



Maine Homeland Securityⁱ

While canoeing and kayaking in northern Maine, we stopped along the river to look at an old hunting cabin. When you first approach the camp you see a large "No Trespassing Sign" on the door. Next your eyes spot the padlock. After a closer inspection, you see a key to the left of the padlock!

In days of yesteryear, Mainers left their hunting camps open for emergency use. Today an open camp is often an invitation for destruction. The message of a *No Trespassing sign, padlock* and *key* continues the tradition of Maine hospitality and emergency help.

The above photo and brief are a result of a September canoe trek in the Mt Katahdin area of Maine. Tim, my son and fellow outdoor enthusiast, affectionately gave the scene its caption of, "**Maine Homeland Security.**" The picture is unique, in my opinion, because at first glance you see only the large "No Trespassing" sign and padlock. A second glance, or after being told, "Look at it again, what do you see", reveals the key.

ⁱ Published February 2006, **Mountain Passages**, The Newsletter of the New Hampshire Chapter of the Appalachian Mountain Club, Vol 32 #2. Photo and text by Stephen L. Priest.