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Eric Henderickson
October 25, 2021

Interview conducted by Vincent Santucci and Justin Tweet
Transcribed by Rev.com
Edited by Molly Williams

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Transcript

[START OF INTERVIEW]

Vincent Santucci:	00:00:04	Okay, Eric. Today is Monday, October 25th, 2021. My name is Vincent Santucci, senior paleontologist for the National Park Service Paleontology program. Today we are conducting an oral history interview with Eric Hendrickson; naturalist, conservationist, retired teacher, and writer who has been a key individual in the establishment of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument in Maine. We are accompanied today by Justin Tweet, paleontologist with the National Park Service Paleontology Program. The interview is being conducted by telephone from Eric's home in Presque Isle, Maine. So, welcome, Eric.
Eric Henderickson:	00:00:50	Hello.
Vincent Santucci:	00:00:52	So I'm going to start with the easiest question of the day. When and where were you born?
Vincent Santucci:	00:01:08	And just very briefly, where did you grow up and were there any experiences as a young person before you went to college that got you interested in outdoors and nature?
Eric Henderickson:	00:01:26	As a child, I was brought up in East Millinocket. My father in the early years was assistant principal of the school and then director of central personnel through the Great Northern. He had a love to be outdoors and visiting camps and dragged me along. And ever since then I've always loved it. I went to state university to study natural sciences and then went into education.
Vincent Santucci:	00:01:55	And what year did you graduate university?
Eric Henderickson:	00:02:02	Graduated university in 1973.
Vincent Santucci:	00:02:07	And then did you go directly into teaching at that point?

Eric Henderickson: 00:02:15 I did. I moved to Presque Isle and I taught in Presque Isle for most of my career. Prior to that, I had worked for the state park system, and that was during my college years.

Vincent Santucci: 00:02:29 And in terms of the area that's now part of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, do you recall the first time you visited the area that's now the monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:02:40 I don't really recall. That was when I was a fairly small person. My dad used to take me up there fishing up the river. We used to go camping. And I remember the years, as the road that they call the Old Elos Road was being pushed north, we used to go to the end of it and go hunting. So that would've been up through middle school. And then during that period I was allowed to wander the woods as long as I was back on the road to be picked up by my dad on the way out.

Vincent Santucci: 00:03:18 And so as a young person, you had the opportunity for a lot of outdoor discoveries in the Maine woods.

Eric Henderickson: 00:03:27 I did. I'm very comfortable with it and [inaudible 00:03:32] the same way. Being in the outdoors is kind of a special thing. I'm much more comfortable in what you would call the middle of nowhere than I am in where you live, in the city.

Vincent Santucci: 00:03:46 Are there some particular aspects of the area now part of the monument that stood out with you from an early age?

Eric Henderickson: 00:04:00 I guess I always liked the river. I guess I'm just a wanderer at heart. I like to explore and I still do. We go as often as we can. Part of the park that distressed me most with the last summer, it was only a breeding ground for mosquitoes. And most people said there's really nothing there. And for a bit I was kind of under the same opinion until we found a park out west that we really liked and realized what made this area special for us was the same thing that made the area we liked out west special for the people that lived there. They were used to it. They didn't think much of it. We thought it was neat because we'd never been able to see anything like it and explore it.

00:04:42 The same way here, the majority of people that visit are from away, and they've never really seen the forest, or they're not comfortable in the forest. Any that we've taken in the forest, people realize very quickly that wandering

around in the woods is not their—they want to see, but they don't really want to wander. And so a lot of people don't have that ability to see what's out there.

Vincent Santucci: 00:05:09 Very good. So before the monument was proclaimed, how did you become involved in the preservation/conservation of the area, which was later to become a monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:05:28 Well, it probably starts, I would guess around 1995, or perhaps a little later. We used to go down there a lot. There were a lot of roads, [inaudible 00:05:38] roads, and it was one of the few places in Maine that wasn't locked up where you had to have a permit and you could go. And we liked to explore by bike. We took the kids down the river, our school kids down the river. Then long round, Roxanne bought the property. Roxanne Quimby bought the property, and she went down there biking, and they ripped out some bridges, and we weren't really happy with her. We got asked to leave the property a number of times, biking in past where there were gates. There was a person that lived in there. Muriel, I can't remember her last name, but she called herself Mother Nature, and drove around a little GEO. And anytime we went in biking she seemed to be there and tell us to leave. And so got in contact with Roxanne and said, "This is what we want to do." And she said that was okay.

00:06:29 And then we became friends with Lucas and Lucas changed our whole attitude about things and made us understand that what was important there was what we loved about it and that others didn't really have a comprehension on. So that's really when we got involved, and we did some videos. And then there's a guy named Bart DeWolf, that was the ecologist for Elliotsville Foundation at the time. And he did quite a study and it had a list of things that he read about in research or people had mentioned to him.

00:07:07 So we systematically hunted down those things that he couldn't find during his tenure as an ecologist. So we've become good friends with him and have continued to hunt down those lost places.

Vincent Santucci: 00:07:22 And so can we go back to Roxanne for a minute, and can you give us her full name, and who is she, and what was her relationship with what was later to become the monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:07:34 Roxanne Quimby is probably best known as the face of Burt's Bees. She was a kind of back to earth person that lived in, well, western Maine, and they eventually raised bees and sold bee wax at the fairgrounds and so forth. Then she finally sold her cosmetic company and was quite well-to-do and took it upon herself to preserve land. She became involved in what was called Restore. Restore was trying to make a national park out of I think 3.2 million acres in northern Maine. So quite a large area. And then she became uncomfortable with them because they wanted her to turn over the land that she had purchased to them to make a park, and she wanted to have her own and have control over that land.

00:08:28 So what she did was she had a philosophy that I thought was, once I learned it, kind of neat. It was very much like [inaudible 00:08:38] another park here. She never bought anything from anybody that wasn't willing to sell it. She believed in always offering a fair price, and she believed that [inaudible 00:08:49], even if they've been cut down completely, was still a good investment because in 20 years it would all grow back. So if you look at the legacy of people that she purchased lands from, it's pretty amazing because philosophically, as far as they align with federal government and parks and so forth, they're on total opposites. But they became very good, not business partners, but working together buying and selling and trading lands.

00:09:19 So eventually she made the statements that weren't taken real kindly by the people [inaudible 00:09:25]. She wanted it turned into a complete wilderness area, and the state of Maine had presumed ownership of the land for a long time and didn't really like her coming in. And so her son came in and became the face of her dream. And her dream was on the hundredth birthday of the National Park Service to have it accepted and become a national park. They gave up on the national park idea eventually and worked towards a national monument, which is a little different step and a little different process.

Vincent Santucci: 00:10:02 And the current boundary of the monument are all of the lands lands that were donated or were there additional lands that were acquired?

Eric Henderickson: 00:10:17 There are 13 parcels of land that are currently in the monument. In the proclamation, there were two other

parcels. There are total 15 parcels. And those two other parcels, my understanding, that they're in the current negotiation for the purchase of those. Other than that, the lands have all come from her, and donated to the federal government along with a pretty sizable chunk of cash to help support the initial years of building the park.

Vincent Santucci: 00:10:49 Is Roxanne still living?

Eric Henderickson: 00:10:53 She is. She lives outside of Scooter Point in Acadia National Park. We've found that she's donated places all over the country. We biked in Colorado National Monument and just mentioned that it'd been nice if the parking lot was associated with it. Next time we went out, there was a sign on it that said that Elliotsville Foundation, through Roxanne, had donated that.

Vincent Santucci: 00:11:18 Wow.

Eric Henderickson: 00:11:19 When we visited, the 9/11 Memorial, the name was on the plaque as part of the donation, major donator for the 9/11 Memorial. So she also did some donations for California parks and she systematically purchased places in Bar Harbor that were in holdings in the park, and donated those to make the park a little more continuous.

Vincent Santucci: 00:11:43 And I assume you've met and spoke with her?

Eric Henderickson: 00:11:46 I have. She's a very nice lady, very down to earth, very shy. I don't know her real well, other than communicating back and forth, notes and so forth, but I know her son extremely well. And our first meeting with him was a little different. In the spring, the roads are closed to vehicle traffic except for the surveyors. It was long before it became a park, my wife and I went in there bike-camping, because the roads were closed. You can kind of go anywhere and camp anywhere we wanted. And we camped and we had the camp in a place and he drove by and saw us and way off in the distance and he waved and we waved. And then three or four weeks later we happened to be in a meeting and get introduced to him. He said, "Oh, I know you folks. You all went camping at such and such place."

00:12:40 So ever since then I've been pretty good friends [inaudible 00:12:43]. He is very, very outgoing. He'll talk with anybody and he does. He's an extremely good face of the area and the land that they own. They own a tremendous

amount of land, [inaudible 00:12:58] that they donate to the park.

Vincent Santucci: 00:13:03 Just for distinction, the lands that are now part of Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, was there any relationship between what was proposed as the Maine Woods National Park? Are they some of the same lands or is it a separate conversation?

Eric Henderickson: 00:13:22 Well, I didn't really understand all the purchases she made, because some she donated to nature conservancies, some she donated to the state of Maine. And Maine Woods National Park, they wanted to take what is Katahdin Woods and Water and what is Baxter and what is the Allagash, and the nature conservancy owns a large amount of land on the St. John, and they wanted to group it all together and make it into a national park that was primarily wilderness. And so it's basically a working forest that they wanted to turn into a park.

00:13:56 It was people from away, local people weren't very pleased with it. And she eventually came to a disagreement with them for the same reason. It still exists. It's called Restore, and they're still chugging away trying to get all the landowners to donate their land and all the parks to be willing to become a part of a facility that is not moving very fast.

Vincent Santucci: 00:14:23 When we were together a couple of weeks ago, you had mentioned that there are some that feel that the monument may someday be redesignated as a national park. What's your thoughts about that?

Eric Henderickson: 00:14:41 Well, I guess it's the same argument. I didn't really understand the value of a monument in the beginning. I knew what was on the land, I know what was special about it, but I'm not a person that understands economics. And a lot of people talked about the face of the national park and—Hello?

Vincent Santucci: 00:15:05 Yes.

Eric Henderickson: 00:15:05 Are you still there?

Vincent Santucci: 00:15:07 Yes. Uh-huh.

Eric Henderickson: 00:15:07 The face of the national park, and how it was important, and just the name would bring people in. And I guess what

I'm beginning to realize is we've been in there working, doing something along the edge of the road, and watch cars come by, and 80% of the cars that we see are not Maine cars. And what we predicted in the beginning is kind of holding true, that people would come to Bar Harbor for a week and take a day off and come visit the Katahdin Woods and Water. And that seems to be what's happening. There are a large number of people that are coming back. We've met people that we—a guy from Massachusetts we met yesterday down there, that he comes back every three or four weeks and he just really likes the area, to explore it.

00:15:50 So I think that becoming a national park economically will bring more to the communities. The communities are slowly buying into it. Patton, and Island Falls, and Sherman, St. Seville have bought into it fairly [inaudible 00:16:07]. Millinocket was not a great fan of recreational activities because it was a mill community, and they're starting to buy into it now. They're a little bit behind, they realize they're a little behind and trying to play catch-up. So I think that becoming a national park economically would bring a lot more into it, give it a lot more importance to the area, because economically—and northern Maine is not a very well-to-do area. The houses are now selling in Patton, and you see new businesses popping up everywhere. It's really, really kind of nice.

00:16:47 People expect for the national monument, that it would happen overnight. I guess. We had kept telling people, "See what's here now and come back in 10 years and you'll see a major difference." And just in the few years that we've been here, we've seen a tremendous difference. But people expect that if it becomes a park, one of the downsides is it will go to full growth and become like Acadia overnight, and that just won't happen. It's more of a rural wilderness park than it is a destination, a place that people would come to relax. It's a different type of atmosphere.

00:17:28 And what makes it special is it's not overly crowded. The numbers of visitors amaze me, because the number of visitors, you just don't seem to see anything. I think part of that is because there's no one spot where everybody goes. There's no Thunderhole, no Mt. Katahdin, there's no just one single spot that everybody likes to go to. It's all spread out throughout the monument. I would like to see it become a national park. I think that would be kind of nice.

Vincent Santucci: 00:17:59 When did you first hear rumors that there may have been a proclamation to create a monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:18:07 I was in Washington. I had a meeting with the Department of Interior, and I think it's called the Environmental Council. And one of the people there knew—I was amazed what they knew about me, first of all. And there was a Senate Gala that we went to, and that was kind of interesting. And when we got done, the lady said that, "We know you like to travel west every summer. Why don't you just hold off a little bit and not go?" And I said, "Hold off how long now?" She said, "Kind of towards the end of the month."

00:18:47 And so we held off and kind of hummed and hawed. And in the interim we have to meet, we knew what would become of the new superintendent. So we figured at that point it was kind of a done deal. When it was announced, I was at the end of the senate, I was a contact person. And so one of the first people I got to stamp was Sally Jewell, who was Secretary of the Interior. She was kind of a neat lady and it was kind of nice. So one of the first things we had, we had a kind of a private supper with Department of Interior, some other folks, Secret Service. And there were a few of us, probably 20, maybe 25. And that was where she said, "Glad you stayed." Made the comment, "Glad that I stayed for the – put our vacation off a little bit." So, yeah, it was. So I would guess probably Sally was there June or so, July, somewhere in there.

Vincent Santucci: 00:19:54 And at one point were you asked to testify before a committee in Congress?

Eric Henderickson: 00:20:06 Well, the one I went to were individual meetings, not Congress. And probably the closest meeting congressional people was at the Senate Gala. We were all around, they had pictures on the wall, and we wore name tags of where we were from. I got surrounded by seven or eight of the senators, and not real comfortable with that type of setting because that's not my style. And the person that took me there was from the Wilderness Society and they wanted to know all about the park. And then as conversation went on, they said, "Do you know Lucas?" And I said, "Yeah, I know Lucas quite well." And they said, "Could you introduce us if he comes in?" I'm fairly big, but Lucas is even bigger than I am. He's taller than I am by maybe half a

head. So he's a big guy, easy to spot. And so I got to introduce him to those folks.

00:21:02 And the testimony that I did wasn't at Congress, it was in front of people from the Department of Interior. A guy named, I think Jonathan Jarvis, or I can't remember exactly his name, but he was head of the national park at the time. And I'm trying to think of some of the other people, but it was not in Congress.

Vincent Santucci: 00:21:30 And can you tell us Lucas's full name, and who he is, and what his role was?

Eric Henderickson: 00:21:38 Roxanne Quimby had twins, Maya and Lucas, and it's Lucas Sinclair, and his twin is Mark Quimby. Lucas Sinclair operates out of Hamden. He's president of the Elliotsville Foundation, which is a philanthropic organization. And prior to that he'd been a restaurant person in Seattle and a river guide. And he has a true liking for the outdoors, and he is a true sportsman, which is really what won a lot of people over, the fact that he liked the outdoors, he liked hunting, he liked fishing, and he would take the time to talk to anybody and everybody over a cup of coffee. And he has one heck of a memory as far as people he meets and conversations that he has. If you start a conversation with him, came back three or four months later, he could pick up right in the middle of where you left off.

Vincent Santucci: 00:22:51 And you had mentioned that you had the opportunity to communicate with Molly Ross.

Eric Henderickson: 00:22:58 Molly Ross was—I'm not really sure what her position was, but she appeared to be the second person to Sally Jewell. And any place Sally Jewell was, she was the camera person behind the scenes and I didn't really realize they're importance until I took her - having to take her on one of the guided tours. She had the background, and I didn't realize at the time that she had written the proclamation, and I didn't really realize at the time where a lot of the information came from. So it was kind of interesting.

00:23:44 She's now president of Friends of Katahdin Woods and Water, and I think she's no longer attached to the Department of Interior National Parks and Forests. I might be wrong with that though.

Vincent Santucci: 00:23:58 Yeah, Molly Ross worked for the Department of Interior Solicitor's Office. She worked on special projects for Director Jarvis, including the proclamation for the Katahdin Woods and Water's National Monument. Did you have the opportunity to provide any feedback in terms of the language in the proclamation?

Eric Henderickson: 00:24:22 I did not, no.

Vincent Santucci: 00:24:25 When you read the proclamation, did you feel that it captured what became the monument well or was there anything that you felt that it could have elaborated on in greater detail?

Eric Henderickson: 00:24:43 I've written several op-eds for newspapers about why it should be a monument. I'd done a lot on the history, finding out places, only because that's one of my passions. And I was pretty amazed when I read the proclamation, how closely it aligned with my thoughts. And I don't think she left anything out. I think she did an exceptional job at putting things in there that kind of surprised me. But then again, I don't understand the workings of politics. But yeah, she did an excellent job. She covered everything that I would've wanted covered in there, and not a lot about economics and community and so forth, but she did talk about the role that it would play in community in the region.

Vincent Santucci: 00:25:41 And so we were surprised to see the detailed information regarding fossil localities on the monument. Can you speak about that at all and why that was included in the proclamation?

Eric Henderickson: 00:26:01 Well, one of our passions is caving. We belong to several caving groups and have been a fellow of the National Speleological Society as well as received a certificate of merit for exploration from them. So caving has been a long passion. And one place in the monument has its own formation, which is one of the purer limestone deposits that there are. And we've gone back half a dozen times and explored that.

00:26:24 The other place that fascinates me is the—when I found out from an old report, the department of—I can't remember who did it but anyway, it was one of the quadrangles they'd done the geology off Newman Head. And it talked about the fossil finds that they made and how it was the first

evidence that connected the continental divide. And from that, other geologists came together, really, and formed what was called the International Appalachian Trail, which circles both through the monument, and it really circles the ocean and all the mountains that made up the Pangea, or the early continents, are part of this trail. But the evidence came from [inaudible 00:27:13] and I think that's probably geologically, to me, one of the more exciting things, to have a spot where proof of the theory really, really came about.

00:27:38 Do I have you?

Vincent Santucci: 00:27:39 I'm sorry?

Eric Henderickson: 00:27:41 Oh, nothing. I thought I lost you.

Vincent Santucci: 00:27:44 No. Okay. I was going to take a moment here and just ask Justin, do you have any questions at the moment?

Justin Tweet: 00:27:53 Not at the moment, no. Thank you.

Vincent Santucci: 00:27:56 All right, I'm going to just jump around thematically and ask you briefly from what you know and understand about Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument, what would you share about the geology?

Eric Henderickson: 00:28:15 For me, I'm not a hard rock person. Fossils don't fascinate me, sorry. But geomorphology fascinates me. And boy, the park has everything there. It has tremendous eskers, which have been unmined, which is pretty rare. [inaudible 00:28:38], boulder fields, rip marines, it's got the deltas from the ocean. One of the doctors that did research there showed that the boundary where the glacier and the ocean separated to form the Penobscot River is within the monument. That's pretty neat. The original settlers settled on delta material that was rich, which is kind of, again, fascinating. And the Native Americans followed the ice north as it disappeared. And so there's evidence there of them off that.

00:29:18 I guess geologically, the last glacier really fascinates me the most, because there's so much evidence of it and it's so easily accessible for folks to see. They don't realize one of the trails does—what I think is a really rare thing—it walks along the top of an esker, which is pretty common, but then there was a flood that cut through the center of the esker, so the tail goes down, so they can actually walk through the

center of the esker to see what it looked like at the bottom, which is—we've taken spigots here. They're always fascinated by that, to see what the inside of the esker looked like and know that they're walking through what was then once a – at least I call them upside down river underneath the glacier.

Vincent Santucci: 00:30:14 In terms of the forest itself, any thoughts about the woods component of the monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:30:23 Well, to me, woods are woods. I guess I'm real comfortable in woods. I like the woods. But what I didn't realize until I started looking at some of the reports, and I knew there a lot of cutting had been done, and some places cutting hadn't been done, and there was a bad fire that left some serious scarring. And there were so many little forest communities throughout. I didn't really realize how important that was to birders, until the birders started coming. And there are a number of safaris, birding safaris that come there, really come. They come here to see four or five different birds. And I took the time to learn all about those birds. So when people ask, "Where can I find a spruce grouse," you can give them some information about it or, "Where's Bicknell's thrush or where's the black-backed woodpecker" yeah, you can tell them those things.

00:31:17 So the forest types, there's three birds that shouldn't be where they are because it might be a small group of forests of one type and then go into a different forest. So they're going through one type of forest into another. And so that's something that's pretty special. It's pretty rare.

00:31:38 Moose used to be really common in the monument. I suspect they're just as common, but you don't see them as often now, because the yards along the edge are starting to grow out. And so the moose are back to what they used to do. And people come and they say, "I want to see a moose." And you tell them that it's just luck seeing a moose.

00:32:01 One lady one day wanted to see a moose and she was very disappointed. She said the only thing they'd seen all day long were two lynx. We just tried to explain to her that what she saw was probably one of the rarer things you'll see in a forest. And because there's so much of that forest that's not accessible easily, those animals like to live in it.

It's not a mono-species forest, so it will remain healthy for a long period of time.

Vincent Santucci: 00:32:32 And the other part of the name of the monument is—do you have any comments about the waters portion of Katahdin Woods?

Eric Henderickson: 00:32:46 There are three main rivers that go through there, if you call them that. The East Branch is probably best known for its serious waterfalls and really good fishing. The Seboeis is a forest river, so it's kind of got a rootbeer brownish color. It's not polluted, it's just natural tannins. And the Wassataquoik is born in what I'd call fire and ice. It's born in the granite and it's crystal clear. And other than heating it for years, it was considered by most in the 1870s to be the last great frontier in the east, it was the last place that you're able to log in the east, because of the difficult nature of the stream. It's a classic glacial stream. It's graded in a lot of places. Beautiful moraines cross it and make what they call waterfalls. But most people looking for a sheer drop, they just don't realize there's a giant boulder patch.

00:33:52 And the other thing about that is the water just so crystal clear, you can see the bottom anywhere you look. It's as clear as any water you've ever run into. And there's no access to it other than wood access, really. So there's no buildings or stores or no way that it would ever become polluted.

Vincent Santucci: 00:34:19 And then the other component is the human aspect, the human history aspects to the monument. Starting with Indigenous people up through more modern settlers and loggers and things like that. Can you provide us just a general overview of the human history related to Katahdin Woods and Waters?

Eric Henderickson: 00:34:44 I think that Molly Ross's explanation captured the first part of that pretty well. There's only stories about Native American use and there's no real research. A few artifacts have been found along the river, but there's never been any real research. And one of the things she said, that having a monument there would mean a laboratory for researchers to look into Native American artifacts. It plays a strong role because of its neighbor, Baxter, and Katahdin being important to the Native Americans. Native Americans interacted with the early surveyors. If it hadn't been for Native Americans, the survey in the 1890s, they would

have perished before they made it out, because they had run out of food, and luckily they ran into Native Americans fishing, and the Native Americans gave them food and so forth.

00:35:40 Those explorers came and documented the river at the time. Their purpose was to have lands associated with the Indians six miles on each side of the river. And that disappeared at around 1800. The second survey that was done was in 1825 give or take, and that was because in 1818 there were the articles of separation that separated Maine from Massachusetts. And so they drew a line across the state, called the Monument Line. The path would go right through the monument. The name causes a lot of confusion for folks. But what they did is everything north of that they divided 50/50. Massachusetts got half and Maine got half, and it was through that that all of a sudden the land grabs, and people bought whole townships, and sometimes the whole township would trade hands in three or four days multiple times.

00:36:46 And so the first settlers that were there were William Hunt and Hiram Dacey, who was his friend, purchased the township, which would've been the east side of the river from his brother. Younger brother actually, which I think is interesting, and came and settled in two of the places that the early survey mentioned. One was what would become Lunk Seals, and the other would become the Hunt Farm because they were both delta materials and very rich and so-called. Hiram Dacey built his home, the foundation is still there. And William Hunt built his home and then brought his family in there. His farm has since disappeared because of severe flooding and being on the delta, the sand washes away yearly and you can get back every year and the bank becomes less and less.

00:37:48 From that, those were the two hopping off spots to do logging on the [inaudible 00:37:54], which is the largest area that there is. And logging, they set up the logging in the 1880s. There was a tremendous, what they called a Maine Cyclone, that flattened the area the year that they did it. But it didn't deter the loggers. They spent a lot of money, a lot of dynamite, and a lot of manpower. They lost six men clearing [inaudible 00:38:18] and used over four times of dynamite. One of the things about the dynamite that's neat, you can still see rocks that were blasted together at some of the falls, and you can mentally place them together.

00:38:32 But then the next year there was a terrible forest fire that burned all the dams and [inaudible 00:38:38] that they'd built. That didn't deter them. They kept right on cutting as much timber as they could to get it out of there. And then in 1903 there was another tremendous wildfire, which really put logging—by the time they got that cleaned up, which would've been around 1914 or '15, they really—that ended logging. And then logging didn't reappear in the monument on the west side of the river until the 1950s. Then the 1950s, the trees had grown back enough, the soil had broken down enough for the Great Northern to start to log it again. And that brings us to today.

00:39:21 The other avenue that there is the Sportsman. It was the Era of Sportsman. It was a railroad station in a town called Davidson, which is just outside the monument. It's no longer there. It disappeared in the thirties, but it was a train station, the closest one. And then they had several farms between there and the Hunt Farm. People would come in, and several years it had the largest population of animals harvested in Maine, hunting. The last caribou herd in Maine came from there. They tried to re-introduce several times. Moving up river there was another camp. It was so important that it had its own post office. People would come there to stay for a month at a time. And during that period of time that [inaudible 00:40:19] people would come and stay. And then you move up further, there are bowling camps which are still there, but they started in the 1890s and did the same thing.

00:40:30 So between the lumbering and the recreational activity, and you also had the scientific explorations of early years, which is what a lot of them called it, so most of the information that's known are from your pictures. One of the ways we find many of the places, or found many of the places is we take an old photo [inaudible 00:40:53] Dam, and then we'd wander around until we could make all the rocks that were there to really match up in the picture, and then go looking for artifacts based on that. And generally, in most cases, we found most of the camps that way. We found where the old dams were and were able to follow the old roads. So that's it in a nutshell, very briefly, kind of a human history.

00:41:18 And then to add one little bit, in the thirties they wanted to make a national park out of it. Great Northern, which they owned maybe half the state of Maine at the time. They

didn't want it to happen. And it finally was resolved that it could happen as long as the National Park Service didn't have any rights to have the water from the land. So it failed. But had it happened, it would've been most of what Baxter is, most of what the national monument is, and part of the Allagash. So the lands have all been preserved now by different ways.

00:41:55 But out of that came Maine's attitude towards land, which is different than most people in the country. Mainers feel they have the right to go on any land that they want. It's presumed ownership. And until maybe 10 years ago, it was true. The Great Northern built campsites all across their land that anybody could use. And anybody wanted to go on the land could. And we've gone from industrial forests, most of the land is owned by paper companies to a investment forest, where most of it's owned by investors, and we're starting to gate up lands and people losing lands. So that attitude, it's a game-changer. Some of the older folks still have that. You hear people say, "The government has no right to be on that land because it belongs to us". What we don't realize is that it belongs to somebody else, and if it hadn't become a national monument we really don't know what would've happened, but the owner could have done pretty much anything that they wanted to with it.

Vincent Santucci: 00:43:03 Are you able to share with us any thoughts about the relationship between Baxter State Park and the new monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:43:16 I've gone to the advisory meetings at Baxter. I'm a long-time volunteer. I know them very closely. Baxter sees them as a neighbor. Some of the things that they have, they're a little bit distressed at. They're working closely with one another. One of the neat things is Friends of Baxter have a conservation crew that does trail work. They now share that with the monument. So that's a good first step.

00:43:53 Part of my dream, which comes out of Baxter and also comes out of the monument, is that Baxter has a large trail-less area. And that trail-less area abuts the monument. So there's very little effort that the monument could have a large trail-less area, and the combination of the two, with exception of one little plot in the middle that the state has, could very easily become the largest trail-less area in each within this area. And I think that would be a tremendous benefit.

	00:44:26	There's some things that they don't like and complain about it. I think some of it came out of politics, some of it didn't. There was a guy named head of conservation who was also head of Baxter, that cut a road into the public lot because it was [inaudible 00:44:45] state it needed to be cut, and then wrote them a letter out of Baxter that said that the monument had been in the viewership because of this deal that was being passed. So, it didn't make much sense.
	00:44:51	The new superintendent, I don't know what he'll be like, but the older one got along pretty well with the director -- the superintendent of Baxter. I think that with time, I think it's Canyonlands and Deadhorse State Park, there are a lot of places where state parks and national parks and national monuments get along well together. And I think that the same thing happens, Baskahegan owns land and became one of the first big supporters of a forest owner that is in support, and his attitude was they own the land, they can do what they want. We own our land, we can do what we want. And it's just like in a neighborhood, "I cut my lawn, my next-door neighbor cuts his, and we live together peacefully." There are always going to be squabbles and things we don't like, but I think that things have improved an awful lot since the beginning.
Vincent Santucci:	00:45:59	Very good. Let's see. I wanted to go back—Oh, did you want to say something else?
Eric Henderickson:	00:46:08	Yeah. One of the things that Baxter was really worried about in the beginning was because it was federal government and the positions paid perhaps more than what the state government did, the federal government would take all of the good rangers from Baxter and siphon off all their good people. I think what they're realizing now, that that's not the way national parks work, and they get along well. So I think that's a big plus. I just think it takes time.
Vincent Santucci:	00:46:42	Very good. So the National Park Service has been managing the monument for a little over five years. How do you think the park service has done? What have been some of the best things and what are some of the things that need some work?
Eric Henderickson:	00:47:03	One of the things that's worked well for me is that Tim Hudson, he is the superintendent, we [inaudible 00:47:12] and we use In-Reach a lot. And so he knows we liked to wander, and we became real good friends because I

wandered in places that he couldn't visit. And so he's taken the time to explain things [inaudible 00:47:27] the park. In the beginning I thought, well, things are really working slowly until I realized all the paperwork that has to go through and so forth. So, I think they've done a tremendous job. He always had a game plan and anything I'd ever bring up, he'd say, "Well, that could happen, but it's not a high priority right now," and he would take the time to explain why it wasn't a high priority.

00:47:51 I've heard him tell that to a lot of people. People don't realize that this is northern Maine, and all the time he gets asked for somebody to help him down there. Somebody from way wants to come up in mid-April and go visit. Well, they don't realize that there's still four feet of snow on the ground in mid-April. So that's a difficult one for him.

00:48:15 Several times he asked me to look at questions that people had offered to the park, because they wanted to make a donation, and in most cases they weren't things that were realistic. I think he's had a really good rapport with the [inaudible 00:48:36] Museum, which is one of their contact stations. The only thing that I find distressful is I don't think there's a real good working relationship between the national park and the Friends of Woods and Water. I don't think that they have a lot of input into some of the things that are done, the national park doesn't. So sometimes things are done in ways that I don't necessarily match up with what or how the national park service would've done things. That's just my opinion though.

Vincent Santucci: 00:49:16 In your email, you had indicated that you had gone back to revisit one of the fossil sites and you would share more when we chatted. Are you able to elaborate?

Eric Henderickson: 00:49:28 Yeah. My wife is about as hardcore as I am, so she doesn't mind wandering to the woods. So yesterday we paddled up the river. We were at the bottom there, I think around 7:30. We wandered straight up. We didn't take the road because we didn't really want to see the long brook. She's been there before. So we went straight up and we wandered and did circles through the thing. We [inaudible 00:49:51], took a few pictures there, and then we wandered through the woods looking for cave features. We weren't really looking for fossils, we were looking for cave features.

00:49:59 The only fossils that we could find, we did find a number of cracks in the forest floor. We found a couple of caves, some outcrops. The only thing that we could find in any of the outcrops, not knowing a lot about what we were looking for, we seemed to find pieces of crinite stems, both cross-sectioned and lengthwise. Coming out, we spent quite a bit of time on the parcel that's not too far from the end of that [inaudible 00:50:33]. We wandered that. To me, that looks more like giant pieces of rock that came from someplace else. It's more – it appears more boulders, giant boulders than it does a bedrock. But then again, didn't study it. Those are very pronounced. It also had a lot of crinoids in them.

00:50:59 The other thing that we found, which was kind of interesting, and one of the [inaudible 00:51:03] we found had some very small scallops, which indicated that it was a pretty rapid flow of water going through it, which was kind of neat. I don't know if you know what scallops are, little markings in the rock, [inaudible 00:51:16] markings. We finally got back to [inaudible 00:51:23] and got to [inaudible 00:51:23] around 5:00. It'd been a long day exploring the woods, and had a pretty good picture of more outcrops than we'd found before, and a little better picture of the terrain that's there.

00:51:37 I think if somebody were to have a little bit more knowledge about fossils and what to look at, they would be able to find some more information because it's kind of a dome-shaped thing. We were on the - to the west part, which is the, in my opinion, most pronounced and best example. And it goes probably for perhaps 200 meters to the east and perhaps 300 meters to the south. And then I don't know how far back it went, because there were no outcrops going back. So it's a pretty sizable expanse of forest. It's on the north end with the Hemlock Forest, which is very, very acidic and has very little undergrowth in it. The further south you go, until you walk off into the limestone, into a swamp.

00:52:35 So that's pretty much what we found. We found some things that we found very interesting, took some pictures, but the only thing we could find of anything interesting in the way of fossils, because of our lack of ability to look for them, was the crinoids.

Vincent Santucci: 00:52:55 Are those photos you can share with us and are there associated GPS points with those?

Eric Henderickson: 00:53:00 I geotag all my photos so, yeah, they're pretty easy to find. Most of them are within, that we took of interest, are within a hundred feet of where we were, except the ones down [inaudible 00:53:18]. But I can send those photos and the coordinates to you in two batches. Yep.

Vincent Santucci: 00:53:23 Appreciate that. Thank you. So your response made me think that I should ask you a question. What is your general view about cave and karst in the monument?

Eric Henderickson: 00:53:41 The top is not limestone, the bottom felt limestone. The only limestone really that's there of any quality is the Owen Brook. The rest of it's pretty much sandstone. When you look at caves, there are a couple of ways you look at them. There are some pretty good-sized palace caves within the monument. And one of the interesting things about the palace caves in the northern section, which would be along Go Fish up to [inaudible 00:54:14] and that series of mountains are that they have little speleothems that are—so the speleothems are maybe – a long one would be an inch, but they're through there. So [inaudible 00:54:27] that happens is something other than in limestone. That's kind of interesting.

00:54:36 The southern part of the monument has some pretty good-sized, what's called Lookout Ledge, which is a ledge behind, or that overlooks the [inaudible 00:54:48] Valley, has some pretty good-sized palace caves. We found those one year following bear tracks in fall, to see where he was going in the snow. What that shows to me obviously, is the [inaudible 00:55:01] over the ridge, and ripped the top of the ridge over and just folded it down the other side. So it would never be a paving destination, but there's enough there to warrant interest. I think that the limestone deposit has the ability to have more. It's just a matter of finding it. We found a couple of sinks, which indicates that something has collapsed underneath. We didn't do any digging or anything.

00:55:31 Not a lot of cars. It's much larger than I thought it was in the beginning, but not as large as we had hoped for when we first read the report.

Vincent Santucci: 00:55:44 Very good.

Eric Henderickson: 00:55:45 And the, going into the history of that [inaudible 00:55:49] limestone, the Great Northern surveyors, foresters were always booking things to help the mill. And one of the things that they used was limestone, a lot of it. And they got it from southern Maine and had to truck it up, so that they found a big chunk of limestone on the [inaudible 00:56:07] piece of float. And they knew that it had to come from somewhere. So they hoped that there'd be a deposit, and eventually they did find a deposit, but they found at the same time that the paper-making process changed and went to chemicals, away from limestone, through a sulfite process. So the limestone wasn't of value. They looked at it economically for farms and it was determined that it was quality enough for that. And then World War II happened and no more use for that type of limestone, and most of the limestone now comes from up where we live.

Vincent Santucci: 00:56:47 All right. I have one other question. We had spoke a little bit when we were together in Maine about aircraft crashes on the monument, and the one I'm particularly interested in is the one that is the World War II period plane crash. Can you provide us some information about that?

Eric Henderickson: 00:57:07 Yep. Well, it was in the 1950s, a 1950 crash, but the plane was older and had been damaged in the war, and it was flying back from Montreal to Shearwater. [inaudible 00:57:23], the area of Dartmouth, and he'd flown to Quebec City, put on an aerial show for anybody that wanted to watch, and used up a little too much fuel, and then got caught in a storm. And the only evidence that there was about the plane was a guy named Austin Brown, was a watchman at Basye Mountain, and he said that late at night he heard this plane fly by several times and that the plane was--it was a heavily clouded night so it was obviously lost. And then it came down at a high angle. The plane crash itself was discovered in the 1980s by two foresters. Mark DeWolf had looked for it for a number of times. We looked for it a number of times, and all we had was the dot on a map.

00:58:18 And so what we did was set up a search and rescue grid. And on the third quadrant of the grid, we happened to find it. It's terribly thick grove. Typical of all good crashes, it's in a swamp and very difficult to get to. So they didn't have to log it. They kind of avoided the area. So there was really no reason to go back there. The impact was very, very steep. They never did find a pilot, but they found the

parachute buckles and parts, which indicated that he did not bail out.

00:58:57 The impact crater is probably eight or nine feet deep and probably 75 feet across. And then the west, about 50 yards out of the pieces of plane, wing pieces, the cockpit, piece of fuselage, other pieces. Within the crater itself is the propeller sits straight out of the center of it. It was in 1980, they put a memorial there. The memorial is kind of still there, but the obvious damage has been to the plane is damage from bears. There are claw marks on the wings. There's claw marks all around. So it's a very well-preserved and there are no trails to it. There's not a lot of access to it. It's just one of those places that makes it kind of special and nobody has ruined it yet.

Vincent Santucci: 00:59:59 So, it's more of a Cold War period as opposed to World War II?

Eric Henderickson: 01:00:09 It started out World War II, went Korean War, which is Cold War, and then it's been damaged in all the wars. It came back, it was a Sea Fury, and they were getting ready to use it again for a Cold War plane, and it just didn't make it to the airport.

01:00:33 The only one that's true World War was early in, I think maybe '43, '44. There's one right next door in Baxter State Park that they were offline and thought that they were away from the mountains and still waiting to get to the summit of a mountain. And the plane was, again, it's one of those mountains that they don't have a trail to. So, it's a plane that pretty much the whole thing is there,; cockpit, wings, radios, everything is right there. And the men died and were never found.

Vincent Santucci: 01:01:12 Very good. Justin, was there anything that you wanted to ask?

Justin Tweet: 01:01:21 Yes. I was interested in some of your knowledge about the historical geological work that had gone on. For example, when I had sent out the original discussion of places that we would like to see, I would bring up Peaked Mountain, where Jackson and Hitchcock had seen corals and you would say, "Oh yeah, I've been there. I haven't seen the corals and things like that." I just wondered if you could talk a little bit about that.

Eric Henderickson: 01:01:45 Well, a lot of that is—part of those early reports led to things, that some are there, and some aren't. There was one early report that talked about a boulder that was 200 feet by 50 feet by 30 feet high. And we have yet to find that. Probably, the most interesting, or two that I find very interesting is Newman and Company. Part of that is because my neighbor down the road here was a geologist for that area and was one of Newman's assistants, and Caldwell's assistants, so did a tremendous amount of work there. And then the other one, because I really like geomorphology, was [inaudible 01:02:31] and Hook's papers. That's a little more—they've all passed away now but his work, I think has corrected some things. Newman had fossil sites listed in his. We tried to visit some of them and have visited many of them.

01:02:51 Some of the earlier reports, they weren't geology from the original surveyors. The copy of the original survey, which includes some geology, was in the Maine State Library, and it just happened to be online. So it's kind of interesting reading some of their observations. And that's where they called it Staircase Falls instead of what Stair Falls is called now. One of the older reports talked about finding a trilobite. We hunted and hunted and hunted, never found a trilobite, but we did find some really beautiful ripple marks in the rocks, which I was pretty fascinated by.

01:03:33 We tried to go again, because where we live in northern Maine, there are a lot of corals. So I know what those are and know what I'm looking for. We tried again to go to Peaked Mountain, but got shot out by high water. And we will go back there again, probably next year. Next year a little bit more maneuverable and we can take bicycles at Charlie's Road to where they redo the bridge, because it's a pretty mountain. It's got a lot of open legs. It's tilted, really.

01:04:06 Probably, the other two places which I find fascinating is Davis Gorge, which is opposite of Peaked Mountain. It's a gorge in the river that cuts probably 50, 75 feet deep and about 20, 30 feet wide, and it's all rock. And then I still think that the visitor center that the ledges that they cut are not too far from a place where they found graptolites in the southwest corners of the monument. Yeah. And it surprised me, the fact that it wasn't granite. I think that was the biggest eyeopener. I thought that the whole part of that southern part of the park was going to be granite, and it wasn't. They used very little explosives. They used a

bulldozer with a giant claw to get the ledge out. So, fresh ledge after it gets a few rainstorms on it is a good place to look for stuff.

Justin Tweet: 01:05:13 Newman mapped that area in the [inaudible 01:05:16] Formation, which is primarily a slate unit. A lot of the formation identifications were kind of tentative because of the difficulties in finding good comparative outcrops elsewhere in the region, and all the faults and things.

Eric Henderickson: 01:05:35 Oh, there are. There are. One of the things was, I've read most of the old reports, the geology reports. It was kind of interesting because they made old roads. Old roads were made well and are still easily identified. The ones that were made in the 1800s, they're still easily identified. We happened to find one yesterday that wasn't too far from the limestone deposit. And it was probably 12 feet wide at most, which it indicated wagon. And it had big berms on both sides, which indicated it was a winter road that they iced. So those old roads are pretty easy to identify. It's right down and it still had a gravel floor on it, so it hadn't gone in from the forest stuff.

Justin Tweet: 01:06:35 I will be very interested to hear if you do come across the corals on Peaked Mountain. I kind of suspect that Jackson, who made the original report, might've been playing up the limestone presence to get people interested in the area.

Eric Henderickson: 01:06:51 Maybe. We have what's out there, you know Carys Mills Formation, which is, looks a lot like coral, except it just basically implode white and black dark rock. In the original reports it was called corals, but now it's just a low-grade limestone. But where we are, further north of that, there are a couple of cuts in the river that have large corals in them, which are very nice. And then Nylander, I can't think of what his first name was, but Nylander collected a lot of them, and he collected a tremendous number of fossils and has a museum in Caribou, where most of them are still there.

Justin Tweet: 01:07:46 I have a devil of a time actually finding the specimens that Clark had described from—he named another trilobite from it was Cunningham's camp at that point. And it had gone to the New York State Museum. And I had one catalog number from the forties, but it must've been incorrect at the time because they had completely switched over their catalog format. And I'd been in communication with

somebody at the museum, and they couldn't find it and they couldn't find it. And finally they found it, which was nice. But they had this very kind of an odd cataloging system back around the turn of the century. Kind of comparable to the Dewey Decimal system. And you could see how it would not work for an expanding collection. But I'm glad we found this thing [inaudible 01:08:40] specimen of a trilobite.

Eric Henderickson: 01:08:42 Yeah. One thing that I did do, at your suggestion, and James Niemann's suggestion, is we went around the house there and collected up all the stuff that we had used. I had a sticker, a hat, several shirts, a poster: Maine Woods National Park, which was the first name, and then several of the "Yes National Parks" when they were promoting national parks. And then we had a shirt that'd never been worn for the Park-to-Park line from Arcadia to Patton, to promote the national park in the early years. I think that was maybe '14 or something like that.

01:09:29 And then [inaudible 01:09:31] one was we had hats, three hats. Each one of them had a different logo on them. One was Maine Woods National Park and it had a man in it. And then there was a Maine Woods National Monument that had a woman in it. And then there was Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument that had - the woman had changed slightly to look more Native American. It was kind of interesting, they used the same basic logo and just changed minor things in it over the years. The hat was the same color – the same color, same weight and everything. We collected all that gave it to Isabel, so they've got some junk to it (laugh).

Vincent Santucci: 01:10:22 Any other questions, Justin?

Justin Tweet: 01:10:26 Nope. I got the ones that I wanted to get in. Thank you very much for asking.

Vincent Santucci: 01:10:33 Yeah, those are good questions. Thank you. So, Eric, is there anything that you wanted to share with us that we didn't ask you specifically?

Eric Henderickson: 01:10:46 No, I don't think so. Tim has been real helpful to me in understanding the process of who he's going to hire, the order he hired them and why, and therefore, and so I have a pretty good picture in my mind of where the park is headed. Some of the things I don't like, I think I told you the main

thing I didn't like, I think that the National Park Service should have inputted everything that happens within that, and they don't. I find that very, very unsettling, I guess, with that because there were some things that were done that--but if they get turned over to the national park, it's their responsibility and so they have to clean up somebody else's mess, which isn't really right. That's my only thing. And I don't think that there's anything that Tim could have done about it, or Isabel now, or whoever is the new person.

01:11:49 But I don't know. I think they're doing a good job. They've done a really quick job. They've spent a lot of time on the boys parcel. I think the roads are [inaudible 01:12:04] pretty much anywhere in there. The hiking trails are nice. They've cleaned them up. They put real bridges in everywhere so the beavers can't block them. They've done a real nice job in the north section. They've even improved since you were there. All the quarters, trails, and everything, and the trails are starting to work on. And the next one that they'll have to attack is a loop. And I think the loop is partially the people that visit it are city folks that perhaps don't drive the correct speed on dirt roads which leads to some complaints, but that will resolve itself. You know as well as I do, when we went to Fossil Butte, that was probably the worst road we'd ever driven on, the one that takes you up the plateau and back there. But it was worth it and I'd do it again, even if it was all washboard.

Vincent Santucci: 01:13:01 Well, Justin and myself want to thank you for everything. The communication before our travel to Maine, the time you spent with us in the field was really enjoyable. We learned a lot from you and we're inspired by your passion and understanding of the resource, and for today joining us in this interview. So, we hope to continue to communicate with you and we'll certainly keep you informed of where this paleontological inventory goes for Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

Eric Henderickson: 01:13:37 Well, thank you. I appreciate your time, and I appreciate what you do for everybody. It's really kind of nice. I guess I looked at it as education for me and a better understanding of the park and appreciation of it.

Vincent Santucci: 01:13:52 It's nice to have people like you out there and thanks for all you do.

Eric Henderickson: 01:13:57 Sure. I appreciate that. It always makes you feel better.

Vincent Santucci:	01:14:04	Well, you have a great day and we'll look forward to getting back in touch with you soon.
Eric Henderickson:	01:14:09	Yeah, very good. I'll send you some pictures.
Vincent Santucci:	01:14:13	Thank you.
Eric Henderickson:	01:14:13	All right, thank you.
Vincent Santucci:	01:14:14	Thanks, Justin. Bye-Bye.
Eric Henderickson:	01:14:16	Bye.

[END OF INTERVIEW]