



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Summer 2016
Volume 21 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

Whether driving, walking, bicycling, or riding the Island Explorer through the park, we all must pay the entrance fee. Eighty percent of all fees paid in Acadia stay in Acadia, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

The Acadia National Park \$25 weekly pass and \$50 annual pass are available at the following locations:

Open Seasonally:

Bar Harbor Village Green
Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds
Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops
Sand Beach Entrance Station
Thompson Island Information Center

Annual park passes are also available at certain Acadia-area town offices and local businesses; contact the park at 207-288-3338 to find additional pass sales locations. Plus, L.L.Bean is now selling Acadia passes at their flagship store in Freeport, Maine, so visitors driving up the coast can get their park pass on the way!

NEW! Park passes are now available online. Visit

www.yourpassnow.com



Open Year-Round:

Acadia National Park Headquarters
(Eagle Lake Road)



— PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK —

Since 2002, L.L.Bean and Friends of Acadia have partnered to preserve and protect the park through scientific research, youth education programs and the Island Explorer bus system.

Visit L.L.Bean in Freeport to find everything you need to get outside



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A HIGH BAR FOR PHILANTHROPY

When private citizens founded Acadia National Park through donations of land one hundred years ago, they established an entirely new model of how individuals and families could create a national park. They also set a very high bar for philanthropy at Acadia—and their generous precedent continues to inspire many of us today.

Now, Friends of Acadia is doing its very best to continue this tradition of community initiative and forward-looking contributions through our Second Century Campaign—the most ambitious funding drive in our organization's history. In announcing this campaign at our Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor earlier this month, FOA has committed to raising \$25 million to help prepare Acadia for its second century and the daunting challenges that the park will face in the decades to come.

We invite each and every one of you to join in this historic effort, for it will take a collective investment of gifts large and small to ensure that the very qualities that inspired Acadia's founding will be conserved for generations to come.

Today's FOA supporters have a lot in common with those working to establish the park at the start of the last century: we are trail-builders, artists, naturalists, hikers, sailors, students, businesspeople, visitors, legislators, educators, volunteers, and philanthropists. We have both deep roots in the local communities and a reputation and reach that extends throughout the world. Together, we are a formidable constituency with deep love for this place, and this allows us to think big when it comes to Acadia's future.

Many of the issues we are grappling with as Acadia turns one hundred also have parallels to the work of the park's founders: balancing competing interests of different users—those on foot, bikes, cars, buses, horses—while providing a high-quality experience for all; attracting adequate funding to steward this national treasure



given the ever-changing federal fiscal climate in Washington.

But much has changed in our society and our environment, and even visionaries like Dorr, Eliot, and Rockefeller could not have foreseen how a park like Acadia would be affected by a warming climate, a growing population, and the role of technology in our lives. With more than 80 million Americans now living within a day's drive of Acadia, the stakes are high for one of our nation's smallest, yet most highly visited national parks.

As I have spoken with many park staff, visitors, partners, neighboring landowners, and FOA members in recent months, it has become clear that many of us share a belief that the 2016 Acadia Centennial represents a historic opportunity to tackle the key issues at our park: protecting our flora and fauna, woods and watersheds in the face of rapid environmental change; developing new approaches to transportation so that all visitors can experience the best of Acadia, given the park's growing popularity; engaging more youth in Acadia to build a new generation of citizen stewards; and extending our commitment to the historic trails and carriage roads that are enjoyed by so many.

In each of these areas, funds raised by FOA through the Second Century Campaign will make possible both immediate start-up projects, as well as the long-term sustainability of endowment funds that will ensure impact well into the future. Please see the Superintendent's View and the feature article within this Journal to learn more about the goals for this campaign and how it is already making a difference here at Acadia.

How does the Second Century Campaign relate to the Acadia Centennial celebration that has been underway since January through events, products, and partnerships throughout the community? It is one more element of this collective celebration of what Acadia means to us all, and it is FOA's way of contributing significantly to the park's long-term future.

Friends of Acadia is deeply honored to be the organization through which so many of you choose to give back to this park. Whether it is a membership donation, a purchase at our Benefit Auction, a gift in memory of a loved one, or the contribution of your valuable time and expertise as a volunteer, these generous acts allow us to be an effective and impactful partner to the Park Service.

With this honor, however, comes a responsibility for FOA to think beyond the immediate demands of the daily or weekly work, or even the annual fundraising calendar. The Second Century Campaign takes this longer view, and I am grateful for the many supporters who have already responded enthusiastically to this initiative. We welcome your questions, feedback and involvement once you have had a chance to learn more through this publication, our website, and conversations this summer.

—David R. MacDonald

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MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF OUR SECOND CENTURY

Acadia National Park's Centennial year is fully upon us now. In just my first few months on the job as superintendent, I have been amazed at the outpouring of support I have seen from our communities. The Centennial Task Force has signed up more than 400 individuals, businesses, and organizations as partners, which have committed to hosting an event or donating a portion of their proceeds to the Centennial. The number of events celebrating Acadia is staggering—I recently printed the list of events, and it was nearly 40 pages long! We are very grateful to the Centennial Task Force for helping create such a buzz about the park.

As we reflect on Acadia National Park's first one hundred years of history, it is undeniable that private philanthropy and volunteerism have been a cornerstone. This iconic national park would not exist without the vision and commitment of private citizens. The tradition of private philanthropy remains alive and well at Acadia thanks to the dedicated work of Friends of Acadia. Across the National Park Service, Friends of Acadia is known as one of the highest-performing organizations, which truly sets the bar for how friends groups in parks around the nation do their work.

Yet the challenges we will face into the future are incredibly complex, and the National Park Service will never be able to resolve them alone. As Acadia begins its second century, Friends of Acadia will be vital to our success.

Now, Friends of Acadia is stepping up to the plate yet again to help make Acadia National Park's second century as impactful as its first. The Second Century Campaign will be crucial as we tackle the most pressing challenges of our next century of stewardship. Through this campaign, FOA has committed to raising a staggering \$25 million. This is an exceptionally ambitious goal, and the Second Century Campaign is strate-



gically focused on the park's most important challenges in the coming years.

The Wild Acadia program will restore watersheds, re-connect streams with the ocean to provide for fish passage, and prevent infestations of noxious weeds. In the face of a changing climate, the park's natural resources face pressures on an order of magnitude we have never seen before. We must use sound science to make decisions about the park's natural resources, and Wild Acadia will help us.

Acadia provides transformative experiences for our visitors, and a visit generates memories for a lifetime. Yet with increasing visitation, preserving high-quality experiences for our visitors is one of our greatest challenges. Acadia saw a 35% increase in visitation between 2006 and 2015. As Acadia prepares a transportation plan (and I hope you will stay engaged in this planning process by reviewing our preliminary alternatives when they are released later this summer), the Acadia Experience will help the park provide a level of excellence that would otherwise be impossible.

For many people, Acadia's 130 miles of trails and 45 miles of carriage roads define their experience at the park. The Second Century Campaign's Carriage Roads and

Trails pillar will add to the existing endowments to address immediate maintenance needs. Well maintained trails are crucial in managing the impacts of millions of footsteps, and they help us protect the park's fragile resources.

We all recognize that America's youth will soon be the next guardians of our national parks, and that kids aren't spending time in the outdoors like they did even 20 years ago. Tomorrow's Stewards will create opportunities for young people to experience Acadia and be transformed—like we once were—by the park. As leaders, one of our primary tasks is to build other leaders, and this is what Tomorrow's Stewards will do.

Finally, an endowment to insure the long-lasting financial health of Friends of Acadia is a smart investment that will likewise insure the financial health of Acadia National Park. This endowment will provide a predictable funding stream and allow the organization to focus effort on its primary mission of generating support for Acadia.

Acadia National Park is fortunate to have an organization like Friends of Acadia—so much work that otherwise wouldn't be possible gets done because of our Friends. For me, it's exciting and humbling to collaborate with our partners in leading this park into its next chapter of history. All of us at Acadia National Park sincerely appreciate your support of Friends of Acadia and we hope you will join us as we meet the challenges of our second century of stewardship in Acadia.

—Kevin Schneider

Acadia's Outdoor Classroom

We want to thank you for providing us with the money to be able to see and experience Acadia National Park. It was well worth the 2.5 hour drive to see all of the amazing places and sites, many of which we had learned about in our classrooms. For most of us it was our first time going to Acadia National Park and it is one we will never forget.

One of our favorite parts was hiking to the summit of Gorham Mountain. Hiking a mountain was another first time experience for many of us on this day. As we hiked along we could see the blue paint and cairns marking the trails that our teachers taught us about in the classroom. When we reached the summit the views were spectacular. We got to see, in person, the views we had read about like the Beehive, and Sand Beach. We could see some of our classmates on Sand Beach, looking the size of ants.

We also got to do an educational workshop called Sedimentary Sleuths, on Sand Beach. The park rangers were so nice and did an excellent job of guiding us and making the activities run smoothly. It was fun because we got to do activities on the beach that we normally wouldn't do in the classroom. We learned how the big rocks and shells turn into sand. For instance, we got to do an experiment with sand and vinegar to show us how the sand is broken down. It was really neat to see how the vinegar moved the sand all about. Being on Sand Beach and watching the waves crash against the sand allowed us to see how powerful these waves actually are. We were shocked to learn that after a major storm all the sand on the beach could be removed and all that would be left is rocks! Probably our favorite part of being on Sand Beach was being allowed to put our toes in the freezing cold ocean water. We had learned that Sand Beach is known for its cold ocean temperature. Now we know for sure because our bare feet have touched it.

This experience was exciting for us and we have you to thank for it. Thanks to the National Park's 100th year Celebration we have all received free passes for our families and

are looking forward to another visit very soon!

With Gratitude,

—The 4th Grade Students of
Margaret Chase Smith School
Skowhegan, Maine

Cleaning up for Acadia

The enclosed check represents fulfillment of one of my projects as a Centennial Partner: a year of picking up redeemable bottles and cans along our island's roads, beginning and ending with the annual spring roadside cleanup of 2015–2016. The actual cans and bottles total was 1,519 (\$75.95), and broke down as follows:

Glass bottles: 59 (exclusively beer)

Plastic bottles: 520 (even split between water, soda, and sport drinks)

Aluminum cans: 940 (beer and other alcohol-containing drinks dominated soda by 4:1)

There were numerous other containers I picked up which were non-redeemable for various reasons, and which I sent to recycle, but I decided early on not to keep track of those numbers.

During my 12 months of roadside stewardship, many observations and musings came to mind. Primary was a feeling of disbelief that so many in our society have so little regard for our beautiful island that they would toss litter on the roadside! Too, it amazed me that in throwing away containers people were essentially throwing away their own money in the form of the deposits they made on those containers! Their loss is now your gain, and in feeling assured that you will put it towards the good of our park, I feel happy to have undertaken this project.

—Marsha Lyons
Mount Desert, 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'.

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Cadillac Mountain Sunrise
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ELLIE MCGEE: PASSION AND PROMISE

Have you ever been impressed with a young person who seems to have their life together more than you do? I'm privileged to be working with one of them! Ellie McGee, a junior at Mount Desert Island (MDI) High School, has been volunteering throughout the spring, helping Friends of Acadia put together packages of window clings, partner pins, and product stickers and tags for Acadia Centennial Partners and delivering them all over MDI. If you see an Acadia Centennial window cling on the window of a Bar Harbor business, it's there because of Ellie.

Ellie's volunteerism and love for Acadia extend far beyond the centennial, however. She is a member of National Honor Society and has participated in the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup and Take Pride in Acadia Day several times.

She has spent time working on Acadia's trails and carriage roads with the summer drop-in volunteer program. Last year, Ellie helped Friends of Acadia brainstorm how to get younger people involved in the park through social media and other communication tools, as part of our inaugural Youth Advisors group.

An avid outdoorsperson, Ellie enjoys hiking throughout the park, swimming in Echo Lake, and canoeing and kayaking on Long Pond. She says that wilderness is important because it is a place with no distractions, where she can take time for herself and recharge. Ellie gained her appreciation for transformational experiences in the outdoors by participating in two wilderness adventures for girls with the Chewonki Foundation. She powered through eight days backpacking on the Appalachian Trail



Ellie McGee carries on a long family tradition of loving and caring for Acadia National Park.

Jennifer Judid-McGee

and ten days canoeing one summer, then returned the next year for a canoe trip down the Allagash Wilderness Waterway.

She enjoyed her time outdoors with Chewonki so much that she returned to Chewonki's campus for the Maine Coast Semester program last fall. While there, she took a broad range of classes and went on science-based field trips around the state weekly. She also had to contribute to campus operations, filling jobs that ranged from building trails to farming to putting up solar panels. Ellie's greatest joy, however, was finding an equally impressive group of young people who shared her dedication to sustainability and the outdoors. "Living together and sharing classes and passions enabled deep connections," remarked Ellie at a recent Pecha Kucha presentation about her Chewonki experiences. "I'll stay friends

with these people for the rest of my life."

Ellie's great hope for Acadia is that it will stay wild and that fewer cars will be allowed. She would like Acadia to be a place for people to walk, bicycle, canoe, ski, skate, and find inspiration in the beauty of nature. While her favorite trail is the Gorge Path between Cadillac and Dorr Mountains, she also enjoys less adventurous destinations—such as the Ocean Path in winter. She commends Friends of Acadia for providing volunteer opportunities that connect community members to the park, and she encourages FOA to expand the organization's existing work in youth engagement, particularly at the elementary school level.

Ellie has just begun her college search and is looking at a variety of options throughout New England. She has identified climate

change as a particular area of concern; in her words, "We can't keep these places wild if the ecosystems are falling apart." Acadia will be a natural laboratory witnessing the effects of climate change, whether damage to park infrastructure caused by extreme weather events, disconnects in predator/prey relationships, or the expansion of invasive insects that will significantly change the forested landscape.

I'm glad that Acadia has home-grown stewards like Ellie McGee—young people of great promise who become passionate about the environment through their national park experiences. Thank you, Ellie, for your many contributions to Friends of Acadia. Now get out there and solve climate change, would you? ✨

—Stephanie Clement



Second Century Campaign

A FOCUS ON THE KEY ISSUES FACING OUR PARK

By David MacDonald

Cars search for available parking spots in the Cadillac Summit lot. Photo by NPS/Fred Mason

When Friends of Acadia board and staff members first began discussing a major capital campaign to coincide with the park's centennial in 2016, we shared a desire to think big with ambitious goals; but also to maintain focus in order to have deeper impact. We also recognized that the campaign and the centennial together offered a vital opportunity to build on FOA's past successes but not be limited by them—to look with fresh eyes at Acadia National Park's needs and how this organization's abilities can best serve them.

We forged early solidarity with park staff in identifying key issues facing Acadia as it enters its second century—both the most urgent challenges and the best opportunities for long-term benefit. We prioritized those requiring private investment and then tested those priorities through discussions with our supporters, partners, and surrounding communities. The resulting Second Century Campaign is providing critical support for four “strategic pillars” of Acadia's future—*natural resource protection, visitor experience, trails and carriage roads, and youth engagement*—

where FOA can combine the best of our organization with the public resources and mission of the National Park Service. We have also committed to begin building an organizational endowment for FOA through this effort, to ensure that we will have the ongoing capacity to follow through on these commitments.

These focus areas under the Second Century Campaign will come as no surprise to regular readers of this *Journal* or followers of our work; indeed, the campaign during its quiet launch period has already given a boost to Acadia, as early leadership gifts have allowed us to start to pilot new initiatives and provide seed funding, staff resources, and research to the park.

Thus, as you may have been reading about initiatives such as the Cadillac Summit Stewards, or the Acadia Teacher Fellows, or the car-free mornings, or the Cromwell Brook restoration project, you have been seeing the early impacts of the Second Century Campaign—with thanks to the visionary donors willing to make the first commitments toward a set of very ambitious goals.

This campaign is structured to provide immediate start-up funds to allow timely progress at this historic juncture for Acadia, particularly in the area of transportation and visitor experience; while also creating long-term programmatic endowments to provide more sustainable funding over time for Wild Acadia, Tomorrow's Stewards, and carriage road maintenance.

All of us at Friends of Acadia are gratified that the Second Century Campaign is already helping Acadia prepare for a second century of conservation, inspiration, and partnership. We hope that some of the examples shared herein will inspire you to make a lasting contribution to Acadia's protection with a donation to help us meet or exceed our \$25 million goal by December 31st, 2016. A lead gift of \$5 million from the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, together with major gifts and pledges from other early campaign supporters, has already put us within \$4 million of our \$25 million goal. Now every gift large and small is important to help close the gap before the end of Acadia's centennial year. We invite you to be a permanent part of this centennial effort.

To make a gift to the Second Century Campaign or learn more about the programs it will support, please contact David MacDonald at david@friendsofacadia.org or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.



FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

Celeste Mittelhauser of Maine Natural History Observatory and soil scientist Matthew Dorman from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service take soil samples at Great Meadow.

WILD ACADIA

By taking a comprehensive approach to park watersheds such as Cromwell Brook, FOA's Wild Acadia work is coordinating the efforts of multiple partners and allowing the park to pursue strategies that will lead to healthier, more resilient streams, forests, and wildlife. FOA is partnering with the Maine Natural History Observatory to establish baseline data on factors like water quality and soil chemistry, assisting the Town of Bar Harbor in pursuing fish-friendly culverts where town roads cross the brook; and working with College of the Atlantic faculty and students on stream monitoring. The project has "revolutionized" Acadia's approach to ecosystem management, according to the park's Chief of Resource Protection, Becky Cole-Will.

THE ACADIA EXPERIENCE

With visitation to Acadia rising by 10–15% annually, and iconic sites like Cadillac Mountain facing vehicular gridlock at peak times, park officials have embarked on an in-depth transportation plan for the first time in recent park history. Friends of Acadia is providing critical funding and staff support to allow the park to gather data, model visitor use, pilot new approaches, and improve visitors' experiences while the planning process is underway. We advocated for the park to experiment with car-free mornings and also to be part of a pilot program that now allows visitors to buy their park entrance pass on-line. FOA is prepared to help with additional forward-looking implementation strategies to improve the visitor experience and protect park resources.



Lili Pew

Cyclists enjoy the Cadillac Summit Road during a car-free morning.



FOA/Amee Beal Church

Volunteer clear drainage on a curving stretch of carriage road south of Aunt Betty Pond.

CARRIAGE ROADS AND TRAILS

Acadia's carriage roads are where Friends of Acadia first exhibited the power of public-private partnerships, through a funding campaign in the early 1990s that saw the 45-mile system restored and an endowment established for its ongoing upkeep. Twenty-five years later, public use of the system continues to grow, as do the costs of upkeep and our understanding of the extent of the maintenance required to preserve these cultural and recreational gems. Miles of "back drains" constructed in the 1930s and critical to the roads' integrity have been uncovered in recent years, and dozens of scenic vistas documented for restoration. FOA has helped already through the purchase of new equipment, providing private matching funds to attract federal Centennial Challenge grants, and enlisting volunteers to help with the work. The campaign seeks to increase the existing endowment substantially for long-term sustainability.

TOMORROW'S STEWARDS

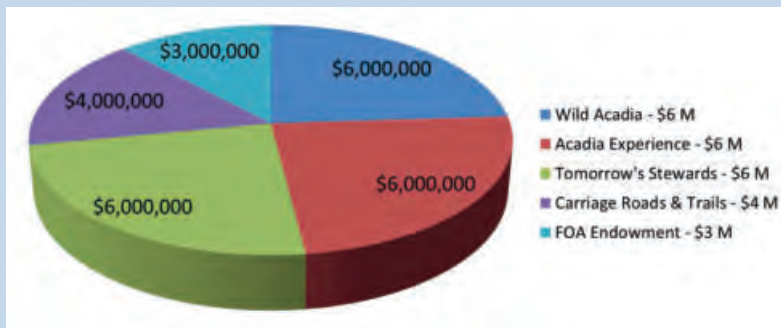
Acadia National Park is increasingly relying on FOA to provide more opportunities for youth to become more involved with the park. More Maine schoolchildren are able to participate in field trips at Acadia, thanks to our expanded transportation scholarships; and more opportunities for seasonal employment for teens and young adults now exist in Acadia and at FOA. Meanwhile, our Acadia Teacher Fellows program is the largest of its kind in the nation—with seven teachers each summer working and immersing themselves in Acadia, and then incorporating their experiences into their curriculum when they return to the classroom in the fall. The campaign will add financial capacity to these programs and ensure that we are benefiting from the involvement and leadership of the next generation of park stewards.



NPS

Seven Acadia Teacher Fellows live and learn in Acadia every summer, thanks to funding from Friends of Acadia.

Use of Second Century Campaign Funds



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CAMPAIGN LEADERSHIP

Friends of Acadia is grateful for the committed community members who have stepped forward to help lead the Second Century Campaign. Our Honorary Chairs, Mr. David Rockefeller and Senator George Mitchell, have embodied public service and generosity here at Acadia and throughout the world for decades. Campaign Chairs Anne Green, Rob Leary, and Ann Rockefeller Roberts each have deep personal love for Acadia and have worked tirelessly to put this campaign on a path toward success. And our lead donor, the Shelby Cullom Davis Charitable Fund, has provided the motivation for many others to join them through a \$5 million challenge grant to the Second Century Campaign. As FOA Board member Andrew Davis comments: "My family has supported Acadia National Park for many years because we know that it is a national treasure enjoyed by millions. It is an honor to be part of an organization like Friends of Acadia and its work to sustain the park." ✨



Charlie Jacobi

Where in Acadia? Ahhh! There's nothing like leaping into cool Acadia waters on a hot summer day. Several of the park's lakes and ponds are reserved as public water supplies (no people or pets allowed in) but Acadia still offers a great variety of pristine swimming options, from lifeguard-protected Echo Lake Beach to some at-your-own-risk gems. Have you discovered this one yet?

If you think you can identify this refreshing spot, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory about it. 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.



Spring 2016 Where in Acadia?

I'm going to guess that the structure is the Jordan Pond Gate Lodge, though it could be the Brown Mountain Gate Lodge. (*In fact, it is Brown Mountain.* —ed.)

These structures are magnificent. For me, the beauty of the park and my experiences as a visitor are greatly enhanced by these structures because they illustrate that people actually lived and labored in the park. Roads, visitor centers and bridges don't do that, though the bridges sure aren't bad! The blend of natural beauty and the many visionaries that protected the land make Acadia special and these Gate Lodges are living reminders of that union.

I'm going to guess that the Extra Credit answer is John D. Rockefeller Jr., who financed the structures.

—Peter Charman, *Lookout Mountain, Georgia*

*May I, composed...
of eros and of dust...
Show an affirming flame.*
—W.H. Auden



THE VENTURE

*on the occasion of the centennial
of Acadia National Park*

May we not trample this place.
May we be mindful—
truly mindful, like when you're climbing something steep.
May we come here in love, the way pilgrims come
to certain tombs.

May we come here in hope, the kind of hope
that makes you courageous,
like Martin Luther King's hope, or the first day
in a second career.

May we not bring our baggage with us.
I know we are always traveling,
but may we not bring our resentment,
or the sharp-edged pieces of our broken loves.

There is a theory that nature is perfect as it is;
may we at least look up from time to time,
as Whitman said, "in perfect wonder."
May we wonder if what we've done so far is enough.
May we respect the land, which is to say, ourselves.
May we respect ourselves enough to be honest with ourselves—
to be honest about what this is, and isn't.
It isn't ours, for one thing.
Disneyland is ours.
Monticello is ours.
The Constitution is ours.

May we trust what we feel when we are here.
It is almost seditious, it runs so deep,
but may we trust it.
May we trust ourselves
against the common rhetoric that land is to be "used."
That we, in the end, are primarily users.
You can't crest Sargent from the East Cliffs' clamor
to see that bay and islands, and Mansell Mountain
risen from its chair to face you
and think that's what we are.

May we leave, eventually, as we all must—
after a long weekend
or a brief fifty years—
with this place inside us—
or rather, with this place firmly inside itself.

I know we are always traveling.

May we remember, today,
and also the today of tomorrow,
what it took to keep this place for us:
an athlete's single-minded concentration
sustained for decades;
a number of fortunes;
luck;
the conviction
that what had been done so far—
and in 1916 it must have seemed like a lot
had been done: the war to restore the Union,
the railroads, Yellowstone, Yosemite—
was not enough,
that "enough" is a misnomer,
the kind of white lie you tell children—

and let us not forget luck—
that maybe one of a thousand of this kind of venture
actually succeeds
in the way that the venture
of Acadia National Park
has succeeded—

in going on being what it was;
in changing—I'm guessing nearly always for the better—
the lives of millions of people;
in showing us something that matters too deeply for words.

Which is a reminder that I have probably said enough,

except to add that the venture isn't over—
that part really does belong to us
in the way of a family home,
or a promise made to a life-long friend,
or Monticello,
or The Constitution.



CHRISTIAN BARTER is the first poet laureate of Acadia National Park, serving in the honorary post throughout 2016, the centennial year of both Acadia and the National Park Service. He read this poem, composed for the occasion, at National Trails Day in June 2016.

A group of about ten children, mostly young girls, are standing outdoors on a grassy area. They are all smiling and holding up small, square badges that feature the Acadia National Park logo. The badges are being held up in a line, from the back of the group towards the front. The children are dressed in casual summer clothing like t-shirts, shorts, and caps. In the background, there are trees and a white car parked on a paved area.

Tomorrow's Stewards

INSPIRING ACADIA'S FUTURE

By Lynne Dominy

Students from Mount Desert Elementary School took part in Acadia's Centennial Junior Ranger Day in April.

What does inspiring Acadia's future look like? In our centennial year, we are trying to capture it in photos and on film. We join in songs with young voices celebrating that they are being heard. We listen for laughter as young children earn their first shiny junior ranger badge and proudly display their Acadia centennial tattoo. We watch as a family begins their first Acadia Quest and revels in their discovery of their first digital quest badge while uncovering clues across the park. How many young artists will be inspired to become painters, sculptors, quilters, musicians, or photographers as they participate in community events? How many will be inspired to become actors or playwrights or directors or public speakers after creating their own plays and movies?

In the spirit of the entire Acadia centennial, every child has chosen if and how they want to participate. Second graders in Tremont traveled through time on Mount Desert Island with Jack and Annie in their magic treehouse. Third graders at Conners-

Emerson built a website about Acadia for other kids who plan to visit. Fourth graders at Fairmont Middle School in Bangor celebrated Acadia Day with park rangers and earned their free *Every Kid in a Park* passes, enabling their families to visit all public lands for free during this centennial year. With special centennial challenge funding matched by FOA, more than 500 fourth graders explored Acadia by land and by sea—joining education Rangers on trips to Baker Island, Islesford, Sand Beach, and Carroll Homestead. The Mount Desert middle school students sang a national centennial song as part of the opening ceremony for National Junior Ranger Day at Camp Beechcliff. Centennial ambassadors from Mount Desert also helped young children learn about nature and stewardship of Acadia. National Honor Society students at Mount Desert Island High School created a fun play showcasing Acadia's past, present, and future with historical characters and activities of interest to teens. Dreams became reality as young Red Sox fans pledged

to care for Acadia during Acadia Day at Fenway Park. Hundreds of MDI students have been creating a series of films showing their perspectives about Acadia and its value to them.

Join us as we discover what is next. How many hundreds of people will wear Acadia centennial tattoos on their faces to show their support for the Acadia staff walking in the Bar Harbor Fourth of July parade? How many taste buds will tingle as they taste the Gifford's Acadia centennial "birthday cake" ice cream? Youth across the state have the opportunity to take the Acadia 100 challenge and create any Acadia-based project celebrating the many meanings of Acadia. We know that we will be able to look back on this year and celebrate the creativity, passion, ingenuity, and fun ideas created by the next generation as they show us all how to appreciate the legacy of our Acadia. ✨

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



NPS/Anastasia Roy



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas



NPS/Kristi Rugg

Clockwise from top left: A 4th-grader at Fairmont Middle School explores the science of Acadia; Acadia Centennial tattoos will delight visitors of all ages this year; Junior Ranger Day was an opportunity to try many new experiences with park rangers and other outdoor educators; students in the Acadia Centennial film class at Mount Desert Island High School explored filmmaking—and their own relationship with the park—from the ground up; fourth-graders from Windsor learn about the history of Baker Island thanks to a Centennial Challenge grant matched by Friends of Acadia.



Jeff Zaman

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

THE WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA AT 55

By Genie Thorndike



Wild Gardens of Acadia Archive

This archive photo appears in *The Wild Gardens of Acadia* with the caption, “By the spring of 1963, the native columbine (*Aquilegia canadensis*) that Elizabeth Thorndike grew from seed was ready to be planted on the Mountain, a habitat displaying plants that grow naturally at higher elevations. To ensure its survival, Thorndike regularly watered it, setting an example of stewardship for future volunteers.”

Back in the 1970s, my husband Will and his brother Lanny would count the mountain of an entire summer’s worth of change from the Wild Gardens of Acadia’s collection box on their great-aunt Betty Thorndike’s rug. Today, our family cherishes fond memories of Betty’s early involvement in these gardens, which she helped establish with similarly beloved, creative, and resourceful founders. Every summer we bring family and friends to the Wild Gardens “to sit on Aunt Betty,” which means locating and sitting on the wooden bench that has her name on it. Entering the gardens, we suddenly leave the parking lot noise behind and escape the looming scale of Dorr Mountain. We meander in the green oasis on paths that twist and turn and offer serendipitous choices. Do we move towards the ferns or that rocky

ledge? What do the signs Bog or Meadow promise? As we loop and retrace, we each create our own relaxing journey through the thirteen habitats designed to feature the native plants of Acadia National Park.

This season Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter, long-time volunteers in the gardens since the 1970s, celebrate the 55th birthday of the Wild Gardens with their beautifully co-authored pictorial history: *The Wild Gardens of Acadia* published by Arcadia Publishing. Their selection of historical and current photographs illustrates the evolution of the habitats, and perhaps most importantly pay tribute to the numerous important volunteers who have made and continue to make these spectacular gardens possible.

The founding vision began in 1961 when Janet TenBroeck and members of the Bar Harbor and Mount Desert Garden Clubs

decided to learn more about native plants. Energized by then-park superintendent Hal Hubler, who offered the site at Sieur des Monts, Acadia National Park has supported the gardens with steady resources ever since. Devoted, hard-working volunteers have been crucial to the gardens’ success. These loyal stewards source and propagate plants, maintain and develop new habitats, teach visitors about wild flowers, and work hard to ensure the gardens’ perpetuity.

Sue Leiter reflects on the talent: “bright, strong-willed, determined people who had to cooperate to achieve an important goal. The Wild Gardens of Acadia represents an almost miraculous accomplishment achieved and maintained by a group of people whom I greatly admire.” Anne Kozak expresses similar admiration and gratitude: “While a number of people were active in

establishing the gardens, some—particularly Betty Thorndike, Janet TenBroeck, Betty Owens, Ruth Goldthwait, Katrina Hummell, Dorcas Crary, and Ruth Soper—turned out not only to be long-term volunteers but extraordinary mentors for me, Sue Leiter, Bobbie Cole, and countless others. From them, committee members learned more than just how to cultivate and maintain plants native to Mount Desert Island.”

Josh Winer, whose contemporary photographs complement the archival images in the book, describes a sentiment probably felt by many: “Anne and Sue enlisted me but the gardens seduced me; the more I learned about the history of stewardship and dedication of the gardens’ founders, the more invested in the project I became, and I felt quite proud to be a contributor.”

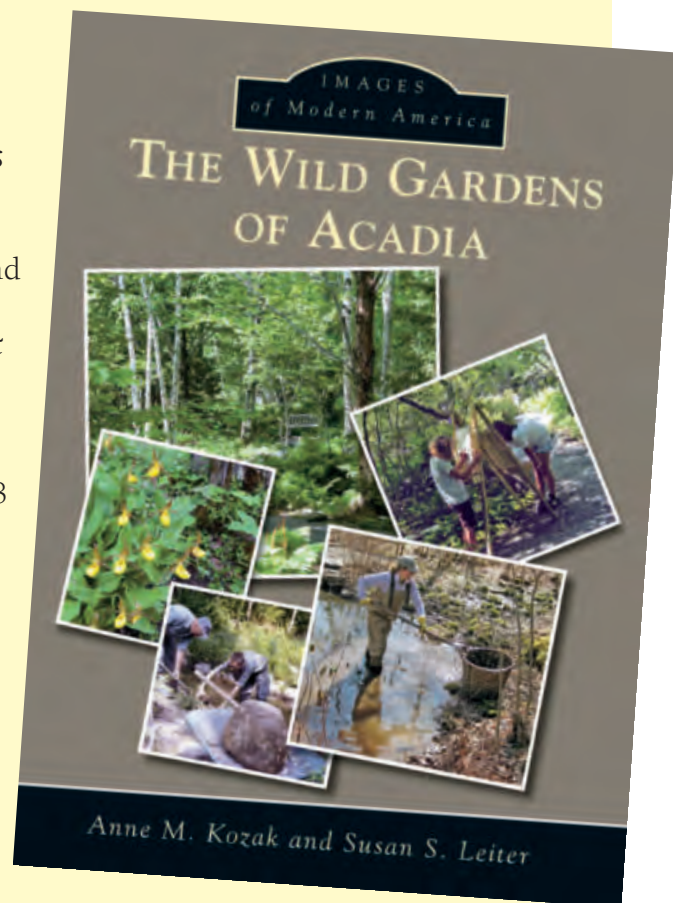
Fortunately the future of the Wild Gardens is now assured by coming under the umbrella of Friends of Acadia in 2012 thanks to the efforts of Ken Olson, Lili Pew, Marla O’Byrne, Sheridan Steele, and the staff of Friends of Acadia. Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter worked hard to achieve this protection and are crucial links from the early founders to the current head gardener, interns, and volunteers. Their extensive involvement in all aspects of the gardens makes them uniquely qualified to write this detailed history, from which all royalties will go directly into the new endowment for the Wild Gardens.

Come explore the Wild Gardens on your way into the park, before a hike up Dorr or a visit to the Nature Center or the original Abbe Museum at Sieur de Monts Spring. Afterwards, do purchase a copy of *The Wild Gardens of Acadia* to learn about its history. And I invite you “to sit on Aunt Betty” or any of the other well-placed benches commemorating individuals instrumental in creating and caring for this Acadia National Park treasure. ✱

GENIE THORNDIKE has volunteered in the Wild Gardens of Acadia since 2010 and currently serves on the WGA Executive Committee. Residents of Bar Harbor and Westwood, Massachusetts, Genie and Will have been members of Friends of Acadia for more than a decade.

The Wild Gardens of Acadia

By Anne M. Kozak and Susan S. Leiter
Arcadia Publishing & The History Press
Images of Modern America series
ISBN: 9781467115278
\$22.99
160 pp. full-color paperback



About the Authors

ANNE KOZAK began volunteering in the Wild Gardens of Acadia in 1973 and is currently the co-chair of the Wild Gardens Committee. A freelance writer and editor, Kozak teaches writing and directs the writing program at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.

SUSAN LEITER has volunteered in the Wild Gardens of Acadia since 1974, and served as co-chair for 22 years. She is retired from a long career as the library media specialist at Connors Emerson School in Bar Harbor, where the library bears her name.

“Few of the thousands of park visitors that tour the garden each year have any inkling of just how much of a struggle it has been to create and continue the effort. A brief chapter outlining the history is included in ‘The Wild Gardens of Acadia.’ But the most fertile ground is in the pictures. The images are more than a simple look back. They serve as a roll call of the personalities, talents and sacrifices that have kept the garden going, as well as a casual guide to the plants and trees themselves. The beauty of it all is that it demonstrates the truism that when it comes to nurturing a garden, even a ‘wild’ one, the growth of people, plants and knowledge is inextricably intertwined.” —*Mount Desert Islander*

Author events for The Wild Gardens of Acadia

July 25 at College of the Atlantic
August 24 at Northeast Harbor Library

HEALTHY FORESTS ARE MESSY FORESTS!

By Kate Miller

As a forest ecologist with the National Park Service's Northeast Temperate Network (NETN), I have spent that past 10 years monitoring forest health in national parks across the eastern US, with much of my time spent in Acadia National Park. Information gathered through monitoring allows park managers to make good decisions about how to manage forests. With a solid decade of monitoring under our belts, we at NETN have a good understanding of the health of, and threats to, regional forests.

The good news for Acadia's forests is that they are in good condition. In fact, Acadia's forests are in better condition than many national parks south of us, which are often seriously impacted by invasive plant species or overabundance of white-tailed deer—often both. Forests in Acadia also contain significantly older forest habitat than most forests in Downeast Maine, providing regionally important habitat for species dependent on older forests, such as northern flying squirrels and birds like brown creepers.

Partially due to luck, and partially because of Acadia's Exotic Plant Management Program, forests in Acadia are largely composed of native species. Forests in Acadia are also following natural processes, another strong indicator of healthy forests. The forests affected by the 1947 fire are following expected successional patterns, where pioneer species like paper birch and big-tooth aspen are dying back and being replaced by shade-tolerant species like red spruce and red maple. Outside of the range of that fire, forests in Acadia are primarily composed of even-aged, mature spruce-fir forest, with some stands beginning to transition into late-successional forest.

The transition, which often involves the break-up of the even-aged canopy (picture blow-downs after a big storm), may appear untidy and chaotic. But it is an important part of the successional process: structural complexity is added to the forest, as from fallen branches and trunks or tipped-up root

mounds, and room is made for other trees to grow larger and taller. The end-result of this process, which we expect half or more of Acadia's forests to reach in the next century or two (barring major climatic changes), is a structurally complex old-growth forest composed primarily of red spruce, frequently over 16" in diameter, and that contains dead standing trees and fallen logs over a range of sizes and stages of decomposition. The features I described are common in one of the few remaining stands of old-growth in Acadia, along the Sluice Way Trail on Bernard Mountain.

Major threats to Acadia's forests include invasive plant species, exotic forest pests, atmospheric deposition (for example, acid rain), and climate change. While we are unsure exactly how climate change will impact forests in Acadia, we are certain that impacts will happen—if they are not already happening. In the short-term (years to decades), reducing non-climate stressors in Acadia, such as invasive plant species and exotic forest pests, is one of the best management actions park managers can take to ensure that forests are resilient for responding and adapting to a changing climate. In the long term, climate change adaptation will be necessary, and planning for this is already underway in Acadia. Beyond reduction of non-climate stressors, my primary recommendation to park managers is to take a largely hands-off approach to forest management. In other words, park managers should allow forests to develop under natural processes, such as succession and natural disturbance, and should only intervene when natural processes are disrupted by a stressor, such as overabundance of deer.

I encourage land managers, from small private landowners to land management agencies, to take a similar hands-off approach, particularly if their land is not managed for timber production. Over the years, I have observed many a well-intentioned landowner who, through trying to be a good land steward, takes actions that impair rather than

improve ecosystem health. Many of these mistakes relate to the misconception that forests need to be "cleaned up" to be healthy. My main objective in writing this article is to dispel this myth and to proclaim that healthy forests are messy! I also offer the following guidelines that I abide by on my own property and that I hope are useful for others:

Above all else, just let it be. Doing nothing is a perfectly acceptable approach to managing forests where timber production is not the primary objective. Nature typically does not require human intervention to be a healthy, functioning ecosystem. Allowing natural processes, such as disturbances and dying trees, to occur without human interference is good practice for northeastern forests.

Dead wood is good wood. While they may look messy to an untrained eye, dead and dying trees are important features of a healthy forest. As stated by Franklin et al. (1987), "At the time a tree dies, it has only partially fulfilled its potential ecological function." Dead standing trees (snags) and dead fallen wood provide crucial habitat for many species of birds, small mammals, amphibians, insects, mosses, and fungi. Dead fallen wood also provides important habitat for tree seedlings to germinate. The tip-up mounds created by downed trees provide additional regeneration sites for tree seedlings, and are important habitat for small mammals and ground-nesting birds. In fact, the winter wren, whose exuberant and melodious trills are one of the first songs of spring, is a species that specializes in nesting in the root wads of these mounds. Where possible, leave dying trees and dead wood to persist in the forest.

Encourage native species. Invasive species are a major threat to the health of our northern forests. Refraining from planting non-native species and removing invasive species that are already present are some of the best ways to ensure a healthy forest. On my own property, I have been



Dead wood offers crucial habitat for both animals and many plant species, including the mosses and seedlings that bring beauty to Acadia's old-forest hiking trails.

battling a stand of oriental bittersweet for the last five years. For more information, visit the Maine Natural Areas Program's website on invasive species in Maine: http://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/invasives.htm

Keep the good bugs happy and the bad bugs away. Insect pollinators are critical to a functioning ecosystem, vital to farmers, and extremely vulnerable to pesticides. Following organic gardening practices and planting a diversity of native flowering plants can go a long way to keeping pollinators happy. More information on pollinator conservation can be found here: <http://www.xerces.org/pollinators-northeast-region/>

Exotic forest pests, which pose a big threat to several very common species in the northeast, are primarily spread by the movement of firewood. Acadia campers should be aware: out-of-state firewood is banned in Maine. For more information about specific forest pests and how to slow their spread, check out the Maine Forest Service's page: http://maine.gov/dacf/mfs/forest_health/invasive_threats/index.htm

Protect the soil. Healthy soils are important for ensuring healthy forests. Earthworms, which are not native to the northeastern US, may be good for the garden but are not good for northern forests. Leaf litter, which supplies nutrients to plants and buffers the underlying soil from desiccation, can be quickly consumed by earthworms. Many beloved understory plants, including trout lily and trilliums, are dependent on a thick layer of leaf litter and can quickly decline after earthworm introduction. Seedlings of common tree species, including sugar maple and northern red oak, are also sensitive to earthworms. Earthworms are often used as fishing bait and may also come in compost, mulching, or other nursery material. To avoid further spread of earthworms in the northeast, put unused bait in the trash, not in the woods, and avoid dumping mulch or compost in the forest. For more information, check out the Great Lakes Worm Watch program's website: <http://www.nrri.umn.edu/worms/>

Maintain forest buffers. Forests can slow the movement and improve the quality of water flowing into streams, ponds,

and wetlands. Forested buffers also provide shade for streams, which improves habitat for cold-water fish species like trout. Forest buffers are important for many species of amphibians that breed in aquatic habitats but spend most of the year in upland habitats. Maintaining forest buffers adjacent to streams, ponds, and wetlands can go a long way in protecting aquatic ecosystems and the species dependent on these habitats.

Following these guidelines will promote forest health across the northeast, and I encourage interested readers to check out the links I provided to learn more about sound land stewardship. For more information on the forests in Acadia, readers can visit the NETN website (go.nps.gov/netn), which offers numerous 2-page resource briefs, annual technical reports, and detailed monitoring protocols for the programs we are currently implementing in Acadia. We also have a Facebook page where we post updates from the field crews and announce public events. ✨

KATE MILLER is a forest ecologist with the National Park Service's Northeast Temperate Network, based at Acadia National Park.



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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

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

Acadia Car-Free Morning Saturday September 17
Enjoy Ocean Drive and the Park Loop Road on bicycle or on foot

8th Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival September 22–25
Hands-on experiences, internationally recognized speakers, and in-park star parties to protect and enjoy Acadia's magnificent night sky

America's Best Idea:
A Night with Dayton Duncan Monday September 26
Join us at the 1932 Criterion Theatre for a film screening and Q&A with Dayton Duncan, writer and co-producer for the Ken Burns documentary series The National Parks

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

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For more information about how you can help support Friends of Acadia, contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development & Donor Relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit us online:

friendsofacadia.org



Keeping Our Communities Clean

More than 300 volunteers picked up 476 bags of trash from the shoulders of many of the major roads on Mount Desert Island and in Trenton for Friends of Acadia's 17th annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. Cleanup teams included groups from Acadia Fire FC, Bar Harbor/MDI Rotary Club, The Knowles Company, MDI National Honors Society, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor Savings and Loan, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, U.S. Coast Guard, Trenton Community Group, The Home Depot, and many other local individuals and families. An exciting group addition for this year was the Trenton-based Acadia Fire FC Soccer Academy, which brought 50 young volunteers to participate for the first time.



Island Explorer is a Northern Star

Downeast Transportation, the nonprofit organization that runs the Island Explorer bus system, is a recipient of the 2016 Northern Star of the Northeast "Outstanding Clean Cities Stakeholders" Recognition Award for its commitment to the goals of the Clean Cities program through use of alternative fuels, alternative fuel vehicle purchasing, and petroleum reduction practices.

The Northern Stars of the Northeast program was funded through a U.S. Department of Energy grant that identified barriers to the proliferation of alternative fuels and how to remove them. The program was developed by the Northeastern Clean Cities Coalitions and is just one of the ways that these coalitions promote the use of alternative fuels in fleets.

Since 1999, the free, propane-powered Island Explorer has carried more than 6



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas x 2

Acadia Fire FC "fielded" a large group of volunteers for the FOA Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, making a huge contribution to the effort on the west side of Mount Desert Island.

million Acadia-area visitors and residents. Friends of Acadia has been involved with the bus system since its inception, funding and spearheading the initial test routes; today, the Island Explorer is funded by the state and federal governments as well as grants from L.L.Bean, Friends of Acadia, local towns, businesses, and passenger donations. Want to help reduce congestion in Acadia (and skip searching for a parking space)? Ride the bus!

Acadia Centennial Recognition

In March the Acadia National Park Centennial celebration received an honorable

mention award in the category of "Outstanding Public Engagement for a Program or Service" from the Public Lands Alliance (PLA; formerly the Association of Partners for Public Lands). PLA helps nonprofit partner organizations to public land management agencies grow and become more effective in their work. Friends of Acadia is a member of the PLA and nominated the Acadia Centennial for the public engagement award.

The nomination recognized the work of the Acadia Centennial Task Force and Friends of Acadia in establishing systems and processes for organizations, business-

es, and individuals to become partners in celebrating Acadia's centennial. The nomination also documented the accomplishments at the time of the Centennial effort, including a logo contest, volunteer ambassador training, the recruitment of more than 200 partners, and the development of the Acadia Centennial website—which provides visitors with easy access to information about centennial events and products, ways to engage their schools, and ways to become an Acadia Centennial Partner. Thanks to the efforts of the Acadia Centennial Task Force with support from Friends of Acadia, the Acadia Centennial celebrations have blossomed into a significant affirmation of a beloved public land, and Friends of Acadia was thrilled that the PLA recognized us for this labor of love.



Look for the Acadia Centennial logo throughout Acadia's surrounding communities.

Acadia Centennial Partners Gathering

Maren Auditorium on the campus of the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory was humming the morning of May 9th, 2016 as Acadia Centennial Partners gathered to share their centennial plans and network. Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider provided brief remarks, along with Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald and Acadia Centennial Task Force Co-Chairs Cookie Horner and Jack Russell. Julie Veilleux, chair of the Acadia Centennial Products Working Group, displayed Acadia Centennial Products and updated the partners on the more than sixty products being offered in local communities. Fred Benson and other members of the

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Authors Dolores Kong and Dan Ring also write a blog at www.acadiaonmymind.com
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Kelley Farm musical group performed the original piece, *The Acadia Waltz*, and a video was shown of Mount Desert Elementary School students singing at Junior Ranger Day at Camp Beech Cliff.

The meeting also included a brief discussion about anticipated high levels of visitation at the park this year and ways that Acadia Centennial Partners could help visitors avoid congested times and places in the park, using public transportation and participating in diverse community centennial events and programs during the busiest hours in the park. The event concluded with a showing of Peter Logue's film, *Acadia Centennial 2016: Celebrate Our Past, Inspire Our Future*. The 400+ Acadia Centennial Partners will gather again on December 10th for the sealing of the Acadia Centennial time capsule and a celebration of the year's activities.

Support the Acadia Centennial Partners

More than 400 businesses, organizations, and individuals have signed up to be Acadia Centennial Partners. The breadth and depth of this alliance supporting Acadia National Park in its centennial year is extraordinary. Friends of Acadia and the Acadia Centennial Task Force encourage everyone to patronize these businesses, support these organizations, and thank them for their love of Acadia! You may see flags and window clings with the Acadia Centennial logo adorning storefronts and offices of Acadia Centennial Partners. These items, together with the Acadia Centennial Partner pins, product tags and stickers, and partner cards are intended to help residents and visitors identify Acadia Centennial Partners. Look for them as you are out and about in the communities surrounding the park! You can also find a full list of Acadia Centennial Partners at www.acadiacentennial2016.org.

Another Quiet Morning in Acadia

The park once again closed the Loop Road to automobiles for a Saturday morning in May, the third such "Car-Free Acadia Morning" in the past two years. Temperate but damp weather didn't deter the many cyclists who came from near and far to enjoy a quieter, calmer experience on Acadia's



FOA/Anne Beal Church

Cyclists enjoy a peaceful Park Loop Road during the car-free morning in May.

magnificent motor roads. Noted one cyclist, “I was on Ocean Drive around 8:30 in the morning. The only sounds were a light wind in the trees, the waves on the ledges, and a great variety of spring warblers (especially ovenbirds!)—what a treat to have that kind of morning all to myself.”

The car-free idea was piloted in 2015. Although some visitors reported being inconvenienced by the closure, the overwhelming response was very positive, and the park decided to continue offering car-free mornings in 2016. The next car-free morning is planned for Saturday, September 17th.

Passing the Stewardship Baton

Friends of Acadia’s stewardship coordinator of five years, Anna Adams, returned briefly to Acadia in May for a special staff training session. Anna began a permanent position this winter as the event coordinator at Pope Memorial Humane Society in Rockland, Maine. “My position is year round, full time managing their TV show, speaking on behalf of the organization, and running events. I

am really enjoying my new job, but quite nostalgic over not working with the volunteers this centennial season.” FOA requested and Anna happily agreed to assist with training this spring for our excellent new stewardship staff, who bring to the program many years of trailwork and volunteer experience on national lands. Come meet them on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday mornings at park headquarters to help with a carriage road or trails work project. All are welcome to join the fun—no registration or experience required.

National Trails Day

The stewardship season kicked off on Saturday, June 4th with National Trails Day. A group of 30 gathered to hear Acadia’s first poet laureate, Christian Barter, give an inspiring and eloquent reading of his poem “The Venture,” written in honor of the centennial (see page 10). Chris’s 27 years of experience on Acadia’s trail crew provides an unparalleled perspective on the beloved paths that bring all of Acadia’s devotees to-

gether. Following the reading, staff and volunteers dispersed to work on the Canon Brook Trail and Ocean Path, while others walked the Asticou-Jordan Pond Path with trail crew members to learn about trail restoration.



FOA/Paige Steele

ANP poet laureate and trail crew supervisor Christian Barter looks at trail plans on the Asticou-Jordan Pond Path stepping stones with FOA member Abigail Conrad

IN NOMINE

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March 1 – May 31, 2016



FOA/Aimee Beal Church

Native columbine (*Aquilegia Canadensis*) grace the mountain habitat of the Wild Gardens of Acadia—perhaps a direct descendant of those that WGA co-founder Betty Thorndike nurtured from seed (see page 14).



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Author Ron Epp delighted a full house with tales from the many years he spent researching his new biography of George B. Dorr, *Creating Acadia National Park*, during the book's launch party at Jesup Memorial Library. Friends of Acadia published the book in April. It is available at most bookstores in the Acadia area.

Schoodic Ferry Study

Prompted by expanded visitor opportunities and the National Park Service's transportation planning process, as well as shared interest in encouraging alternative transportation options for accessing the park, Friends of Acadia commissioned a feasibility and management study to look at ways to enhance ferry service between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor. After the study was completed, FOA made the results public so that anyone interested in adding ferry

service—whether the current operator or someone new—could make use of it. In fact, the existing operator has already implemented some of the recommendations from the study, and a new service has been launched in spring 2016 to expand options for travel—in both directions—between the park's two largest districts.

Schoodic Bicycle Surge

The Schoodic Loop Road is an easy bicycle ride with spectacular ocean scenery. Be-



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

David MacDonald throws the ceremonial first pitch at Acadia Day at Fenway Park in June. Thirty-seven Acadia junior rangers joined him on the field to celebrate the park's centennial.

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FOA/Aimee Beal Church

The new Isle au Haut Mailboat, Otter, was almost ready for launch at the Surry, Maine, town landing in early July. Bill Grindle (third from left), general manager at Wesmac Custom Boats, stands with his crew from the family-owned boat building company. Also present but not pictured was Captain Garret Aldrich of Isle au Haut Boat Services; he expressed great appreciation for Friends of Acadia's support and Wesmac's dedication to the project.

cause it is a one-way road, making a loop has until recently meant riding outside the park, where the state roads have narrow or nonexistent shoulders for biking. The opening of the Schoodic Woods campground, day use parking, and bicycle paths on September 2nd, 2015 changed this. One of the new bicycle paths crosses the Schoodic Peninsula to close the loop for bicyclists, eliminating the need to ride on less-safe roads. The campground itself meant more visitors staying on the peninsula, which also could add to bike use there.

In 2013 the park started monitoring bicycle use of the Schoodic Loop Road in expectation of increased bicycle use because of this new loop ride and six other miles of car-free bike paths. Throughout the summer and fall of 2015, Abby Seymour, the FOA-funded Recreation Technician, worked with Acadia visitor use specialist Charlie Jacobi to count bicyclists, walkers, and runners on the Loop Road.

Bicycle use of the road in 2015 showed a marked increase in September and October compared with 2013 and 2014 numbers. For example, although the counts for July and August were slightly lower than 2014, the count for September 2015 was 74% higher than the previous year (almost double) and the count for October was 150% higher.

Isle au Haut's New Mailboat

The Isle au Haut Mailboat provides the only year-round service to the island community of Isle au Haut, as well as seasonal service to the Duck Harbor landing of Acadia National Park. Its nonprofit operator, Isle au Haut Boat Services, has a cooperative agreement with Acadia that provides for many services, from passenger counts to be sure day hikers aren't stranded overnight to free transport for park personnel.

The *Miss Lizzie*, nearly 50 years old and long a fixture on local waters, saw her last

season as the Isle au Haut Mailboat last year, as necessary maintenance and upgrades on the wooden vessel were projected to outstrip her value. A brand-new fiberglass boat was commissioned from Wesmac, a custom boat builder in Surry, Maine. The new boat, *Otter*, is a Wesmac Super 46, bigger and faster than *Miss Lizzie* but retaining the top deck seating that passengers love on a nice day. Thanks to a challenge grant offered by a mutual donor of Friends of Acadia and the Isle au Haut Boat Services, a total of \$190,690 has been donated to the project through FOA, allowing the boat construction to stay ahead of schedule and providing a new opportunity for our organizations to collaborate to benefit both the community and the park. Additional funding toward the estimated \$900,000 cost came from generous gifts from seasonal and year-round residents of Isle au Haut and by Federal capital funds provided through the Maine Department



FOA/Paige Steele

In addition to the Clean Water, Clean Shores event, Friends of Acadia partners on at least one other shoreline cleanup most years. Here, volunteers pose in 2015 with collected junk on Long Island in Blue Hill Bay during an annual cleanup co-hosted with Friends of Blue Hill Bay. The effort was repeated this year in early July. Most of the island is protected by conservation easements held by Acadia National Park.

of Transportation. In 2015, the mailboat carried 4,186 one-way resident and school passengers between the island and Stonington, and 14,042 non-residents—plus almost 900 excursion passengers and, of course, the mail!

Great Maine Outdoor Month

The Great Maine Outdoor Weekend (GMOW) is a biannual celebration of all the amazing outdoor activities Maine has to offer. In honor of the Acadia Centennial, the fall GMOW activities will focus on the Downeast region and will be extended over a whole month, beginning September 16. Get out in the crisp fall air for guided hikes, stargazing, bike rides, nature programs, trail work, and so much more at locations throughout the Acadia area. Many of the participating organizations (including Friends of Acadia) are also Acadia Centennial Partners. See the GMOW website for a

complete schedule: greatmaineoutdoorweekend.org/downeast-acadia/.

Clean Water, Clean Shores

Help keep Acadia's coast pristine! Join Friends of Acadia and other partners on September 17th for our annual shoreline cleanup. This year, the goal is to remove boatloads of trash from Schoodic Island, off the point of Schoodic Peninsula. The Clean Water, Clean Shores event is a great example of collaboration between many partners: Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service.



Mangled lobster traps were just one sort of flotsam collected by volunteers during last year's Clean Water, Clean Shores event.

These organizations provide staffing, boats, trash removal, and lunch for the event. Volunteer registration will open August 17th on the Friends of Acadia website.

Authors Celebrate Acadia

Three FOA-connected books celebrating Acadia and its history have been published this year, and the authors will be giving many signings, appearances, and exhibits this summer. As you plan your Acadia Centennial activities, we hope you will take the opportunity to meet Tom Blagden, photographer and author of *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration*; Ronald Epp, historian and author of *Creating Acadia National Park: The Biography of George Bucknam Dorr*; and Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter, authors of *The Wild Gardens of Acadia*. All royalties from these books benefit Friends of Acadia and our programs.

Tom Blagden: July 14—College of Atlantic exhibit, *Glaciers to Granite*, opening reception and signing

Tom Blagden: July 18—Northeast Harbor Library talk and book signing

Ronald Epp: July 19—Acadia Authors Night at College of the Atlantic

Tom Blagden: July 20—Courthouse Gallery, Ellsworth, Centennial Group Exhibit, opening reception

Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter: July 25—College of the Atlantic, talk and reception

Tom Blagden: Aug 3—Courthouse Gallery, Ellsworth talk and book signing

Ronald Epp: July 28—Ellsworth Public Library, *The Contributions of Ellsworth Attorney John A. Peters to the "Father of Acadia"*, talk

Tom Blagden: Aug. 17—Islesboro Community Center talk and book signing

Tom Blagden: Aug. 22—College of Atlantic, *Glaciers to Granite*, talk

Ronald Epp: August 3—Northeast Harbor Library, talk

Ronald Epp: August 16—Camden Public Library, *Writing about Conservation Giants*, talk

Ronald Epp: August 18—Blue Hill Public Library, *My Two Decades of Writing about Acadia's Founder*, talk

Ronald Epp: August 22—St. Saviour's Episcopal Church, Bar Harbor, Reenactment of Acadia's 1916 founding celebration



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ACADIA BREATHE

Acadia had a pretty good year on Capitol Hill thanks to the collective voice of park advocates. Although no base funding increase was dedicated to Acadia, the FY 2016 budget included additional operating funds for national parks (\$94 million increase), which will help parks keep pace with increasing costs and inflation. Acadia also received almost \$2.5 million in Land and Water Conservation Fund appropriations that is helping the park acquire important parcels inside park boundaries in the Northeast Creek, Seal Cove Pond, and Round Pond watersheds. One of Acadia's centennial challenge projects was also funded—a project to bring fourth graders to the park for field trips. Congress appropriated \$32,864 for the project, and Friends of Acadia has matched this with youth engagement and education-related funds, resulting in hundreds of fourth graders meeting rangers “on location” in the park—many for their very first visit to Acadia.

Two other major agency initiatives are also anticipated to have a beneficial impact on Acadia and other national parks. The National Park Service published revisions to Director's Order #21, the agency's policy on fundraising and philanthropy. Friends of Acadia worked with other friends groups and the Public Lands Alliance to formulate national-level comments. Friends of Acadia also submitted our own comments with the overall goal of improving the capacity for partner organizations to contribute funds to our national parks.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) also recently released amendments to the Regional Haze Rule, a rule intended to help national parks and wilderness areas (“Class 1” areas under the Clean Air Act) achieve natural visibility conditions by 2064. With support from the National Parks Conservation Association, I was able

to testify before the EPA in June at a public hearing on the proposed revisions. My testimony focused on three areas: 1) what we know about haze at Acadia; 2) the improving air quality trends at Acadia that show that the beneficial effects of the Clean Air Act; and 3) why the EPA should act swiftly and with confidence to strengthen the Regional Haze Rule. Visitor surveys at Acadia show that 98% of visitor groups at the park think clean air and visibility are “extremely important” or “very important.”

My testimony also referred to the Acadia Centennial and the 400-plus community partners that have signed up to help foster the next century of conservation in the park. A local advocacy initiative is aimed at encouraging visitors to find new ways to enjoy the park with less impact. Rack cards, websites, park programming, and social media have been subtly changed to inspire visitors to use public transportation, walk or bicycle to the park, visit normally crowded areas of the park during off-peak times, and enhance their park experience by participating in community-based centennial activities. Another public comment period is also anticipated this summer on Acadia National Park's transportation plan, a historic opportunity to advise the park on transportation options for the future.

There are many avenues for advocating on behalf of Acadia—whether writing letters to Congress, providing public comment to agency rulemaking efforts, participating in local planning meetings, or advising guests how best to reduce their impact while visiting the park. Friends of Acadia thanks all its members who work to engage others in conserving the park for the next century.

—Stephanie Clement

VISION AND SHARED EXPERIENCE

Vision isn't only about sight, a fact of which I was keenly reminded some years back on the nature trail at Ship Harbor. I was walking hand-in-hand with my then-6-year-old granddaughter, Catie, and we were chatting away and exclaiming about everything we saw: a sudden emerging peek at sparkling water, a fallen tree lying at an interesting angle, looking down at sturdy stone steps and looking up as sunlight flickered for an instant between the leaves of gently blowing leaves. Step after step yielded visual treasures—views, light, natural objects—and I realized that I was seeing things I had never seen before or seeing them in a way that I had not seen before because of how I was looking.

Wanting to have a shared experience with Catie, I was actively looking for things to point out to her. As we walked and talked, Ship Harbor became magical in the way it informed our conversation. Suddenly, we were not grandfather and granddaughter, but two six year-olds chatting and giggling together, exclaiming in the delight of discovery of the world in which we live and in the joy of being with each other. What a magical moment! How I loved Catie, how I loved Acadia, and how fortunate and grateful I am to have had such an experience!

I've walked the Ship Harbor Trail many times before and since but that day remains the most vivid in my mind. It's not that the weather was particularly fine or the light particularly golden, it's the lasting connection I made with my granddaughter through all the things we saw together. That's the power of a shared experience: it expands our vision.

Someone recently asked me why I contribute to Friends of Acadia, both as a donor and as a volunteer on the board. I started to talk about needs and wants—how the park's backlog of deferred maintenance can only wait so long until it becomes decay; how FOA has several endowments but they're committed to existing projects and now we-



FOA/Annex Beal Church

As we walked and talked, Ship Harbor became magical in the way it informed our conversation. Suddenly, we were not grandfather and granddaughter, but two six-year-olds chatting and giggling together, exclaiming in the delight of discovery of the world in which we live and in the joy of being with each other.

who value the park and the outdoors know there is still more to be done in and for Acadia; how after a century of conservation the park needs our continued nurturing. All important reasons, but I realized that there are countless other organizations doing work I believe in and could support. On a basic level I became involved in FOA as a result of becoming inspired by many friends who I heard speak enthusiastically of some of their special park experiences. Through

them I came to understand the vision of Acadia's founders and 100 years of later visitors. Now I have my own clear vision of the park, which includes that we today are part of a continuum of essential caretakers of this splendid and enduring place.

Stories of personal connection leading to significant contribution go back to Acadia's founding and even before. Acadia was the first national park created by the people and for the people, built on a foundation of private philanthropy, but when we are out in the natural landscapes of the park we sometimes forget how much of Acadia's story is about human relationships. Think of all the memorial trails in the park, constructed with funds donated by family and friends of each honoree. Think of Charles W. Eliot, finding the motivation in grief for his conservation-minded son and the vision in that son's writings to begin the effort that eventually led to Acadia National Park. Think of me, with my granddaughter, stopping to examine the visual treats and the trail details; I told her, "This was done thanks to Friends of Acadia," and I felt very proud of that fact.

If you are able to spend time here with friends or family this season, think about the synergy that exists between the park and people at Acadia. Even more than the spectacular landscapes or varied habitats, it is this synergy between people and Acadia National Park, I believe, that is why Friends of Acadia has such effective and passionate members and volunteers: we all care so very, very much because Acadia enhances our shared experiences and it expands our vision. We—and Acadia—are better for it!

Happy 100th, Acadia.

—Edward L. Samek

DISCOVERING ACADIA

By Peter Mullen

As Acadia National Park celebrates its 100th birthday this year, there are probably just as many different ways admirers of the park have discovered this gem. For me, it was through young eyes.

I had been to Acadia once in the mid-1980s, but only for a day on the way to the Canadian Maritimes and then another day after riding the *Bluenose* ferry back into Maine. Knowing what I know now, I failed miserably to do Acadia justice.

Fast forward a few years. If it weren't for a progressive elementary school principal, Acadia might still be just a vague, underappreciated shadow in my past. This administrator wanted to start a multi-day trip for that year's sixth-grade class. Many destinations were considered including New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. After working with parents and the local school board member, it was decided to keep it closer to home. (It didn't hurt that the school board member owned a hotel in Boothbay Harbor to use as a base.)

I was working as a bus driver for the district and was offered the gig as driver for the trip: Four days of sightseeing in the Great State of Maine, from Portland to Bar Harbor. We toured a TV station, visited the Portland Museum of Art, and checked out Maine Yankee Nuclear Power Plant. Fort Knox, a Boothbay Harbor cruise, the Maine Maritime Museum, and a shore dinner were just a few of the things the students experienced.

And then we reached Acadia.

It was June of 1991 when I drove a big yellow bus onto MDI for the first time. We stopped at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and then headed into the park proper. Armed with the self-guided tour cassette I learned about Acadia along with everyone else. The '47 fire and the difference between the breezy stands of birch and the



“Blackwoods.” The rusticators and the cottages. Rockefeller and the carriage roads. The Park Loop Road, Jordan Pond, and Cadillac Mountain. We emptied the bus on one of the summit road turnouts and the students hiked to the top.

I drove us home to New Hampshire, knowing I would be back. The Acadia trip became an annual sojourn that continues to this day, and I was humbled to be asked to drive seven times in the first eight years. Each time, my experience built on the past; but more importantly, I saw the park for the “first time” through a new set of eyes.

I moved to Maine in 1999 and with the advantage of relative proximity (and the flexible summer schedule of a new teaching job) started visiting Acadia on my own. A few years later I discovered Friends of Acadia. In 2003 I made an entire summer's worth of consecutive Tuesday volunteering days and was rewarded by spending all those trips clearing the views on the Ocean Path between Sand Beach and Gorham Mountain. Every week I would head home grateful for the day and convinced the job

would be done the next time I went up. But each week I was rewarded again with great views and good company. We talked about the park with tourists from all over the world as we worked.

Summer is less flexible for me now but my wife and I still get up when we can, and if a volunteer opportunity fits in, it happens. The first weekend in November, however, is indelibly etched in our calendar. It's a weekend out of town for us and over the years we have pulled in family members as well as fellow members of the Maine Outdoor Adventure Club to give back to a place so beautiful. Having now raked leaves on the carriage roads for what we think is thirteen consecutive “Take Pride” days, I cannot imagine my life without it.

In addition to giving to the park, I take as well. Biking the carriage roads and the Park Loop Road. Hiking the well-maintained and historic trails. Discovering new gems every time I lace up my boots and follow the Bates cairns. Finding a secluded spot, whether in the woods or on the shore, and just absorbing the beauty presented to me.

As Acadia turns one hundred in 2016, my relationship with it turns twenty-five—years I cannot imagine being lived any other way. And to think, it all started with the luck of the draw. I was asked to drive a bus on a field trip. And because of that I saw a special place for the first time through the eyes of a 12-year-old. Year after year. ✱

PETER MULLEN lives in Gray with his wife Tammy and Yellow Lab Chance. When not exploring Acadia they head to the western and northern Maine mountains, often supporting Appalachian Trail hikers. Peter is an aspiring writer and works in instructional technology for a southern Maine school district. Tammy works in the insurance industry.

Be a Proud Friends of 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 membership 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 discover simple trip planning tips to help you explore and protect Acadia every day.



Acadia education intern Shari Galiardi interacts with some veteran Acadia Questers at Acadia's 2016 National Junior Ranger Day.

NPS/Kristi Ruge

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.