



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Spring 2016
Volume 21 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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SUPPORTING ACADIA'S VOLUNTEERS

When Friends of Acadia received an invitation this winter to testify as part of a hearing of the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources to discuss funding ideas for the National Park Service at the launch of its second century, we were honored to accept. As I sweated through one cancelled flight out of Bangor and then a lengthy de-icing on the runway as I worked on my testimony, the fiscal challenges facing Acadia were foremost on my mind.

The annual appropriation from Congress to support Acadia's operations has remained flat over the last ten years—translating to a 10% decrease of buying power in today's dollars—despite ever-growing visitation and demands on the park. The ability for park staff to actually budget and plan for the coming year has been severely challenged by Washington's tendency to patch one temporary budget resolution onto another year after year. What could I say in my five minutes (and not a second more) of testimony to convey the importance of federal funding for Acadia amidst the \$1.1 trillion federal budget bill?

While I came ready with facts and figures—and examples of how our private donors were particularly motivated by seeing their gifts matched and leveraged with public dollars—I was surprised that committee members had another topic on their minds: the role of volunteers in parks. What was FOA's experience with volunteers? What motivated them? How could we do more to attract and retain them?

Looking back now, I realize I should not have been surprised. While one tends to fall back on dollars and cents to describe the impact of FOA, the contributions of our citizen volunteers are in fact the heart and soul of our organization and the very reason why FOA was formed thirty years ago. The volunteer program at Acadia is recognized nationally as a model partnership between a national agency and the local community. The willingness of many hundreds of



FOA

people to contribute their time, talent, enthusiasm, and ideas each year has enriched Acadia in ways impossible to capture on the balance sheet.

As you read through this issue of the *Journal*, you will find volunteers interwoven through practically every story we tell: planning the Acadia Centennial and recruiting community partners; surveying visitors for their feedback about their experience during September's car-free morning at Acadia; grooming Acadia's carriage roads for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing; helping to re-claim scenic vistas throughout Acadia's motor road and carriage road network; maintaining the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

Behind each of these projects are people who are inspired by Acadia. Many are aware of the extraordinary foresight and generosity that went into setting these lands aside for public enjoyment one hundred years ago, and many are proud to be part of a tradition of dedication and hard work that has maintained and enhanced the park in the decades since then. I suspect that most feel a pride of ownership of this public land—their land—as well as a desire to give back to a place that has enriched their lives, as part of a commitment to ensure Acadia continues to thrive as a place that future gener-

ations will enjoy for its next hundred years and hopefully well beyond.

Of course, it takes financial resources to support and supply volunteers, and allow them to maximize their impact—and even then, volunteer programs should never replace the fundamental responsibility of Congress to provide adequate funding for our national parks. This was part of my reply to Chairman Bishop and his fellow committee members during the hearing: that FOA is proud to continue the long tradition of philanthropy and volunteerism at Acadia, but that it requires a continued investment by Congress in order to succeed.

Since then, the federal funding picture for Acadia has actually brightened (though we are not so naïve to credit FOA's testimony for the progress!). Congress and the White House agreed on an FY2016 budget that included modest increases for national park operating budgets and project-specific funding for the NPS centennial, as well as land acquisition funds directed to Acadia for the first time in many years. Maine's Congressional delegation deserves credit for its unwavering support for our park, and it is my hope that 2016 will bring even more reasons to grow the partnership to protect our beloved Acadia.

In the meantime, I know that with spring many FOA volunteers are glad to get back outside on Acadia's trails and carriage roads, in the Wild Gardens, and other areas where their effort makes such a critical difference for the park. If you see them, thank them for their work—and for inspiring so many of us to become involved in protecting Acadia! 🌲

—David R. MacDonald

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FEATURE ARTICLES

- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| 8 A Sense of Immensity | Ronald H. Epp |
| <i>A historical perspective on Acadia Transportation</i> | |
| 10 Immersion in the Landscape | Tom Blagden and Ken Olson |
| <i>A conversation about a new book on Acadia</i> | |
| 14 New Exhibits for a Changing Climate | Lynne Dominy |
| <i>Redesigning the Sieur de Monts Nature Center</i> | |
| 16 Celebrating Our Past and Inspiring Our Future! | Aimee Beal Church |
| <i>Top stories from the first months of the Acadia Centennial</i> | |
| 30 The Acadia Digital Quest and 100-Mile Challenge | Kerry Gallivan |
| <i>Using technology to connect kids and adults with nature</i> | |
| 32 Why I'm a Friend of Acadia | Tom Ayers |
| <i>Finding Depth in the Details</i> | |

ACTIVITIES AND DEPARTMENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1 President's Message | Supporting Acadia's Volunteers |
| 3 Superintendent's View | Envisioning the Next 100 Years |
| 5 Special Person | Betty Massie: Ambassador for Acadia |
| 7 Where in Acadia? | |
| 18 Development Notes | Celebrating the Annual Benefit's Loyal Auction Donors |
| 20 Updates | |
| 27 Recommended Reading | |
| 31 Chairman's Letter | 100 Years: Looking Back and Moving Forwards |



ENVISIONING THE NEXT 100 YEARS

As I write my first of many columns for the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, I am wrapping up my second week on the job as superintendent of Acadia National Park and Saint Croix Island International Historic Site. With 2016 marking the celebration of the Acadia Centennial and the centennial of the National Park Service, this is an incredibly exciting time to be coming to Acadia to serve as the park's fourteenth superintendent. At the same time, I am also humbled by the awesome responsibility that lies in front of me in protecting Acadia for current and future generations to enjoy.

I am grateful to those who have come before me and have built this very special place into what it is today, from George Dorr to Sheridan Steele. Acadia is equally fortunate for the generations of generous individuals who have also shaped this park. Thanks to private philanthropy, Acadia was established and cared for over the years. Today we are the envy of other parks because of our endowed trail and carriage road system. There is still much more to be done, and I look forward to working closely with Friends of Acadia to ensure that our tradition of philanthropy and our partnership only continue to grow.

Acadia's centennial celebration got off to a wonderful start with a traditional Maine baked bean supper in January, sponsored by the Mount Desert Island Historical Society. More than 400 people packed the MDI High School for beans and the unveiling of a film by Peter Logue about our Centennial. This was my first day on the job at Acadia, and what an incredible day it was! It was gratifying to see the community come out in such strong support for the park. Acadia is clearly inextricably linked to these communities, and the communities are likewise inextricably linked to the park.

Our centennial year also gives us the opportunity to reflect on the last 100 years of



Our centennial year also gives us the opportunity to reflect on the last 100 years of stewardship at Acadia, and envision what the next 100 years will look like. What was Acadia's founders' vision for the park? Have we preserved that vision? How has it changed? How will we continue to protect the fundamental resources and values that make Acadia so special today?

stewardship at Acadia, and envision what the next 100 years will look like. What was Acadia's founders' vision for the park? Have we preserved that vision? How has it changed? How will we continue to protect the fundamental resources and values that make Acadia so special today? I can assure you that I take very seriously our role of insuring that we do not compromise the very values for which Acadia was established.

This summer we're going to welcome nearly three million visitors to this incredible park for our 100th birthday. And if our visitation goes up another 10% as it did last year we may cross that 3 million mark. How are we going to serve the needs of these visitors? How will we deal with that many cars on a relatively small island? How are we going to insure that we don't compromise the values, resources, and experiences that they are coming to enjoy? In short, how do we insure that Acadia is protected for the next 100 years?

These are the kinds of questions that I am asking myself, our team of dedicated National Park Service employees, Friends of Acadia's outstanding staff, our partners, and our community members. They don't have easy answers!

We are currently in the beginnings of a transportation plan that will address many of these questions. The transportation plan will guide how visitors access Acadia in the future. This summer, we will release preliminary alternatives for public review and comment. We will need your feedback on those preliminary alternatives, as they will form the basis for ultimately developing our future management strategies.

I look forward to getting out into the park as much as possible over the course of the next year. I strongly believe being a visitor is crucial to my understanding of Acadia. With two small children, I know my wife, Cate, and I will be spending as much time as possible with our family hiking, biking, paddling, and exploring in the park. Between Acadia's Centennial and my first summer here, it will be a busy year, but I hope to share a trail with you, too! 🍌

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Schneider'.

—Kevin Schneider

A Picture (of Acadia) is Worth...



This is a photo of my daughter Alexa Chalnick climbing on Canada Cliffs behind Echo Lake Beach. The climb is called "Stone Cutter's Bible." I thought this would make a nice picture to help exemplify the diversity of activities a family can partake in at Acadia. She is 12 years

old in this photo. Alexa and my son Zachary are also featured on the cover of *Rock Friends of Acadia* by Ellen Dohman.

We are all proud members of Friends of Acadia!

—Randall Chalnick
Freehold, New Jersey



PAINTING IN PARADISE!

As a professional artist, one of my favorite places to paint is on Cadillac Mountain. The views are incredible and you meet some amazing people from all around the world as you work....GREAT FUN!!!

—Eric Fitzpatrick
Roanoke, Virginia

I have attached one of best pictures. It started off as an unusual blue frog in a western side marsh where he was hiding in some tall narrow leaf cat tails. The dark thin lines were not visible to my eyes as I crouched over him, the reflection is the thin leaf cat tails in the meniscus of the water next to

the vegetation and the frog. Look carefully and you can make out features such as curled tops or seed pods of other plants as the reflection follows the flow of the meniscus.

I sent this off to Cornell. The frog is a male American bull frog which change color during mating, but they have never seen anything like this.

—Erick Swanson
Mount Desert, Maine

[See the back cover for Erick's frog photo.]



The West Branch Times

This photo was shot on March 11 in West Branch, Iowa, the home of Iowa's only National Park, the Herbert Hoover National Historic Site. Herbert Hoover was born there in 1874 and was buried there in 1964. It's the site of the Herbert Hoover Presidential Library Museum.

Anyway, the young "ranger" pictured here is my granddaughter, Ellie Walsh-Blindt. To commemorate 2016 as the 100th anniversary of the NPS, she and her fourth-grade classmates at Hoover Elementary School each choose a national park to showcase in a gymnasium they filled with their homemade exhibits. Having been to Acadia many times during summer visits, Acadia was Ellie's choice. Her display included maps and photographs and hands-on "artifacts" such as starfish and lobster and crab shells. Dozens of kids learned about Acadia, perhaps because word spread quickly that she was giving those who stopped by her booth free lobster-shaped red gummy candies. Ellie, now 11, and her brother and sister will be back again in August. They especially love climbing the rocks along the rugged Schoodic shoreline.

—Tom Walsh
Gouldsboro, Maine

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Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.

The Journal is published three times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome. See <http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/>

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

EDITOR
Aimee Beal Church

DESIGN
Mahan Graphics

PHOTOGRAPHER AT LARGE
Tom Blagden

PRINTING
Penmor Lithographers

PUBLISHER
David R. MacDonald



Forest in the morning mist, Acadia Mountain
Cover photo by Tom Blagden
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BETTY MASSIE: AMBASSADOR FOR ACADIA

It's wonderful to know a person who thanks Mr. Rockefeller quietly every morning as she takes her dog on a walk on the carriage roads. Betty Massie and Maxwell, her Australian shepherd, can be found most mornings at Little Long Pond or along a park carriage road or trail. But Betty is special to Friends of Acadia not only because of her gratitude to Acadia's founders—she is also a stellar advocate, volunteer, and ambassador.

Betty has had many roles as a volunteer. As a member of the Footloose Friends hiking group, she has raked leaves from the carriage road ditches on Take Pride in Acadia Day, contributing greatly to the camaraderie of friends giving back to the park. She is dedicated to the FOA Earth Day Road Side Cleanup, believing that good citizenship and stewardship of our land is contagious. She makes a practice to pick up trash wherever she is in the world, including the Galapagos Islands or Texas where she was born and raised and continues to visit family. Betty has a significant interest in gardening and represents the Bar Harbor Garden Club as liaison to the Wild Gardens of Acadia, where she also volunteers. Additionally she represents the Bar Harbor Garden Club serving on the board of the Beatrix Farrand Society. Another garden that benefits from her volunteer energy is the Seaside Garden at College of the Atlantic. In her spare time she maintains her own garden of mostly ferns and mosses with some perennials.

Betty started visiting Mount Desert Island in 1982 with her late husband, David Towle, who was a primary investigator at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory. In 1992, the couple bought property



Betty Massie and Maxwell enjoy a peaceful morning at Sieur de Monts.

here and little by little started building their home. They became full-time residents in 2001 and for six years traveled to many foreign locations where David consulted with biological research laboratories. When it became time to stay locally she was hired by Mount Desert Island Hospital Behavioral Health Center and she returned to work as a clinical psychologist, a career of 35-plus years. She retired in 2013 after working at the hospital for five years.

For the last two years, Betty has been an invaluable community ambassador for the Acadia National Park Centennial. So much community engagement around Acadia

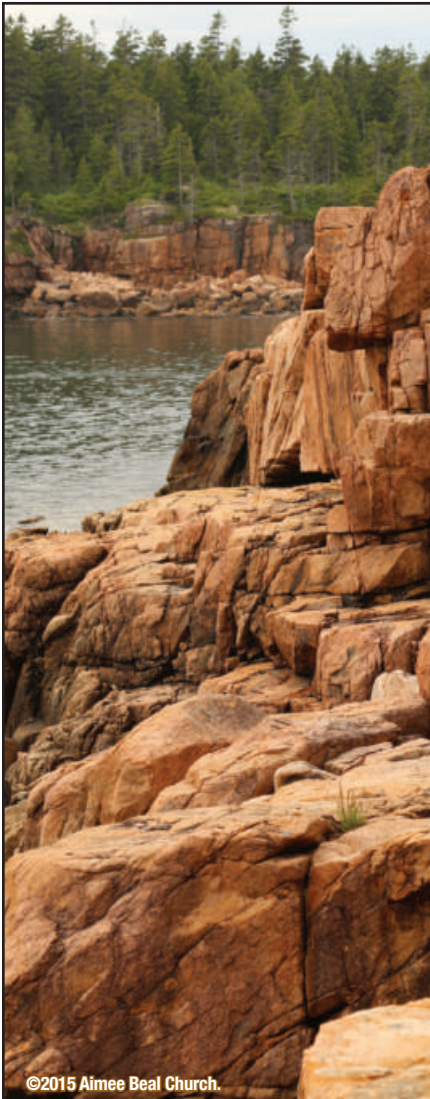
happens through serendipitous, unanticipated interactions while hiking, at the grocery store or at community events. Betty and Acadia Centennial Task Force co-chair Cookie Horner happened to be on the same Mount Desert Island Historical Society Field Trip to Placentia Island, where they talked about the centennial. Betty's interest in participating in the planning and production of this celebration became obvious. This chance conversation led to a breakfast meeting with Cookie and her co-chair, Jack Russell, and from this meeting the centennial ambassadors program was hatched.

In her role as centennial ambassador Betty has reached out in person or by mail to many businesses, organizations, and individuals in Bar Harbor, Trenton, and Ellsworth, encouraging them to join in celebrating the Acadia Centennial by planning a program or event, making a financial or in-kind contribution, or selling Centennial products with a portion of the proceeds benefiting the park. "So many partnership applications for the Centennial can be attributed to Betty's outreach," said Cook-

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

ie Horner. "Not only has she brought us a broad representation of partners, but she also connected in person with businesses who then decided to become signature sponsors or larger donors to the centennial." Betty herself has invested in the centennial and is one of more than 350 Acadia Centennial Partners.

Betty also holds a special role in connecting visitors to the park through her own business, MDI Tours, a company that provides tours and tour planning for visitors who come from out of state on coaches. Betty annually conducts approximately 50 bus tours of the park for her own business



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as well as for the cruise ship passengers who arrive in Bar Harbor. She does much of the research and writing of the guide training materials telling the story of our beautiful island and Acadia National Park. An extension of this research and writing is her "Self-Guided Walking Tour of Historic Bar Harbor," a booklet in its second printing that will be available at Sherman's and other gift shops beginning in April. Her goal is to be an inviting emissary for the Mount Desert Island region and to present factual and interesting information to visitors about the dynamic story of the development of our island and Acadia National Park. Even working as a tour guide for 13 years, she knows that "we never know it all" and continues to learn about the island and Acadia National Park.

When asked why she enjoys volunteering to benefit Acadia, Betty responded that her connection with the park is spiritual—that volunteerism is an expression of her sense of meaning and the need to take care

of the planet. She added that she treasures living in a community that shares the same connection to the park. Betty is exactly the kind of tour guide we need—someone to share her passion for and knowledge of Acadia, to encourage others to join in protecting it, and hopefully to take these values back to their home communities.

Betty's hope for the Acadia Centennial is that everyone will enjoy the celebration and will become inspired to contribute to the stewardship of the park and the planet beyond. Betty herself will not be at many of the centennial events this summer as her son and daughter-in-law in Illinois are expecting their first child and she will be spending much of the summer there caring for her new granddaughter. All of us at Friends of Acadia thank Betty for her many contributions to the Acadia Centennial, the Wild Gardens, and more. We think Maxwell is a pretty lucky dog to be able to enjoy the park with her. 🐾

Friends of Acadia 2016 Centennial Calendar

Please join us at one or more events this year to honor the Acadia Centennial! Visit friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/events/ for event details

Acadia Centennial Quest Ongoing through November 12
Celebrating Acadia's 100-year history and inspiring its future

National Trails Day in Acadia Saturday June 4
With an appearance by Acadia's Poet Laureate and trail crew supervisor Christian Barter

Wild Gardens of Acadia Benefit Plant Sale Saturday June 11
Supporting a unique educational resource with ties to Acadia's horticultural past

Acadia Day at Fenway Sunday June 19
For kids, families, and everyone! Ride the L.L.Bean Fenway Express or join us in Boston to watch the Red Sox and celebrate two great parks

FOA Annual Meeting & Acadia's 100th Birthday Friday July 8
Featuring David MacDonald's contribution to the Acadia Centennial Lecture Series on conservation in the 21st century

Annual Benefit Saturday August 13
Supporting all of our work to benefit Acadia

Take Pride in Acadia Day Saturday November 5
Give Acadia a big birthday present—volunteer!

Plus, visit the Acadia Centennial event calendar for many, many more opportunities to celebrate and deepen your relationship with this remarkable place:
www.acadiacentennial2016.org



Where in Acadia? In this Acadia Centennial year, we celebrate Acadia's past and the myriad contributions of those who have loved this place over the years. Acadia National Park protects a magnificent coastal landscape, but it's the interplay of natural and human-built features that gives the park its matchless character. The slice of Acadia pictured here is just one of those built features—how does it “speak to nature” for you?

If you think you can identify this Acadia structure, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory about it. Extra credit: which Acadia founder is associated with this place? We'll print our favorite response in the next issue of the *Journal* and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writer.

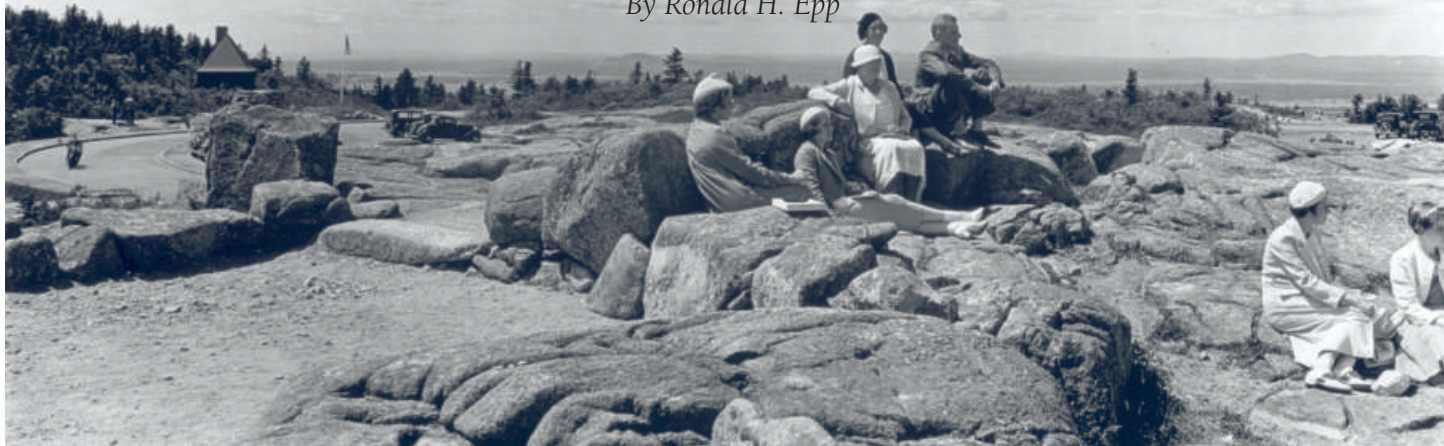


Winter 2015 Where in Acadia?

This peaceful stretch of carriage road proved to be a stumper! Photographer Charlie Jacobi, visitor use specialist at the park, identifies it as the Day Mountain carriage road—just before it executes a hairpin curve in its final loop to the summit. We did not receive any correct guesses so we turned to Lisa Horsch Clark, Friends of Acadia's director of development and donor relations, for a special memory of the place: “Almost ten years ago I planned a horse-and-carriage outing with Maura and Bill Benjamin and longtime ANP roads foreman Merle Cousins, for a picnic atop Day Mountain. I felt like a true rusticator enjoying the relaxed pace of yesteryear. The day was glorious, the picnic was delicious, and the day—even now!—remains one of my top ten memories in Acadia.”

A SENSE OF IMMENSITY

By Ronald H. Epp



As automobiles, trucks, RVs, motorcycles, and buses head up the Cadillac Summit Road during peak season, their drivers and passengers appear unconcerned about the much-publicized traffic congestion atop the mountain. Maybe they expect that once the lot is full they can just park along the summit road and walk on the shoulder to their destination.

The effort of National Park Service founders to attract visitors to Acadia has incrementally led to a visitation explosion that threatens the scenery, flora, and fauna that all of the parks were established to protect. Yet the Cadillac summit capacity issue had been recognized even prior to the dedication of the historic motor road. After securing national park status in 1919, park managers intensified their discussions about replacing a washed-out carriage road leading to the summit of that preeminent mountain top, acquired in 1908 by the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, with an engineered motor road.

In 1922 park superintendent George Bucknam Dorr proposed to his NPS superiors a circuitous summit road. Although John D. Rockefeller Jr. became his ally in the larger effort to develop a comprehensive motor road system, in the decade leading to the FDR administration controversies arose about extension of both

motor and carriage road systems. There were highly public reactions to expanding private and public access to parkland. The primitivist philosophy of U.S. Senator George W. Pepper of Pennsylvania strained public credulity when he said that visitor experience atop Cadillac would be marred by the sight of any vehicle not there when Champlain discovered the island!

Fidelity to unaltered landscape, roadway intrusion into wild lands, growth of the federal footprint on the island topography, and landscape damage from overuse became recurring subjects of debate. Yet it is notable that NPS landscape architect Charles Peterson complained to his superiors in early 1931 about inadequate summit parking, recommending its expansion *prior* to the road opening.

In his October 1931 site visit report to NPS director Stephen Mather, the assistant director, Horace M. Albright, “contemplated additional parking space inside the turn-around loop...for about 65 cars, as well as an extension...just below the loop for about twenty more.” He was the first to recognize that the “surprising number of visitors” raised concerns “that this parking space will be enough.” The size of the parking lot footprint was judged inadequate eighty-four years ago. Today some still call for parking lot expansion, although the park’s management plan

won’t allow it.

Congress appropriated summit road funds in 1924, yet work on the winding, 3.7-mile, 22-foot-wide road was largely confined to the three years after 1929. As early as October 1930 the first auto trip to the summit was completed.

As the country weathered the first years of the Great Depression and road work progressed, Mainers were convinced that this road would become the greatest attraction of the state: a scenic parkway to the highest point on the Atlantic coast between Labrador and Brazil.

Dorr’s unpublished memoirs reveal his preference for a more costly summit route “out over the eastern spur, the White Cap, with its bold outlook over Eagle Lake and the magnificent sunset views...arousing a sense of immensity few island scenes can equal.” The gentleman who had climbed the tallest mountain in the United Kingdom, the highest peak east of the Mississippi (6,684-foot Mt. Mitchell), and 14,454-foot Mount Whitney was nonetheless awed by the Cadillac Summit. A less expensive route was chosen and finally inspected by Interior Secretary Ray Lyman Wilbur, whose visit was intended to ensure that all preparations were in place for the road’s highly publicized dedication.

Several weeks later, on July 23rd, 1932, surrounded by the press corps and film-

makers, Dorr was greeted atop Cadillac Mountain by spirited march music. Hundreds gathered there primarily to revel in the fine macadam underfoot. This pavement represented the unacknowledged contributions of day laborers, heavy equipment operators, stone masons, engineers, architects, and construction foremen.

The Bangor newspaper reported that “this wonderful scenic highway has come into being as a monument to the foresight and hard work of one man—George B. Dorr.” In point of fact, it was the eldest son of John D. Rockefeller Jr. who shared with Dorr the cutting of the white silk ribbon to officially signal the opening of the road. His father contributed to the dedication expenses but was prevented from participating due to a painful case of shingles.

The officials included the secretary of the Navy, Charles Francis Adams III, representing the Hoover administration, and Joseph W. Dixon, a Progressive Montana governor and former Bull Mooser who was first assistant secretary of the Department of the Interior. Thirty-seven naval officers from vessels moored in Frenchman Bay, the governors of Maine and Rhode Island, and numerous United States senators and representatives were also present. The presence of hundreds of other prominent individuals from island towns and beyond displaced any thought that this was exclusively a Bar Harbor festivity.

Quickly rain and fog enveloped those on the summit. A torrential downpour prompted the master of ceremonies, Judge Luere Deasy, to relocate the program to the Malvern Hotel where Charles Francis Adams III spoke to those present about an emotional incident fifteen years earlier, when he had stood with Dorr on Schooner Head and heard his friend expand at length on what the park should become. Over and over again speakers affirmed that the Cadillac Summit Road would make the park’s natural wonders more accessible to the public.

John E. Nelson, who had succeeded John A. Peters in the US House of Representatives, likened Dorr to the first director of the NPS, Stephen Tyng Mather, who had recently passed away. Peters declared that what Mather had been to the National Park Service so was Dorr to Acadia

National Park. Secretary Dixon suggested that no time should be lost in erecting a bronze plaque to Dorr, while others proposed naming one of the island peaks after him. Before the party of five hundred invited guests sat down for lunch, Judge Deasy asked for a moment of silence in tribute to Charles W. Eliot—another figure who had greatly influenced Acadia’s Development.

One historic consequence of his death was the installation of Mather memorial plaques in all national parks. Nearly three weeks before the Summit Road’s official dedication, on July 4th—Mather’s birthday—an impressive plaque was mounted beside the summit loop trailhead adjacent to the already-overcrowded parking lot.

To exhibit the landscape was Dorr’s larger intent, a noble public purpose that not only resulted in growing popularity but a host of complicating factors unanticipated by Dorr, Rockefeller, and Eliot. Today, Friends of Acadia initiatives like the Island Explorer bus service offset some persistent

issues (although, ironically, the existing bus fleet is not able to serve the Cadillac Summit road). Nonetheless, vehicular and human traffic continues to impede the power of the Acadian landscape to profoundly affect us.

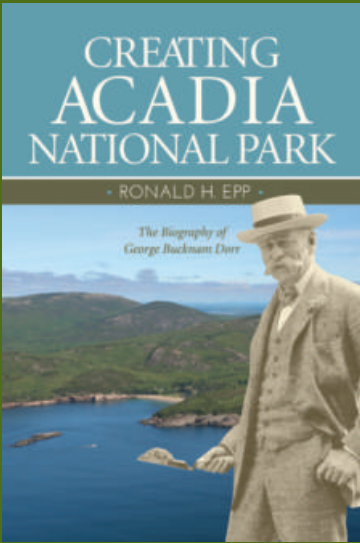
Two decades ago NPS historians Richard Quin and Neal M. Maher completed the definitive study of Acadia’s motor roads under the auspices of the oldest government preservation program, the Historic American Buildings Survey, and its companion, the Historic American Engineering Record. Quin offered therein a sound general appraisal that applies to congestion issues: “it was community debate, not community solidarity, that ultimately determined the final shape of the park’s motor road system.”

This tension between wilderness advocates, federal policy enforcers, visitor expectations, boundary disputes, and the economic worries of year-round locals makes this gently sloping macadam parkway a public road in the truest sense of the word.

The first century of the NPS provides historical evidence of successful progress, though not resolution of all issues. The 1932 celebration opened easy summit access to Americans. Since then two hundred million Americans have been added to the population.

The day is long past when park visitation is touted as an unalloyed blessing. Sensitivity to the historic tension between preservation and use has prompted many visitors to modify behavior. Like Dorr and his guests atop Cadillac, let us approach the next century with confidence that this much-enlarged democracy will devise solutions through conversation to preserve the original intent of the National Park Service. 🐾

RONALD H. EPP is a historian and professor of philosophy with a background in scholarly publishing and academic library leadership. His research over the last two decades into the Massachusetts families that influenced the development of conservation philanthropy has led to the April 2016 publication of *Creating Acadia National Park: The Biography of George Bucknam Dorr*; this essay is based on his research for and in part excerpted from the book.



**CREATING
ACADIA
NATIONAL PARK**
• RONALD H. EPP •
*The Biography of
George Bucknam Dorr*

**Creating Acadia
National Park:**
The Biography of George Bucknam Dorr
By Ronald H. Epp
Published by Friends of Acadia
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“Readers will come to know Dorr the man,
not only his triumphs and generosity, but also
his frailties, his blind spots and ultimately,
his humanity...”
—Earl Brechlin, *Mount Desert Islander*

IMMERSION IN THE LANDSCAPE

Tom Blagden in conversation with Ken Olson



Northern parula, Wonderland

Friends of Acadia's former president Ken Olson and photographer-at-large Tom Blagden have collaborated on two books: *First Light* (2003), published in partnership with FOA, and *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration* (2016). Also an FOA partnership, this stunning collection of 150 photographs features essays by Olson and six other FOA and Acadia luminaries. Before the book's release, the two discussed Blagden's inspiration, his methods, and his great love for Acadia.

Ken: Tom, why did you decide, and when did you decide, to do a book after *First Light*?

Tom: *First Light* was such a dream come true—for me to do a book like that on a place where I had spent so much of my life. After the book's release, I had the postpartum blues, so I just told myself right away: I'm going to commit to keep working. Really, the inspiration at that point was simply the relationship with Friends of Acadia, where, because of that and Friends' interest in my work, it assigned a value to the photographs that inspired me to keep going.

Ken: A lot has happened in the time between the two books photographically.

You moved from a print photographer, one who used dark room services and plain old color film, I guess, to digital. Is that right?

Tom: Yes, the new book is entirely digital. The previous book was entirely film.

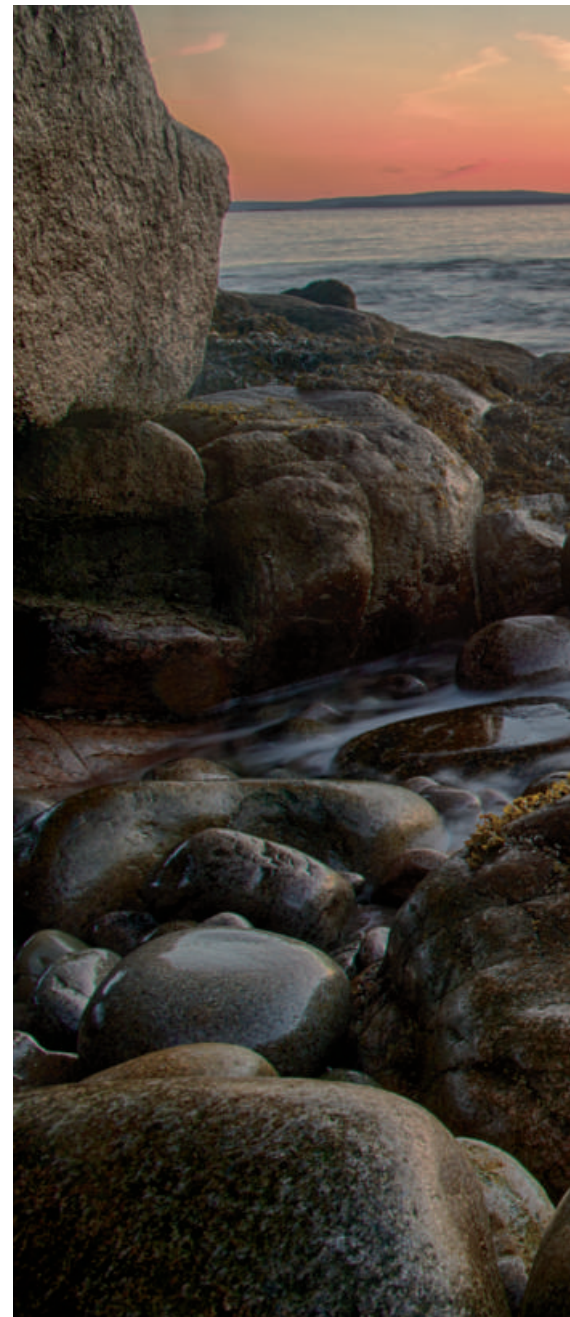
Ken: How has the change affected your images and your editorial selections?

Tom: Well, I'd like to think that the end product is just as good or that there's no discernible difference, but clearly the process is greatly different. I went into digital photography somewhat begrudgingly, because film, to me, had a purity that was about the moment; you either got it or you didn't. It was very demanding, not much latitude; whereas, with digital, photography has become more about the process than the content itself. I think that's diminished the experience somewhat.

Ken: The experience of the photographer, but not necessarily the viewer?

Tom: Right. All that said, working in digital photography is probably more fun than film. Again, it puts less emphasis on the experience and impeccable execution and more on "get the shot" and then transition into post-processing.

Ken: Was it harder to edit, given the larger selection that you had to deal with



Sunrise at Cobble Beach near Otter Cliff

by virtue of how easily you could photograph anything you wanted?

Tom: Yes—editing film, again, you either had the shot or you didn't. There would be stacks of images, like a deck of cards, and you'd just start dealing. Some hands were worth gambling on. With digital, there's sort of always this feeling of: Is it fully realized? Or is there something else I should do or be paying attention to in the optimization process?

Ken: What would you like readers of this book to come away with?

Tom: I think it's really about sense of place and the degree to which that sense of place both belongs to us and we belong



to it. I've always thought that photography is the most direct connection with nature that we can have, other than being immersed in it physically and mentally. For me, the photography can offer this vicarious experience that has the potential of re-connecting people with the natural landscape in a way that can be very profound and reveal aspects of the wild that aren't normally within our grasp.

Ken: Dare you name Acadia as your favorite subject, or would you venture that way?

Tom: Oh, it's right up there. My career has been a little different from those of most colleagues, because I decided to just

work in areas that I love and that are part of my life, one of them being Acadia and the others being my home state of South Carolina, and Costa Rica, where I've spent 20 years working. I've built my career around those three places.

It's so important that good photography reflects that kind of deep involvement with the landscape. Time is the greatest asset of all, because, given enough time, the landscape reveals itself. In one sense, I feel so lucky to produce a book on one of the most photographed places in the country. It's a top-ten national park; everybody has photographed in Acadia. But I think what was different for me was making the com-

mitment to photograph it over such a long period of time. It was not a calculated decision; it was an emotional one, because I love the place, and it gets ahold of you.

Ken: What do you think about the argument that a beautiful book, such as *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration*, contributes to people crowding into the place?

Tom: You can argue that it does, but the reality, in sheer numbers—what's Acadia getting now, roughly 2.5 million visits?

Ken: 2.8 million in 2015.

Tom: A book that has published only 6,000 copies gets into a very minimal number of hands. So I think the *overall*

impact is negligible. And yet, given the philanthropic history of Acadia, the extent to which the park was literally founded and is now carried by a relatively small number of people who deeply care about it, I think the book can have a huge impact if it's directed to the right places—and I embrace that as part of my mission.

Ken: What about early influences on your becoming a professional photographer, and influences on your art?

Tom: I think, surely, early on I dedicated myself more out of innocence than anything. But even when I was in college, I had this idea of using photography for conservation, because that was always my bent. And I was able to realize that with my first couple of jobs, working with Atlantic Salmon in Canada and then the National Audubon Society in the Southeast.

That set the course. But I realized to be truly effective I had to just go off on my own and do these long-term projects, but always in concert with a conservation organization and non-profit.

Ken: Besides yours, there are seven essays in the new book. What is your hope for what they will do as counterpoint or complement to the photography?

Tom: These essays add a myriad of dimensions that aren't apparent or evident in the photographs. The beauty of this group of writers is that everybody has a personal relationship with Acadia, which is what I most wanted in who contributed. Because it's so personal, they approach it from very different perspectives, from the art and painting that helped establish Acadia itself, to the role of philanthropy, and what it was like to grow up in the middle of one of the most prominent families in the history of the park.

Ken: Give us some sense of what you look for to compose a photographic image.

Tom: The starting point is total immersion in the landscape. I think that at a very fundamental level nature opens up all our senses, simply by being, simply by looking, by being curious. That's so much more important than whatever knowledge or baggage we bring into nature with us. And in that sense, it's a solitary pursuit most of the time because only then can you be totally on that sensory level,



Breaking wave on Sand Beach, Great Head

with heightened awareness of everything around you. The surprises and the unexpected become just as or more important than what I think I may be seeking.

Ken: What if aspiring photographers who wish to marry conservation and art were to ask you questions about craft—pedestrian things like: What times of day do you shoot and why? And how do you frame a particular shot differently from how another photographer might frame the same scene?

Tom: That's a tough one to be specific on, because it's so unique to the moment. I'm usually just paying attention to light and relationships. We tend to see the world and even the natural world in terms of objects. But, after decades of this, I seem to look at it more in terms of context, and that's what interests me the most,

even with wildlife. It's very much about the context that it's in. So, again, I'm looking at these relationships and these relationships that are unique to the moment, either defined by light, by color, or by texture and pattern.

Ken: What are your most fruitful photographic periods in a given day?

Tom: Oh, gosh. It depends on the weather and the location and the angle of the light. Everybody talks about sunrise and sunset and, yeah, they're magical times. But one of my favorite days to work is a wet, overcast day, because I can be productive all day long. The tones are rich—you don't have harsh highlights and often too many deep shadows. So it can render very pure, true colors and textures. I pay a lot of attention to textures and patterns, and those often come across better

on an overcast, wet day.

Ken: Do you, as you mentally review the book, have a couple of favorites that you'd very briefly describe?

Tom: It's funny—I hadn't really thought about that so much, and it more relates to the experience and aspects that are not apparent in the image. Certainly, what I write about in the book are those photographs that represent encounters with peregrine falcons. It's more the images that symbolize the encounters with the complexity of life, where you have that contrast of the monumental and the ephemeral, like the running of the alewives up the streams with ospreys diving on them, seals attacking underwater, eagles swooping in and stealing the fish from the ospreys, etc. It's those dynamic moments that just have such a profound impact.

Ken: What do you think is the longest time you've ever waited to get a shot you wanted?

Tom: That's wildlife. Wildlife really taxes my patience. I've waited sometimes four or five hours. I have a shot in the book of a mature eagle in flight. I waited, I think, three and a half hours just staring at a branch, hoping he'd land on it, which he did, and then I got him flying away. I've got like a hundred shots of him sitting on the branch, and then I think two of him flying. But, of course, that's the shot I wanted. 🐯

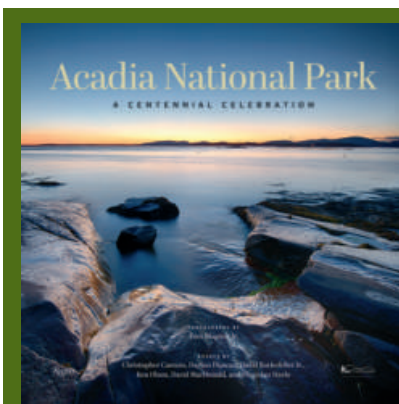
TOM BLAGDEN JR. is a professional nature photographer and author of *First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine's Mount Desert Island*, which won a 2003 National Outdoor Book Award for Design and Artistic Merit and was an Award Finalist in *ForeWord Magazine's* Book of the Year competition.

KEN OLSON retired in 2006 after a decade-plus as president and CEO of Friends of Acadia.

A longer version of this interview can be found at www.friendsofacadia.org. All photographs by Tom Blagden Jr., reprinted from Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration. An exhibit of photographs from the book will be shown at Blum Gallery at College of the Atlantic, July 11–August 26, with an opening reception on July 14.



Moss and spruce tree, Seal Harbor



Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration

photographs by Tom Blagden, Jr., essays by Christopher Camuto, Christopher Crozman, Dayton Duncan, David Rockefeller Jr., David MacDonald, Sheridan Steele, and W. Kent Olson. Published in partnership by Friends of Acadia and Rizzoli New York.

"Nature photographer Tom Blagden and his fellow contributors have created this fitting tribute [to Acadia]—full of photography and stories that only firsthand custodians of the natural wonderland could provide in such lavish and loving detail."

—Metrosource

NEW NATURE CENTER EXHIBITS FOR A CHANGING CLIMATE

By Lynne Dominy

As the National Park Service looks toward its next 100 years, the implications of a changing climate are on our minds. In testimony to Congress in 2009, Pacific West Regional Director (now NPS Director) Jon Jarvis said, “There is a great need at this time for messages to communicate the complexities of climate change and the actions that can be taken. With 275 million visitors annually, the parks can serve as models of sustainability and platforms to effectively commu-

nicate information about climate change. . . . The public has come to expect high-quality and up-to-date resource information when they visit parks.”

Climate scientists have identified a range of changes likely in Acadia, with many different combinations in varying time frames. The *Maine’s Climate Future* report, updated by University of Maine scientists in 2015, summarizes many facets of their predictions for Maine. In May of 2016, Acadia National Park will open a new exhibit in the park’s nature center at Sieur de Monts, encouraging visitors to think about the types of changes that could alter Acadia’s ecology, infrastructure, and the visitor experiences on this landscape as we move toward 2050.

Over the past three years, Acadia National Park staff have worked with students at College of the Atlantic (COA) to plan the new exhibit. The project started with a 10-week exhibit design class taught by COA art and design instructor Dru Colbert in 2013. Says teaching assistant Jane Piselli, “Learning how to collaborate during the creative process while working toward a polished product for an outside organization was the most valuable skill set that I gained during my time at COA.” Students created four



The nature center at Sieur de Monts.

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

different design scenarios for the small nature center. Elements of each design were integrated into the final designs including large photo backgrounds, an audio soundscape, a range of science models on iPads, and video interviews of local residents sharing changes they have recently observed on Mount Desert Island.

Exhibit development continued with a science writing course taught by COA writing instructor Anne Kozak. After reading recent climate science reports for Maine, students suggested exhibit titles and climate change content that they felt would be of most interest to the public. “Partnering with Acadia’s interpretive staff gave the students in my *Communicating Science* class a rare opportunity: They not only wrote for a lay audience but they worked for a client,” says Kozak. “This involved meetings to select topics, reviewing their drafts and discussing problems they encountered, identifying issues that needed resolution, and explaining their rationale for the choices they made in writing draft text. While I have partnered with the park on other projects, this was clearly the most beneficial and challenging.”

A blend of these designs and texts was then shared with the public at the nature

center. Visitors were invited to tell what they liked and disliked. A local advisory group was created to provide feedback and park resource managers reviewed and commented on the content and designs; peer review was also conducted with climatologists. This feedback was then compiled and integrated into final designs by the project manager, Michael Kelly, allied faculty from Northern Arizona University’s School of Earth Sci-

ences and Environmental Sustainability.

“Changeability was an important aspect of the exhibit design,” says Kelly. “As climate changes occur on this landscape, the exhibit needs to be updated to reflect what scientists are seeing and predicting. The backbone of this exhibit is a framework used by the Smithsonian for easy updating at minimal costs. We also chose sustainable materials to model more environmentally friendly design—from water-based paints to recycled boards to LED lighting.”

Accessibility was also carefully considered throughout the exhibit design. Dianna McKeage, Acadia’s volunteer coordinator, worked with park staff and community members on the writing and recording of audio descriptions for the entire exhibit. When visiting the exhibit, listen to the audio descriptions to see if you recognize local voices.

The final exhibits will show what visitors to Acadia might expect to see by 2050—from different foods, to bigger hurricanes, to species changes in Acadia’s marshes, lakes, forests, and on its sub-alpine summit. The purpose of this exhibit is to help people recognize climate changes as they happen, understand why scientists believe they are



These 3D diagrams depict elements of the newly designed nature center exhibits, opening in May 2016.

happening, and forecast patterns of changes expected to continue in and around Acadia. Visit the exhibit to explore these questions:

- How might our dinner menus change by 2050?
- How will changes in sea levels and food supplies likely impact shore birds and other residents of the Gulf of Maine?
- How will bigger hurricanes affect the infrastructure of Acadia and the lowest elevations on Mount Desert Island and other nearby islands?
- Now that cardinals, ticks, and turkey vultures are already here—what species will be next to move into Downeast Maine? What new ones have you already seen in the last decade? Which native species will be *less* frequently seen at Acadia?
- Will the summits of Acadia be different by 2050?
- And, what simple things can you do while visiting Acadia and at home to reduce your carbon footprint and be involved in Acadia's future?

The exhibit contains touchable interactive elements for inquisitive minds and hands. Touchable carved bird buoys sit on the surface of several exhibits. Families can pose

behind a ship's wheel with crashing shoreline waves shown behind them. A spinner showcases key destinations in Acadia most threatened by rising sea levels and bigger storms—areas where park infrastructure is most at risk of being lost. A matching game pairs bird eggs with local bird species. From Wabanaki birch bark baskets to touchable moose and snowshoe hare pelts, a host of items showcase some of the things that may change by 2050. Interactive screens also show science models forecasting climate changes along the Atlantic seaboard.

Pulling the diverse areas of the exhibit together are dramatic images from across Acadia that immerse viewers in the landscape of the park. We were fortunate to have photojournalist and Central Michigan University professor Kent Miller donate more than 1,000 high-resolution images to this project. These images became the exhibit backdrops, bringing the essence of the park into the building.

The new nature center exhibits will be inaugurated during Park Sci-

ence Day on June 25, 2016. Join us at Sieur de Monts for a day dedicated to celebrating Acadia's contributions to science, past, present, and future. In addition to the ribbon-cutting, scientists and naturalists will host more than a dozen interactive stations about science in the park.

"One of the most precious values of the national parks is their ability to teach us about ourselves and how we relate to the natural world. This important role may prove invaluable in the near future as we strive to understand and adapt to a changing climate." —NPS Director, Jon Jarvis

LYNNE DOMINY is the chief of interpretation at Acadia National Park.



Acadia Centennial

CELEBRATING OUR PAST AND INSPIRING OUR FUTURE!

Top stories from the first months of the Acadia Centennial.

Acadia's Poet Laureate

At the end of January, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia announced the appointment of Christian Barter as the park's first poet laureate. He will serve in the honorary post throughout the 2016 centennial year.

Christian Barter's first book of poetry, *The Singers I Prefer*, was a finalist for the Lenore Marshall Prize, Academy of American Poets; *In Someone Else's House*, from BkMk Press, was the 2014 winner of the Maine Literary Award for Poetry; a third volume is forthcoming from BOA Editions. A former editor for *The Beloit Poetry Journal* and sometime teacher at College of the Atlantic, his primary occupation is as a work supervisor for the Acadia National Park Trail Crew.

Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald said of the appointment, "Chris Barter's poems and trails are works of art that provide us access and insight into Acadia National Park and the wonders of the natural world. There is no better person to help Maine and the nation celebrate Acadia and its 100-year history."

"It's an honor to be chosen for this position," said Barter, "My work includes natu-



Acadia's new superintendent, Kevin Schneider, a terrific storyteller as well as a keen administrator, regales the crowd at a reception and art exhibit for the Acadia Winter Festival at Camp Beech Cliff.

FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

ral themes, but also centers on personal relationships and other human interactions. I look forward to the year ahead."

His duties may include composing poetry that celebrates the park, readings at select events in Maine, and leading trail walks to discuss the influence of the natural scene on his poetry and how reading and writing poems have affected his trail building. He is scheduled to appear at the park's National Trails Day celebration on June 4th.

Official Recognition

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff and board members traveled to Augusta in February to witness the adoption of a joint resolution of the Maine State Legislature, commemorating the centennial of Acadia National Park in 2016.

The resolution begins, "Whereas, Sieur de Monts National Monument was created by proclamation of President Woodrow Wilson in 1916 and was renamed Lafayette National Park in 1919 and Acadia National Park in 1929..." and ends with, "therefore, be it resolved: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-seventh Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the centennial of Acadia National Park; to express gratitude to the founders of the park; to commend the National Park Service, volunteers and park supporters for their commitment of time, financial resources and knowledge to maintain the park for all to enjoy; and to convey our hope that future generations of Maine residents and visitors will continue this commitment to stewardship of Acadia National Park..." We heartily agree!



FOA conservation director Stephanie Clement, ANP superintendent Kevin Schneider, and FOA board member Jill Goldthwait (left to right) await the Maine legislature's joint resolution honoring Acadia's Centennial.

FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

Ranger Pro Tips

It's no secret that Acadia's popularity as a travel destination has been increasing in recent years and may well spike sharply during this centennial year. And it's no secret that the number of people here is, at certain times and places, stressing the park and the quality of many visitors' experience. This challenge will not disappear when 2016 draws to a close; some 80 million people live within a day's drive of Acadia and parks are more popular destinations than ever.

Even as the Acadia Centennial Task Force organizes a world-welcoming celebration of the Acadia Centennial, its members recognize this challenge. However, says co-chair Jack Russell, the centennial year is "an opportunity to orchestrate a serious and sustained discussion of how Acadia-lovers in the communities surrounding our park can work together to assure the ongoing quality of the Acadia visitor experience—even as visitation grows. From solitude-seeking conservationists to tourist-serving business people trying to make a living in six months, all of us want visitors to the park we love and serve to have a quality experience." He adds, "We believe the spirit and connections created by the centennial can help us to address this challenge."

Park staff are collaborating with the Centennial Task Force on a series of messages to educate visitors about choices they can make to improve everybody's experience while at Acadia. The #RangerProTips and #AcadiaSecrets will share ideas on enjoying already-popular activities (like picnicking on Sand Beach) in ways that can reduce congestion and negative impact on the park (like choosing a foggy morning for your picnic). The #RangerProTips will be produced by park rangers and the #AcadiaSecrets will invite locals and visitors to join the conversation on finding solitude at park hotspots.

The first installment of the Ranger Pro Tips has been printed on a rack card that will be available in visitor centers and other locations around Acadia, and on the inside back cover of this *Journal*. More specific tips will follow in a social media campaign; be part of the conversation on the Acadia National Park and Acadia Centennial Facebook pages. FOA members can help these efforts by using the hashtags, sharing their ideas, and spreading the word.



FOA/Lisa Horsch Clark

In March, the renowned Philadelphia Flower Show featured the National Park Service centennial, and a group of Friends of Acadia members had a special tour. They questioned the nonnative flowers in the otherwise beautiful Acadia exhibit!

Acadia Centennial, Virtually

As centennial social media sites gain traction and the number of centennial events and products ramps up, Facebook and Instagram are a great way to keep current on the celebrations. Managed from the Friends of Acadia office in close collaboration with ANP interpretive staff, the sites highlight upcoming events and new official products, share news articles and other media about the centennial, and provide a forum for questions and commentary about this momentous year. They are also a great place to share your own centennial activities! Use the #Acadia100 hashtag to be part of the centennial social community.

For longer-term planning for your personal centennial celebration, the Acadia Centennial website remains the one-stop spot to find the year-long calendar of events planned by Acadia Centennial Partners, listings of centennial products—sales of which benefit the park—and thoughtful historic and forward-looking summaries to help deepen your appreciation for Acadia and its hundred-year history. 🌲

—Aimee Beal Church

www.acadiacentennial2016.org
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#RangerProTips
#AcadiaSecrets



FOA/Aimee Beal Church

Our park has enjoyed several of these fine birthday cakes already this year, and we expect to cut several more before the year is done. This one appeared at a welcome reception for new Acadia superintendent Kevin Schneider, hosted by Sips in Southwest Harbor.

CELEBRATING THE ANNUAL BENEFIT'S LOYAL AUCTION DONORS



Bubble Pond by Richard Estes



Duck Brook Bridge by Rosemary Levin

Each year Friends of Acadia's Annual Benefit is a highlight of the summer. Friends, donors, volunteers, and sponsors all come together to celebrate Acadia and raise money for important projects in the park. This year, the 27th Annual Benefit, co-chaired by Whitney Kroeger Connor and Elizabeth Seherr-Thos, coincides with Acadia's Centennial. As we plan the Benefit, the Centennial's tag line of *Celebrate our Past, Inspire our Future* is close at mind. A big part of celebrating the past

success of the benefit includes celebrating the artists, artisans, and generous individuals or businesses who offer their craft, skills, or unique services year after year. They all hold one thing in common—their love of Acadia. While there are too many to highlight in one short article, several loyal donors have already stepped up this year with something special for the auction.

For more information about the 27th Annual Benefit, contact Shawn Keeley shawn@friendsofacadia.org 207-288-3340 or visit www.friendsofacadia.org

Mary Clark: Mary's Acadia-inspired quilts have been a popular highlight of the Annual Benefit's silent auction since 2010. The quilt Mary designed for 2016, *Great Meadow Cattails*, is an incredible work of art that has already recently won two blue ribbons at the St Andrew Bay Quilters' Guild in Panama City, Florida. More photos of *Great Meadow Cattails* can be seen at <http://www.aquiltingtradition.com/cattails-in-the-meadow.html>

Rosemary Levin: Each year Rosemary offers one her unique hooked rugs inspired by Acadia's Carriage Road Bridges. When the set is complete, she will have crafted a total of 17 Carriage Road Bridge rugs. For the 2016 Benefit, Rosemary's hooked rug will be Amphitheater Bridge. You can see more of Rosemary's work at the Chapter Two Art Gallery and Book Store in Corea, Maine or online at www.chaptertwocorea.com

Bar Harbor Bicycle Shop: From bikes the Obama family rented when they toured Acadia to the latest fat tire mountain bikes, Joe and Al Minutolo have been donating all kinds of bikes and accessories to the Benefit since 2000. We can't wait to see what they come up with for 2016! www.barharborbike.com



Mary Clark with Great Meadow Cattails



Carol Van Shaik enjoys the Ampitheater Bridge with Casey and Clancey.

Carol and Rolf Van Shaik: Exploring Acadia on a carriage ride is a wonderful way to take a step back in time and enjoy a national park outing that is uncommon today. Carol and Rolf are delighted to share this experience with those who love Acadia and have offered “Wine & Cheese” as well as “Luncheon” carriage rides to the Benefit in 2016.

Ildiko and Gilbert Butler: From trips to France to ski vacations, the Butlers have offered all kinds of experiences and items to the Benefit over the years. In 2016 they are offering to host a lobster picnic for 25 at their gorgeous cottage on the island of Frenchboro, just off the Maine coast. In

addition to donating to the auction, the Butlers regularly host Benefit Committee meetings in New York City and are always quick to help out with the Benefit whenever asked. 🍷

—Shawn Keeley



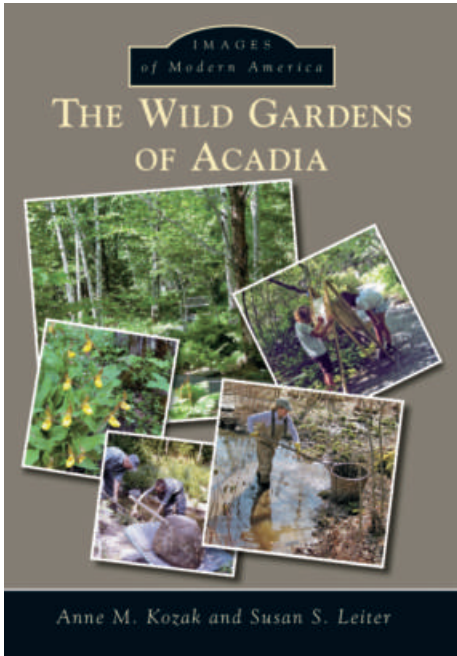
Frenchboro, Maine.

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October 1, 2015 – February 29, 2016



Two long-time volunteers and leaders of the Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee, Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter, have partnered to write *The Wild Gardens of Acadia*, a photographic history of the Wild Gardens. Through photographs and captions, the book highlights the activities of volunteers establishing and maintaining the habitats,

collecting and cultivating plants, and working in partnership with the National Park Service to preserve this important educational resource displaying more than 400 native plants found in the park. The book is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of Modern America" series, and is part of the Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee's contribution to the Acadia Centennial.

Kozak and Leiter will present their work at events this summer at the Jesup Library on June 16th, at College of the Atlantic on July 25th, and at the Northeast Harbor Library on August 24th. Additional events are anticipated; details will be posted on the Acadia Centennial calendar at www.acadiacentennial2016.org. Author royalties from book sales will be managed by Friends of Acadia and will support the long-term maintenance of the Wild Gardens of Acadia. Thank you to Anne and Sue for producing an important chronicle of the history of the Wild Gardens.

Acadia Winter Trails Association

Skiable snow was intermittent this winter, but plenty of work went on behind the scenes with the Acadia Winter Trails Association. In advance of the season, the program was able to purchase a Kubota 1100-series UTV with tracks, to help keep the carriage roads groomed and skiers safe during the winter season. The volunteer groomers tested its capability when

snow allowed and the results were positive thus far. The Kubota is the right size for the carriage roads, is easy to maintain and comfortable to operate, and greatly reduces the amount of volunteer training and equipment needed. Equally exciting, the Kubota can be used for MDI Search and Rescue in the park and for carriage road maintenance in the summer, as the tracks can be switched for wheels. The UTV was paid for using funds from the FOA Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment, the Carriage Road Endowment, and community donations. Groomers are so excited for the new Kubota—several said they've been waiting for this type of grooming vehicle for more than a decade!

The program also welcomed five new groomers this winter. All have taken a Maine snowmobile safety course with park law enforcement rangers and four out of five assisted with grooming during the season. The program also experimented with a new traffic pattern on the groomed carriage roads that includes three lanes of travel: a classic lane, a skate ski lane, and a non-skier lane for snowshoers, hikers, and dog-walkers.

Centennial Challenge 2016: Every Kid in the Park

"Every Kid in the Park" is a new White House youth initiative to help all 4th graders and their families experience the places that are home to our country's natural treasures, rich history, and vibrant culture, free of charge. In conjunction, Acadia applied for additional funding through the Centennial Challenge grant program to assist with 4th grade engagement. Congress designed the Centennial Challenge grants to increase public-private partnerships in the national parks; all grants awarded must be matched by a private funding source. Acadia National Park is particularly well-positioned to compete for these grants because it has a strong and dependable philanthropic partner in Friends of Acadia.

Acadia was awarded \$32,864, which FOA will match through two grants to the park: \$25K for an educational ranger and \$8K for transportation through the Yellow Bus Fund. The park plans to market ranger-led boat programs to 4th-graders during two weeks in June and September. The goal



AWTA volunteer Mark Fernald grooms near Aunt Betty Pond.

Bo Greene

is to accommodate as many as possible by combining classes on the Baker Island cruise, Diver Ed's Dive-in Theater, the *Margaret Todd*, and the *Sea Princess*. In addition to these special trips, classes may also participate in regular programming offered to 4th graders, such as the Carroll Homestead field trips.

The park is making a special effort to reach out to school districts that don't already have a relationship with Acadia, such as the Bangor schools. And a field trip has already been booked with 4th-graders from Skowhegan who have never been to Acadia before.

Entrance Passes Now Online

The National Park Service has launched a pilot program to sell weekly and annual entrance passes for Acadia National Park online, through the "Your Pass Now" website at www.yourpassnow.com.

Once purchased, the electronic entrance pass can be printed or stored on a mobile device for use at the park, where park staff will validate the entrance pass using a QR (Quick Response) code. Otherwise, visitors will use electronic passes just like traditional physical passes.

Park visitors had long wondered why passes were not available online, especially at a park like Acadia where the multiplicity of entrance points means that many visitors do not pass through a fee station to get into the park. However, selling passes online was not as easy as processing the transaction then shipping a traditional pass card to the purchaser—if a visitor ordered their pass the day before leaving on vacation, the pass would uselessly sit in their mailbox until they returned home. Functional technology needed to be in place to make the online passes work both for the park and the visitor.

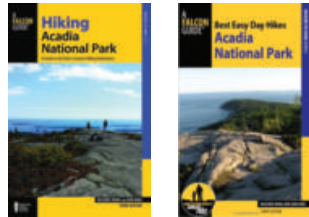
Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King urged the NPS to offer park entrance pass sales online and to start with Acadia



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Authors Dolores Kong and Dan Ring also write a blog at www.acadiaonmymind.com
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National Park. The NPS uses entrance fees to invest in critical improvements that directly benefit visitors, including maintaining and enhancing visitor facilities. Eighty percent of the entrance pass dollars collected at Acadia stay here at Acadia. And now there's *really* no good reason not to buy your pass!

Island Explorer Bus Service Extended at Schoodic

September 2015 marked the beginning of a new chapter in Acadia's history with the opening of the Schoodic Woods campground along with new hiking trails and bike paths. The campground includes a large day-use parking area, where visitors are encouraged to leave their vehicles and hop on the Island Explorer or enjoy the park on foot or bike. "Schoodic has traditionally been an area of the park where visitors have sought solitude or a quieter experience," remarked John Kelly, Acadia's management assistant. "The National Park Service has implemented policies, such as prohibiting commercial bus tours at the Schoodic District, to help preserve this experience."

The NPS is also limiting RV access at Schoodic to the campground and day-use parking to help prevent traffic and parking congestion along the Schoodic Loop Road. To avoid inadvertently barring shoulder-season RV travelers from most of the Schoodic District, the Island Explorer will operate at Schoodic from May 25th through October 10th, to match the campground operating season. With funding from Acadia's park entrance fees, Downeast Transportation has purchased two smaller buses to enable more frequent service on the Schoodic Route. Island Explorer routes on Mount Desert Island will begin service June 23rd as usual. For more information on the routes at Schoodic, connections to ferry service from Mount Desert Island, and timetables to catch the Island Explorer, visit www.exploreacadia.com.

Opening Vistas

Many vista clearing projects along the historic Park Loop Road and carriage roads are being completed just in time for the centennial celebration. Acadia National Park's roads are a stunning example of design and engineering rightly associated with the vi-

sion of John D. Rockefeller Jr.; few today realize, however, that many of the vistas were designed and created in the field by the talented workers Rockefeller hired. As forests began to grow in after the 1947 fire, vistas became more obscured. Following the rehabilitation of the carriage roads in the 1990s, park staff began to turn their attention to restoring the historic vistas.

Following a designation by the National Register of Historic Places, a cultural landscape study by the Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation, fundraising by Friends of Acadia, dedicated management of NPS staff, and the enthusiastic work of many FOA volunteers, more than 50 vistas have already been restored. Areas such as Around Mountain, Day Mountain, Eagle Lake, and the Park Loop Road are panoramic once again. And in keeping with NPS policy to protect all resources, an environmental review is conducted prior to any cutting to ensure that rare plants or other natural resources will not be harmed. NPS staff worked closely with park biologist Bruce Connery to ensure that the park followed new cutting rules that followed the listing of long-eared bats as an endangered species. Vista work will continue into 2016 along with some cutting on trails to restore historic views, such as the Bernard Mountain Overlook vista. Enjoy the view!

Find Your Ranger

Found your park? Now find your ranger. Acadia is expanding opportunities for visitors to connect one-on-one with a park ranger. In addition to traditional ranger-led programs, the park will be increasing the number of drop-in programs where visitors can stop by during a 2–3 hour period and stay only as long as they want. The intent is to reduce anticipated congestion during the centennial year; in the past, scheduled ranger tours at certain times and locations led to parking or trail congestion. This drop-in style of ranger programs will help spread out the attendance rather than concentrate it. It may also appeal to visitors who need more flexibility in planning their park activities, such as families with young children.

Programs to look for this season include; Carroll Homestead, Peregrine Watch, Hawk Watch, Beech Mountain Fire Tower, Tide Pool Touch, and Junior Ranger Station. You can also chat with a ranger to learn more about island life at the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island or learn about climate change at the Sieur de Mont Nature Center.

Wild Gardens of Acadia Fence

Visitors to the Wild Gardens of Acadia sometimes have a hard time viewing the plants because they are inside wire cages

that protect them from hungry white-tailed deer. “Whole habitats have had to be fenced in winter,” said Helen Koch, co-chair of the Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee. “It’s a labor-intensive process each year and it is not aesthetically pleasing nor very effective.” Hopefully, that problem will soon be corrected, as the Wild Gardens volunteers and Friends of Acadia are working together to install a permanent deer fence around the perimeter of the gardens.

Allenfarm Fence from Hermon, Maine will be working on the installation this spring. The fence will be eight feet tall—four feet of mesh fencing at the bottom, topped by wire at 1-foot intervals to allow birds to easily pass through. Along the side of the Wild Gardens by the Sieur de Monts Nature Center and in front of the Wild Gardens by the parking area, a wooden railing will top the mesh fencing and the metal poles will be encased in wooden sleeves. “Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the Wild Gardens volunteers worked hard to find a design that would not intrude on the natural environment and historic landscape of Sieur de Monts,” said Koch. The National Park Service completed all the necessary environmental compliance to enable the installation. The fence will provide greater assurance that the more than 400 native plants displayed there will be protected for future generations to enjoy.

Car-free Acadia

Acadia National Park has decided to hold two car-free mornings again this year, on May 14th and September 17th. The Park Loop Road on Mount Desert Island will be closed to private vehicles from midnight to noon so that bicyclists, runners, hikers, and others may enjoy the road without cars.

The National Park Service held two similar days in 2015. Friends of Acadia organized volunteers to hand out business cards at park entrances and parking areas with a link to an electronic survey through which visitors could provide feedback. The survey was intended for all visitors, including those who decided to postpone or cancel their visit because of the car-free mornings. Participation in the survey was voluntary and all responses were anonymous.

Overall, the car-free experiments were well received. Most survey respondents



An Acadia ranger points out landscape features from the top of Cadillac Mountain.

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The wire cages at the Wild Gardens will be a thing of the past when the new deer fencing is installed.

(79% in May and 60% in September) were from the local area or other towns in Maine and the primary activity they engaged in was bicycling (84% in May and 73% in September). Eighty-one percent of respondents in May and 77% of respondents in September indicated that the car-free morning affected their visit very or somewhat positively. Those respondents who postponed or canceled their trips to the Park Loop Road primarily elected to visit other areas of the park accessible by car (43% in May and 35% in September) or shop or eat in restaurants in local communities during the car-free morning. More than half of those who did other things during the morning returned to the Park Loop Road when the motor roads re-opened. More

than 80% of survey respondents in May and September felt it was very important or important for the National Park Service to hold future car-free days or hours.

Friends of Acadia is currently writing a report summarizing the survey results from 2015 and will submit that to the online database of all research projects in national parks, accessible through the Integrated Resource Management Applications website (<https://irma.nps.gov/Portal>). The information provided will help inform Acadia National Park's transportation plan.

Planned Closures in the Park

Urgent construction needs at Acadia have prompted the park to plan closures at several areas for the upcoming summer and fall. Take note before you visit the park, and check the Acadia website at <https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/temporaryclosures.htm> for the most up-to-date information; also click on the "Alerts" icon for closures currently in effect.

Due to a collapsed retaining wall, the carriage road from Intersection 17 (by Day Mountain) to the Jordan Pond Gatehouse will be closed June through August. Also closed during that period will be Hunters Brook Trail between The Triad and the closed carriage road.

On September 6th, Seawall Campground will close for the season. The Sieur de Monts Nature Center will also close that day, along with most of the parking lot at Sieur de Monts. Parking there will be reduced to 10 spaces and no buses (including the Island Explorer) or RVs will be permitted.



The Sieur de Monts area will have limited access this fall.

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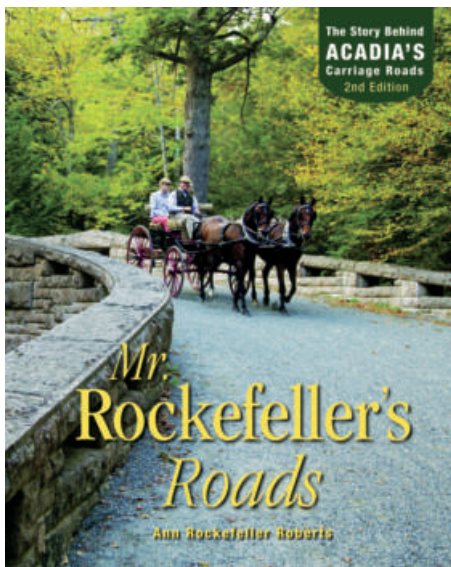
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Recommended Reading

Staff Picks! In honor of the Acadia Centennial, we asked the Friends of Acadia staff to recommend a personal favorite book for readers wanting to learn more about Acadia to celebrate the past or inspire the future. We'll share their picks in this and upcoming issues of the Journal.



Mr. Rockefeller's Roads (2nd ed.)

By Ann Rockefeller Roberts

Down East Books, 2012

To understand Acadia—its history, culture, and the unique place it holds among America's national parks—you must understand the carriage roads. *Mr. Rockefeller's Roads* guides the reader not only through the progression of the roadbuilding and the techniques used to design and create this remarkable system but it explores the passion and worldview of its architect and benefactor—John D. Rockefeller, Jr.—and his vision to make the wonders of Acadia accessible to all. The book makes clear that although Mr. Rockefeller is rightly credited with the creation of the carriage roads, this 30-plus year endeavor would not have been possible without the collaboration of the local communities, other philanthropists, tradesmen, and Acadia National Park. That said, the development of the carriage roads was not without its detractors. The book chronicles objec-

tions of local residents and efforts in Washington, DC to limit Mr. Rockefeller's plans, which mirrored a broader debate within the conservation movement about the extent to which wild lands should be made accessible. In retrospect, the creation of the carriage road system is a story of a successful public/private partnership which continues today as the park, community partners like FOA, volunteers, and donors all do their part to preserve this Acadian treasure. Thank you, Ann Rockefeller Roberts, for sharing this rich history with us.

—Shawn Keeley

The Coastal Setting, Rocks, and Woods of the Sieur de Monts National Monument

By George B. Dorr, Charles Eliot, and Edward L. Rand

Washington Government Printing Office, 1917

Available in PDF at

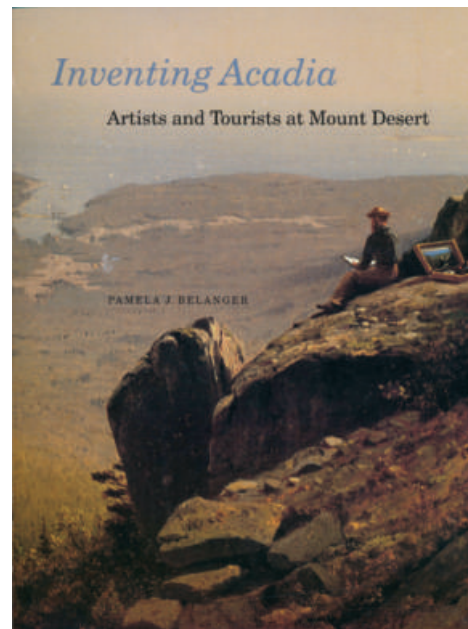
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When I first arrived at Friends of Acadia, I read everything I could find about the park, especially the history books. After reading all the local libraries had to offer, I turned to the web and started collecting early park brochures, likely the precursor to the modern day *Beaver Log*. My oldest (maybe the oldest?) is a 1917 publication by the Government Printing Office entitled “The Coastal Setting, Rocks, and Woods of the Sieur de Monts National Monument.” The modest-looking, black-and-white, 12-page document is anything but modest, because it contains essays written by the stars of early park history—George B. Dorr, Charles Eliot, and Edward L. Rand—and features a relief map by Dr. Robert Abbe. I swoon as I read Dorr's words; especially these, which ring still more true today: “the importance of action which [Charles Eliot] foresaw so clearly and felt so strongly has only become



more evident and more urgent with each passing year.”

—Lisa Horsch Clark



Inventing Acadia: Artists and Tourists at Mount Desert Island

By Pamela J. Belanger

Farnsworth Art Museum, 1999

Published as a companion catalog for a Farnsworth Art Museum exhibition of the same title, *Inventing Acadia: Artists and Tourists at Mount Desert Island* takes us back to a time when an exhibition of landscape paintings could inspire city dwellers to visit a wilderness. Beginning in the 1840s, when Mount Desert Island was still difficult to reach and even more difficult to explore, renowned New York painter Thomas Cole and his student, Frederick Church, came to the island to find inspiration in its dramatic landscapes. The paintings that they and other artists exhibited in Northeastern cities appealed to urbanites who longed for the tranquility and grandeur of the natural world. As travel became easier, more and more visitors came to MDI to explore its sights for themselves; the post-Civil War incursion of tourists transformed the island's economy. Ultimately, those visitors included a class of people who were instrumental in creating Acadia. This book is a fascinating blend of art and history, richly illustrated with color images, sketches, and photographs.

—Sharon Broom

New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

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 Lesa Andreasen
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 ArtWaves
 Aysgarth Station B&B
 The Baker Family
 Maura Bannon
 Bar Harbor/Acadia Cottage Rentals
 Bar Harbor Town Band
 Billie and Bruce Baron
 Christopher Barrigar
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 Jeb Bayne
 Bayview
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 Downeast Maine Fine Arts Festival
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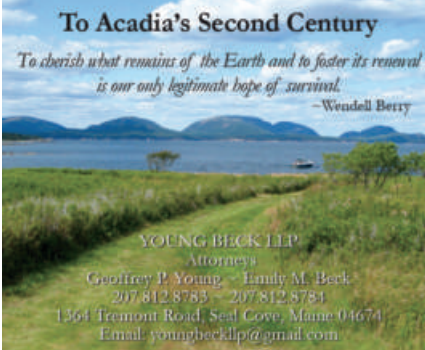
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*To cherish what remains of the Earth and to foster its renewal
 is our only legitimate hope of survival.*
 -Wendell Berry



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THE ACADIA DIGITAL QUEST AND 100-MILE CHALLENGE

By Kerry Gallivan

The National Park experience throughout the country is changing, and Acadia National Park is no exception. More and more visitors are coming to the park with mobile devices and they expect to use their phones and tablets for more than just taking photographs. This is particularly true for younger visitors, whose mobile devices are firmly integrated into all of their life experiences: Millennials, more than any other generation, are expecting a national park visit that fully embraces their mobile device.

This was the vision I had back in 2008, when I was hiking the Blackwoods-to-Gorham Mountain-to-Cadillac Loop with my first-generation iPhone. As I tried to use the device to get more details on the trail, I discovered two things: there was little to no connectivity, and when I did get a connection, there was no useful information about the park accessible for my phone.

These were the two fundamental problems I sought to solve when I started Chimani, a mobile-app development company based in Portland, Maine. Our first app was launched in May 2010 for Acadia National Park visitors, and we currently have more than 25 mobile app guides focused on the top U.S. national parks.

Our goal with Chimani was never to simply replace the paper guidebook; it was to transform the national park experience with mobile. Now, with an eye towards engaging younger visitors, we have partnered with Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park as part of the Acadia Centennial celebration to do something completely new: creating a location-based, in-park “gaming” experience on a mobile device.

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park partner each year to present Acadia



Quest, a series of fun and varied challenges in Acadia National Park that encourage kids and their families to explore, learn about, and protect national parks and other conserved lands. In its ninth year, the 2016 “Acadia Centennial Quest” will explore Acadia’s 100-year history and inspire its protection for the next 100 years.

Normally, teams find their Quest challenges on the printed “Acadia Quest Card” provided by Friends of Acadia. This year, teams may choose to quest using either the card or the Chimani digital app. Using the

app, teams view the list of quest challenges and their corresponding locations. As teams travel through the park to the location of each Acadia Quest challenge, they will be able to “check in” using the Chimani app and unlock a virtual Acadia Quest badge. Teams that collect enough Acadia Quest badges to complete the Quest will earn embroidered Quest patches and be entered into a grand prize drawing. (More information about the Acadia Centennial Quest can be found at www.friendsofacadia.org/events/acadia-quest/.)

In addition, we have used Chimani’s technology to create a new way to celebrate the Acadia National Park Centennial, once again partnering with Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service. Users of Chimani’s Acadia app can participate in the “100-Mile Acadia Centennial Challenge” by checking in digitally at various mountain summits and carriage road intersections. The Chimani app will estimate and track the amount of mileage the user has traveled to get to each point in the park; reaching 100 miles will unlock the “100-Mile Acadia Centennial Challenge” badge on their device.

Our goal with both these initiatives is to use mobile technology to drive increased engagement and activity within Acadia National Park, and to use this new medium to help visitors create lasting connections with one another and the park. Learn more about these new digital activities and download the free Chimani Acadia app at www.chimani.com, and start exploring! 🐾

KERRY GALLIVAN is the CEO and co-founder of Chimani.

100 YEARS: LOOKING BACK AND MOVING FORWARD

Recently I re-watched Ken Burns's magnificent documentary film *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*. I was as mesmerized and inspired as when I first saw it. The history of the parks and the park service is impressive. The beauty and drama of the land, the water, the views, the animals, plants, are thrilling and inspiring. More than ever I understand and admire the leaders whose efforts to identify, inspire, and cajole others have protected our most magnificent landscapes for the present and for the future. I was reminded once again how fortunate we, as today's stewards, are to be able to build upon their efforts in our critically important work to preserve this park—our park—Acadia.

If I step back to see the big picture, I see things in a continuum. When I think of the national parks and particularly of Acadia, I see that the land and all that is associated with it is the constant. It was here long before humans. We hope it will here to delight and inspire visitors for countless generations to come. But things do change—and many changes could well ruin my happy picture of an Acadia National Park securely preserved for generations and centuries to come.

Here at Acadia there is constant conversation about air pollution, climate change, and other environmental threats that affect our park. There also has been considerable conversation about the challenges associated with rising operational costs and government budget constraints. The threats are real and disturbing. Friends of Acadia is working constantly to test, develop, and implement plans and programs to help mitigate the potential damaging effects of these challenges. Another perennial topic is how population growth and park popularity will increase visitation and what may be the unintended consequences. Could Acadia really be "loved to death"? Throughout our 30-year history, Friends of Acadia has expressed concern and considered options for how we could assist, but the scale of the problem today dwarfs our earlier observations.



Consider these statistics. In 1916, when Acadia was created, there were 100 million Americans and, I am told, 300,000 annual visitors to the then-existing national parks. By 1929, there were 3 million park visitors. In 2015 there were approximately 2,750,000 visitors to Acadia alone! The US population in 1966 at the NPS 50th anniversary was around 200 million—it is now 330 million. This growth will increase the number of visitors, cars, and parking concerns. Acadia's staff is actively developing scenarios, alternatives, and plans. FOA is hard at work as an involved and passionate partner. We are at the table and will, as in the past, be part of the solution.

Broadly and, significantly, Americans who love Acadia have an impressive history of partnership, philanthropy, and accomplishment. Friends of Acadia has a long and successful record of creative, energetic, and valuable partnership with Acadia National Park. We have inspired and worked to create important private-public initiatives such as the Acadia Trails Forever and carriage road endowments, the Island Explorer, and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps. We have led successful fundraising for essential park projects. We have inspired and organized individuals and groups of park volunteers. We have helped to counter threats to the park and proudly we have put the frosting on the cake!

Acadia's first 100 years have been important and significant. With your continued support and help, the success of the past will be the inspiration and base for FOA's continued work.

Thank you for your support. I am grateful and inspired! 🍌

—Edward L. Samek

"Buildings, too, are children of Earth and Sun."

-Frank Lloyd Wright



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FINDING DEPTH IN THE DETAILS

By Tom Ayers

My husband, John, and I made our first trip to Mount Desert Island in 2002. Although it was only a three-day trip—and part of a longer two-week trip through New England—it was long enough for us to realize what a very special place Acadia National Park is. We crammed as much as we could into those three days, but the time passed far too quickly and the brief taste of Acadia just left us wanting more.

Following that initial trip in 2002, we knew this park was definitely a place we would return to. Initially we started coming every other year but after a couple of return trips realized it meant so much to us, why deny ourselves? So we started coming every year. The first week of October is now our special time of year, when we enjoy fewer crowds, beautiful fall foliage, and of course, lobster.

Only someone who has experienced Acadia National Park can truly understand how this place can get into your heart and soul. From the moment we cross the causeway onto the island we feel a profound change in our bodies and minds. Scientists use the term biophilia to explain human's need to be exposed to plants, skies, and natural environments, and we are firm believers that outdoor activities are essential to our lives. Something as simple as a walk on Ship Harbor Trail rejuvenates and recharges our spirits, clears our minds, and makes the stress of living in a large city just melt away.

Each year we start with our traditional trip to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, where we pick up our weekly park pass, then head over to Great Head for our first climb/hike and picnic lunch of the "season." We do many of the same climbs, hikes, and walks as we have in years past, but they never get old. In fact, I don't



Eagle Lake by Tom Ayers.

think I'll ever get tired of the scenic beauty that is Acadia National Park.

As an avid photographer, I've taken thousands of photos over the years and through my photography I connect with Acadia on a deeper level. When I set out to make an image I tend to start with the view as a whole but then notice the many smaller elements—water, sky, mountains, trees, rocks—that make up that whole and will give a photograph its real depth. I work to combine elements in a variety of ways to get the final image, sometimes taking in a wide vista, other times focusing on a particular tree or leaf. Through my camera lens I marvel at all the different elements that make up Acadia. The granite boulders, towering pines, wide skies, graceful bridges, gentle creeks, pounding surf and the varied shapes and colors of foliage—together add a richness that is unequalled by any other national park.

As I sit writing this essay back in Philadelphia, my mind wanders to our most recent trip in 2015. Every year we try to explore a different nook or cranny in the park; this year we walked the sand bar to Bar Island and enjoyed a picnic lunch overlooking Bar Harbor. After all these years and all the miles we've logged on the trails and carriage roads there is still so much left to explore. At Acadia we know that we'll never have the same trip twice. Each year will be a different adventure

with something new to look forward to.

Acadia National Park is now such an integral part of our lives that in 2014 we bequeathed part of our estate to Friends of Acadia. It just seemed right to do something for a park that means so much to us and gives us so much enjoyment. Knowing that we'll be leaving something to help FOA achieve its mission makes our trips to Acadia even more enjoyable. We're very thankful for a place like Acadia National Park and for an organization as wonderful as Friends of Acadia. 🍂

TOM AYERS lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with his husband John Murphy. Together they travel, trying to see as much of this great, big, beautiful world as they can. When they're not traveling, Tom works in communications for an engineering firm and John is retired.

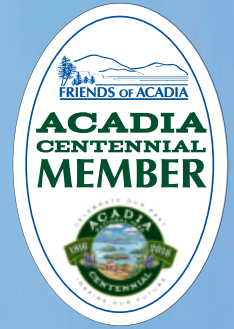


Tom Ayers (left) and John Murphy.

Be a proud Acadia Centennial Member!

Celebrate Acadia National Park's 100th birthday by becoming a Centennial Member of Friends of Acadia. Your membership contribution of \$100 or more will be recognized in the *Friends of Acadia Journal* and our Annual Report.

We'll send you a special Acadia Centennial Member decal for your vehicle, so you can show your love for our magnificent park. Please complete and return the envelope in this magazine or click the green "Donate" button on our website at friendsofacadia.org. Thanks!



Be a savvy Acadia Centennial visitor!

The Acadia Centennial Task Force hopes you will have rewarding personal, educational, and recreational experiences this year that inspire you to care about Acadia National Park and our communities. Follow these tips to be a savvy Acadia Centennial visitor:

- Choose low-impact transportation options
- Visit special park places in ways and at times that avoid and reduce crowds
- Plan safe and "Leave No Trace" experiences
- Enjoy Acadia-related amenities in our surrounding communities



Choose Low Impact Transportation Options

- Leave your car where you are staying—then walk on a Village Connector Trail, ride your bike, or take the fare-free Island Explorer bus into Acadia.
- Enjoy a car-free biking experience by using Acadia's carriage roads. Wear a helmet and watch your speed for a safer ride.
- Enjoy a summit view by hiking one of Acadia's historic trails. Stay on established trails and wear sturdy, enclosed hiking shoes for a safer hike.
- Visit Acadia with a backup plan. If a parking lot or area is full when you arrive, pick a new destination and protect the park by not adding to congestion.

Experience Special Places in New Ways

- Don't miss Acadia at night! A full moon over Sand Beach, shooting stars over Cadillac Mountain, or owl calls echoing into the stillness of a forest trail.
- Avoid Cadillac Mountain crowds at sunrise and sunset by picking a new place or new way to experience these magical moments— watch sunrise along Ocean Drive or take a sunset boat ride.
- Do your favorite things at new times of the day: Visit Acadia early morning or late afternoon to find less-crowded experiences.
- Visit in winter, spring, or late fall, to experience Acadia at its most peaceful.
- See Acadia in new ways: from a boat, on an outer island, or at a place new to you.

Make It a Maine Experience

- Spend the middle of the day—Acadia's busiest time—exploring Centennial activities around Acadia...in museums, libraries, historical societies, gardens, galleries, gift shops, and other local venues. Check the Acadia Centennial website for events and centennial products that relate to your own relationship with this special place.
- Broaden your horizons. Make Maine your destination, and find the experiences and meet the people that make this place uniquely Maine. Then extend your adventure by bringing your passport to explore neighboring national parks in Canada—make it a "Two Nation Vacation" www.two-nation-vacation.com
- Join the online conversation at #RangerPro-Tips and #AcadiaSecrets and discover simple trip planning tips to help you explore and protect Acadia every day.



Erick Swanson

Male American bull frog

Mission

Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.