps at Chairback Mountain.

Little Lyford Mid-Week Ski Trip Tuesday, March 2-Friday, March 5

Spend four magical days at Little Lyford Pond Camps with options to ski and snowshoe.

For more information, please contact Katrin Aback at kaback@outdoors.org or 617.391.6638.

WILDERNESS RESERVE

With the acquisition of the Roaches, AMC is planning to add up to 10,000 acres to our existing ecological reserve areas. This will double the number of acres we manage as wilderness. These 20,000 acres – approximately half the size of Acadia National Park – will provide a baseline scientific monitoring of Maine forests.

ANIMALS AND VEGETATION

When you visit the the Roaches, you may hear the early morning call of the Bicknell Thrush, which loves the boreal habitat found on this land. Perhaps you will spot the elusive lynx or its tracks? Other species found on the Roach lands include native brook trout, moose, marten, fisher, and land-locked salmon. As the headwaters of some of Maine’s major rivers, it is a priceless ecological treasure. There are numerous untouched ponds and peat lands to be explored.



WE’RE ALMOST THERE!

Phase III will help AMC complete funding for the Roaches and will make renovation of Medawisla & Gorman Camps possible. We can reach the goals for Phase III if:

- Those who have already made a gift, pledge to give an additional 20%;
- Those who pledged to give annually would add one or more years to their schedule; or
- Those who have not made a gift, come forward to help us cross the finish line.

AMC’s Maine Woods Initiative is an incredible achievement, especially in the current economic environment. It is a statement to our passion, our commitment, our belief in this Initiative, and our willingness to make a great stretch – reaching outwards and upwards, well beyond ourselves to attain something lasting and permanent. There is still time to participate. Please contact Molly Ruffle at mruffle@outdoors.org or 617.391.6620.

- COMPLETE FUNDING FOR THE ROACHES ACQUISITION
- RENOVATION OF GORMAN CAMPS AT CHAIRBACK MOUNTAIN
- RENOVATION OF MEDAWISLA WILDERNESS CAMPS
- INCREASE ENDOWMENT FUND

TOTAL PHASE III \$7 MILLION

