

# Borestone Naturalist's Weekend

Friday, September 22, 2023 at 2 p.m. through  
Sunday afternoon, September 24, 2023



**TRIP DESCRIPTION:** Join this weekend retreat to Borestone Mountain Sanctuary, located just 20 miles south of Moosehead Lake. There we will stay in the sanctuary's historic Adirondack style lodges, which are accessible only by boat or on foot, lending an extra sense of remoteness and tranquility to this special place.

The sanctuary is a 1600 acre North Woods preserve with outstanding natural features. Centered around rock-topped Borestone Mountain, the sanctuary encompasses remarkable granite outcroppings and cliffs, clear mountain ponds, and old growth forest stands carpeted by luxuriant mosses and lichens.

Optional activities will include taking moderate hikes to Borestone's bare granite summit and to Peregrine Ridge where we will enjoy panoramic views of Maine's vast northern forest, swimming and canoeing in the sanctuary's mountain ponds, or if you prefer just relaxing on the lodge porch with a good book.

**MEETING PLACE:** Please meet your leaders in the parking lot outside the main gate and entrance to Borestone Mountain at 2 p.m. Bring your lunch to have once we reach the lodge. Gary and Doug have cell phones with them in case of an emergency. Gary (207-749-1846) or Doug (207-671-0185) should be contacted if you will not be at the meeting place. If the cell phones do not work, you may call the Borestone Sanctuary Manager on Duty at 207-717-6001.

## **DIRECTIONS:**

### **From Portland, Augusta, and points south:**

Driving time is approximately 3 hours from Portland.

*Option #1:* Take I-95 to Newport, Exit 157. Take Route 7 north for 14 miles into Dexter and turn left onto Route 23 following signs to the Moosehead Lake Region. Follow Route 23 for 11 miles to its junction with Route 15. Turn left onto Route 15 for about 14 miles to Monson. Follow from \* below.

*Option #2:* Take I-95 to Fairfield, Exit 133. Take Route 201 north through Skowhegan, Solon and Bingham (approx. 30 miles) to where Route 16 will come in from the left, but you want to take it where it begins to the right. Take Route 16 all the way to Abbot Village (about 20 miles) where it will "T" into Routes 15 and 6. Go north on Routes 15 and 6 until you come into Monson and follow from \* below.

### **From the Bangor area:**

Take Route 15 to Dover-Foxcroft. Head west on 16/15/6 and follow through Guilford and on into Monson. Then follow directions from \* below.

\*Continue through Monson and just outside of town take a right onto Elliotsville Road. After 8 miles turn left after the bridge onto Bodfish Road. Parking area is about .2 miles on the left, after the railroad tracks. The gate and trailhead are on the right. Gary and Carole will be there to meet you.

**PREPARATION:**

Please read this carefully so you know what you are responsible for.

- A camp vehicle will take your belongings up the access road to the lodge on the mountain and we will be hiking up the road/trail (about one mile) to the lodge. Please pack lightly so we can accommodate all the bags and food in one trip.
- Gary and Carole will decide the daily activities (such as hiking, birding, nature exploration) and go over them with you once you are on the mountain. You will always be able to break from the group and “do your own thing,” as you feel inspired, but please understand that Gary and Carole are responsible for you. We would appreciate if you returned to camp in time for meals and let someone know when you are going to return AND that all your activities away from the lodge are done with at least one other person and not alone.
- You will find the mountain camp to be a very quiet, peaceful retreat. You may want to bring a good book and/or your journal to enjoy in the mountain setting.

**Smoking is prohibited on the sanctuary and use of cell phones restricted to emergencies only.**

Sheets, pillowcases, pillows and blankets are available at the lodge or you may bring a sleeping bag.

**You will need to provide:**

sleeping bag	windbreaker	daypack (for daily
towels and	good walking shoes	excursions)
washcloth	change of shoes	trail snacks (like gorp,
flashlight or headlamp	sunhat/sunscreen	granola
rain gear	journal/reading book	bars, etc.)
binoculars	sunglasses	walking poles or walking
warm sweater/fleece	toiletries	stick
field guide(s)	water bottle	camera and extra batteries
insect repellent		

For clothing, besides jackets & shoes, may we suggest:

2 t-shirts	1 long sleeved shirt
1 pair shorts	2 pairs long pants
undergarments	2 pairs wool/polypropylene socks
sleepwear	2 pairs cotton socks
long underwear (for cool nights)	bathing suit

Rooms will be assigned once you reach the lodge and are either double or single accommodations. The walls are not insulated so you may want to bring ear plugs. There is reliable electricity in all buildings in and around the lodges and in all the rooms. There is a separate building with two bathrooms with flush toilets and hot water for showers.

**MEALS:** All meals will be provided and prepared by Chefs Gary and Carole and will consist of delicious and gourmet camping fare. You are invited to bring your own snacks for between meals. If you have dietary restrictions, please call Doug at Maine Audubon as soon as possible, 207-781-2330 ext. 237 – the menu will be planned a week before the trip, so you must let us know of dietary requirements as soon as possible. Fresh drinking water is available at the lodge.

**HIKING THE MOUNTAIN:** Conditions permitting, a climb up to the East Peak of Borestone will be included. After rounding the middle pond, the trail climbs steeply for about 1 mile onto the rocks of the West Peak, then the trail continues about one half mile to the East Peak, elevation 2,000 feet. Hikers

should be in good physical condition and be able to scramble over rocks and boulders without assistance. Bring a walking stick if you use one.

**WEATHER:** The trip is on, rain or shine. If particularly bad weather is forecasted however, we may cancel the trip for safety reasons. We will make this decision by 8:00 a.m. Friday morning before the trip, and you will be contacted in this unlikely eventuality.

**IMPORTANT:** If, for any reason, you are detained en route, please telephone the Borestone Sanctuary and leave a message at 207-631-4050.

**LEADERS: Gary Roberts** and **Carole Brush** have been leading Maine Audubon walks and field trips for more than 20 years. Maine natives, they have been avid sportsmen and naturalists since their youth. Sharing their awareness and understanding of nature has always been a priority, and they enjoy being in a community that advocates for the environment. Both Carole and Gary enjoy talking about local history, coastal geology, and Maine's native flora and fauna. Carole and Gary are Registered Maine Guides and Wilderness First Responders. **Doug Hitchcox** is Maine Audubon's Staff Naturalist. In his free time, Doug volunteers as one of Maine's eBird reviewers, is the owner and moderator of the 'Maine-birds' listserv and serves as York County Audubon board member and voting member of the Maine Bird Records Committee.

We look forward to seeing you in the field!

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** See: <https://maineaudubon.org/events/forms-and-policies/#cancel> or: If an event is cancelled by Maine Audubon, attendees will be notified, and full refunds will be issued. If event participation is cancelled by the attendee, no refunds will be issued if the cancellation is received within 7 days of the event. For cancellations received at least 7 days in advance of the event, refunds will be issued as follows:

Programs under \$10 will be not be refunded.

Programs \$10 – 100 will be refunded minus a \$5 processing fee.

Programs over \$100 and up to \$400 will be refunded minus a \$20 processing fee.

Programs over \$400 are rare and processing fees will be decided on a case by case basis.

*All program proceeds benefit the work of Maine Audubon.*