



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Spring 2017
Volume 22 No. 1

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, Seawall, and Schoodic Woods campgrounds
Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops
Sand Beach Entrance Station
Thompson Island Information Center

Open Year-Round:

Acadia National Park Headquarters
(Eagle Lake Road)

Park passes are now available online. Visit

www.yourpassnow.com



Acadia superintendent Kevin Schneider stands with John Kaznecki of South Thomaston, Maine, the winner of Acadia National Park's 2017 annual entrance pass contest. Kaznecki's photograph of Hadlock Brook just downstream from the Hemlock Bridge will be featured on Acadia's annual pass cards all this year.

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.



— 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 SUSTAINED COMMITMENT TO ACADIA

On the heels of a historically busy centennial year here at Acadia, several friends and partners have recently asked me if all of us at FOA are relieved to have turned the page to 2017 and are now catching up on rest and “getting back to normal.” Well, no...

Don't get me wrong: there will not be another year-long calendar of events celebrating Acadia's hundred-and-first birthday! However, the partnerships, the community engagement, the generous philanthropy, and the important discussions that 2016 inspired must continue to grow in their scope and impact in 2017 and the years to come. With a new administration in Washington and public expectations for parks at an all-time high following local and national centennial activities, we must continue to build on the momentum that 2016 helped to create.

FOA is committed to serving as a hub and resource for much of the work ahead. We will work with the park and many partners to tackle the key issues facing our park: finding new approaches to transportation and Acadia's growing visitation, which was up nearly 18% last year, or a half-million visitors; establishing model programs through our Wild Acadia initiatives to make the park's watersheds and natural communities more resilient to rapid environmental change; and opening up opportunities for young people to engage in park experiences and help create solutions to these and other challenges. FOA has long had its vision focused well beyond 2016, as we realize that these issues will require decades of commitment in order to effect generational change.

Such change rarely comes in one fell swoop; more often, it is gradual and incremental and requires persistence as well as trial and error. Think of the first \$15,000 that FOA invested in the 1999 pilot of the Island Explorer bus system—back when we were charging riders for



FOA

each trip—and how 16 years, \$3.3 million dollars, and more than 6 million riders later, this partnership has been transformative for Acadia and its visitors.

Think of the first \$25,000 grant that FOA made to help park staff manage invasive plants in Acadia, and how this program has now become a national model within the Park Service and inspired an even more ambitious approach to resource protection—and has attracted lead donor support from Canon U.S.A., the Martha and Alexis Stewart Foundation, the Leon Levy Foundation, and the BAND Foundation to allow FOA to build a new, permanent endowment for Wild Acadia as part of our Second Century Campaign.

Think of the \$2,000 summer stipend that FOA paid an elementary school teacher from Colorado five years ago to serve as an Acadia Teacher Fellow, enabling an experience that has inspired her to conduct field trips to national parks each subsequent year with all of her students under the national Every Kid in a Park program.

In each of these examples, FOA's investment has helped generate and leverage significant federal funding for the park. Acadia is the beneficiary of more than

a century of public-private partnerships, but absolutely fundamental to that covenant is the importance of Congress providing adequate funding for our national parks. This is the message that FOA delivered last month on our visits to Capitol Hill to meet with members of Maine's Congressional delegation and appropriations committees' staff (see our Advocacy Corner on page 30 for more about the visit).

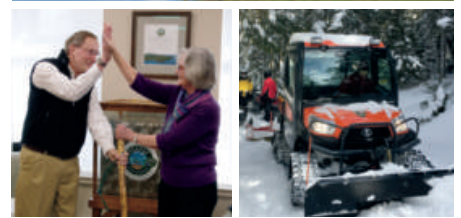
At the same time, our local communities are the heart of the “private” part of Acadia's public-private legacy, and 2017 has brought indications from many Acadia-area businesses and organizations that they don't consider their centennial support for Acadia a one-year bargain. From continuing to share proceeds of product sales (thank you, Acadia Corporation) to encouraging overnight guests to make voluntary additions to their hotel bills (thank you, Witham Properties) to becoming a “charter” member of FOA's new Business Membership program (see page 24 for details), the ways in which area businesses are sharing their success with FOA and Acadia is growing.

If there's one lasting benefit from the Acadia Centennial, I hope it will be a deepened awareness for all that the park gives to us—recreationally, economically, inspirationally—and for how much Acadia needs our help if these unparalleled gifts are to continue for the generations to come. Thank you for helping us in our work to make Acadia's second century even better than the first!

—David R. MacDonald

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WHAT 3.3 MEANS FOR YOU AND ME

This past year, Acadia National Park hosted a record-smashing 3.3 million visitors, or half a million more than in 2015. Our park's visitation has steadily increased by more than 55% since 2006. Many people are asking me if we expect this trend to continue or if 2016 was an anomaly—a centennial bounce. While I don't have a crystal ball, many iconic national parks are seeing similar increases in visitation. For all of our best efforts to celebrate Acadia's 100th birthday, many of our visitors made their plans for other reasons. I am convinced that America's national parks are a good bet and our visitation will continue to climb.

The National Park Service's founders 100 years ago knew that they needed committed citizens who valued the parks in order for the Park Service to succeed as a federal agency. Stephen Mather, Robert Sterling Yard, and Horace Albright initiated some major promotion campaigns that included working with corporate partners (remember "See the USA in your Chevrolet"?). Promoting parks is still important—although we likely have different objectives for those efforts. Today we need to make sure that kids, who spend more and more of their time indoors, are still connecting with nature. We also need to make sure that parks are relevant to traditionally underserved audiences. If you look around Acadia, Yellowstone, or the Grand Canyon, you'll quickly see that our visitors and our workforce don't reflect the diverse face of America. That needs to change.

While the vast majority of our visitors have a fantastic experience, managing 3.3 million people continues to present challenges. Foremost in our minds is insuring that we never compromise the spectacular resources that people are coming to enjoy. We also need to make sure people have a great, safe visit that leaves them wanting to come back again.

Acadia's transportation plan will be cru-



cial in the long term but there are several things we are trying in the short term to reduce congestion. This summer we hope to hire several parking lot ambassadors to help proactively manage congestion in parking lots and keep traffic moving. The Summit Stewards, funded by FOA, have already been crucial in communicating with park staff about congestion on Cadillac Mountain so that rangers can respond promptly. We will be working this summer with students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute on several projects aimed at addressing congestion-related issues. And, thanks to FOA, we are working with a research firm to better understand visitor patterns on Ocean Drive, which will provide critical data as we build the long-term transportation plan.

Caring for facilities is also key to protecting fragile resources. For example, we'll maintain trails guide visitors' footsteps away from delicate vegetation. Acadia's trails are in better shape today than ever, thanks to the substantial investment FOA and the park have made in routine trail maintenance and restoration of degraded trails. But the work is ongoing—last summer FOA volunteers replaced 700 feet of bogwalk at Jordan Pond, which had been brand-new a dozen years ago in the early days of the Acadia Trails Forever program.

With 3.3 million visitors, it is also important to recognize the tremendous economic benefit that Acadia National Park has on the surrounding communities. While national parks were not created to be economic engines, the truth is they generate significant economic activity. Acadia's visitors spend approximately \$250 million in communities around the park, on everything from hotel rooms to restaurant meals to an unexpected repair at the local auto shop. This spending supports some 3,900 jobs in our area. Businesses like L.L.Bean—one of the largest employers in Maine—remind us of the importance of the "outdoor economy."

For every dollar Congress invests in our national parks on a national level, \$10 is returned to gateway communities through visitor spending. As you pay your taxes this spring, these figures serve as a reminder of how great an investment national parks represent.

I enjoyed a couple of wonderful cross-country ski jaunts on the carriage roads in February (thanks to the ski trail grooming volunteers through FOA!). And as I enjoyed a beautifully groomed ski track, I reflected on the fact that in just a few months Acadia will again welcome visitors from around the world. And I thought about how Friends of Acadia's work touches Acadia National Park in so many different ways—from raising money for critically needed projects, to providing volunteers, to advocating for the park when necessary.

The importance of FOA will only grow at Acadia. Our work together has never been more important in preserving this special place for future generations to enjoy. I am proud of our outstanding partnership.

—Kevin Schneider

One Man's Love for the Park

This donation is made in memory of my brother, George "Bob" Sinnett. I want to tell you how much he enjoyed the park and how involved he was with it. Bob was a Coast Guard officer stationed in and retired from the [Southwest Harbor] base. He loved hiking and bike riding on the trails throughout the park. He and his wife had three grandchildren, whom he encouraged to sign up for the summer trail maintenance [Acadia Youth Conservation Corps], and all three loved the experience.

Bob would get up at 5 a.m. to make their lunches and drive them over from Southwest Harbor for the start of work. One summer recently the grandchildren were the set of twins (boy and girl). On the way over he'd teach one twin the drive and the other on the way back. Boy, were those kids exhausted at the end of the day from hauling and breaking rocks for the trail.

Mid-morning he'd often hike in to where the crew was working with donuts for everyone—he loved the hike, the kids and group leaders loved the donuts.

When the grandchildren were small, he loved taking them for nature hikes in Acadia National Park to see what they could find, critters, scat, birds and their unique calls, nests, etc.; he was a walking encyclopedia.

Bob loved the park and thought your summer program was terrific. He lived in the area for decades and got such enjoyment and peace getting out in the wild and telling others about it. It was one of the high points of his life. Last year he died at 78.

My purpose in writing this letter is to let you know how much the park and park service meant to one man, I'm sure among many. Too often we take things for granted and never express our appreciation for volunteers' efforts or let them know how special their work is—Bob was one man who greatly loved the park and appreciated everyone's service.

—Marguerite Sinnett
Morgan Hill, California

Challenges and Solutions

Congratulations on Acadia's Centennial and FOA's 30-year stewardship in the park. I consider myself one of the lucky ones to have grown up in Bar Harbor, where I had the opportunity to hike and bike in the park and explore its many wonderful places. Every year I make it a priority to come back for a visit(s).

Although the town has changed (too commercial) I have been impressed with the park's and FOA's efforts to keep Acadia in such pristine condition. Because it is now so popular I can see that there are some huge challenges in the future. It is my hope that the park and FOA will solve the problems so that generations to come can enjoy the place that has meant so much to me and my family.

—Charles A. Jucius Jr.
Windsor, Maine

Anatomy of a Cairn

It is a distinct source of pride to be an Acadia Centennial Partner. I am so grateful for the opportunity to feel even just a small part of the celebration and commitment to preservation of our nation's beautiful gem. Thank you for including me and my official Centennial product, the Anatomy of a Bates Cairn t-shirt.

In the past two years we have disseminated over 500 t-shirts with a message aimed at educating hikers for safety and preservation of the iconic cairns. I most enjoyed meeting a hiker on the Cadillac South Ridge Trail this past summer who was wearing the shirt. She explained to me the meaning and purpose of the Bates cairns. She found her shirt at a Goodwill store and then did some research to learn more about the structures—I urged her to apply for an FOA Ridge Runner position next year.

—Moira O'Neill
Surry, Maine

Enjoying Beautiful Vistas

I just wanted to say "Thank You" for clearing some of the trees and such so that it is again possible to enjoy some of the beautiful vistas some of us remember so well. I hope this is the start of a continuing effort and not just a one-time thing.

—Karen Leland
Harpwell, 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/>

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The Porcupine islands seen from Dorr Point at Compass Harbor.
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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EARL BRECHLIN: LOVE OF PLACE, PURE AND SIMPLE

Back in the late 1990s, when this organization was barely teen-aged, the staff and board invented a special award just so they could confer it upon *Mount Desert Islander* editor Earl Brechlin: the Honorary Ridge Runner Award. The text on the citation read, in part: "...for his perennial hard work, largely solo, on the foot trails, rock boxes, rude bridges and log stringers that literally link the park's interior with those seeing its solitude...". Ask Earl Brechlin today what he likes to do in Acadia, and it's clear that solitude is still important. "The big volunteer work days aren't for me," he explains. "To spend a day brushing a trail on my own—that I really enjoy."

Indeed, over the years Brechlin has found various ways to serve the park one-on-one. He is a longtime member of "Waldron's Warriors," volunteers trained to maintain the park's iconic Bates cairns during the off-season. Each Warrior adopts a specific trail or mountain each year, hiking it regularly and fixing cairns as needed. And, he adds, "I always take a baggie and pick up trash when I hike."

Yet for all his preference for solo work, Brechlin has managed to connect—and connect with—likely many millions of area residents and visitors on the subject of Acadia during his 3 ½-decade tenure as *Mount Desert Islander's* "elder statesman" of local news reporting.

It might not have been that way. He first visited MDI to hike with friends while studying forestry at UMaine. He spent a summer bartending, and upon graduation realized "I just wanted to live here. I didn't care what I did." There was an opening in the *Bar Harbor Times* print shop, so he learned to run the presses. When a reporting job opened up, *Times* co-owner Dick Saltonstall told Brechlin, "I want you to do it." He has been in the newspaper business ever since.

This led to Earl Brechlin's involvement



Earl and Roxie Brechlin atop Champlain Mountain.

with FOA even before the organization was founded. In the early 1980s, he wrote a column calling for the formation of a volunteer "Acadia Hiking Society" to help to care for the park's trails, then suffering from a deep lack of resources and manpower at Acadia. Who knows when—or whether—this organization might have gotten started if our founders hadn't been thus launched on that path?

Brechlin and the newspapers under his guidance have supported FOA ever since. The first issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* was published as an insert in the *Bar Harbor Times*. The *Times* and now the *Islander* have always been *Journal* sponsors. He is generous as a go-to resource for communications questions from proper capitalization to website design. He freely gives photos for FOA publications, and just as happily prints our photos in the pages of the *Islander*. When we come to him with story ideas or other half-baked notions, he will give honest, well-considered feedback.

Never was this more evident than in his response when FOA approached him in 2013 with the beginnings of a plan to cel-

brate the Acadia Centennial in 2016. "Earl knew the potential importance of the Acadia Centennial to the communities served by the *Islander*. He became a welcome voice on many fronts helping us plan an ambitious celebration," says Acadia Centennial Task Force co-chair Jack Russell. The *Islander* became one of the celebration's first Signature Sponsors and developed an ambitious plan of assiduous weekly coverage, front-page placement for the Acadia Centennial logo and web URL in every issue, centennial offerings indicated in the weekly calendar, and a special Acadia Centennial insert. "It was the people's centennial," he notes, "not just a bunch of people speechifying," and throughout 2016 the *Islander* provided a clear record of that fact.

Brechlin has always supported Friends of Acadia editorially. We'd hazard a guess, however, that this isn't preferential treatment, and any MDI organization doing good work gets similar consideration—it's evident from every issue of the *Islander* that he views community-building as a fundamental part of his job. For the same reason, he does not hesitate to hold the NPS and park management accountable in the pages of the *Islander*, especially when he sees the park out of step with the surrounding communities. "Sometimes the park doesn't understand how big of a shadow it has."

Earl Brechlin loves this place, pure and simple: "I have a proprietary interest in the island." Acadia is what makes it so special—not just through magnificent landscapes and outdoor recreation, but in how the park has built a community with a common denominator: one thing that everyone benefits from and everyone can agree on. And the person you exchange hellos with on the Jordan Cliffs Trail just might be the barista at your favorite coffee shop, or a fifth-generation lobsterman, or a billion-dollar hedge fund manager—or your local newspaper editor. ✱

—Aimee Beal Church



FOA/Aimee Beal Church

Where in Acadia? As springtime sun warms the land faster than the ocean, Acadia experiences the profoundly thick fogbanks that creep into lowlands, nurture the water-loving spruce-fir forests that typify downeast Maine—and make landforms look mysterious and unfamiliar. Mountain ranges become strings of islands in a billowy sea, shorelines seem to change shape, and sometimes one outer island stands alone with its close neighbors completely obscured.

If you think you can identify the serene little island pictured here (and, if you wish, the mountain visible at left or the mountain from which the photo was taken) email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory about your answer. 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.

Fall/Winter 2016 Where in Acadia?



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

The lower photo is of Jordan Pond as seen from North Bubble. I don't know if it is a trick of light or of wind and wave action that is making the water in the top left corner of the photo look like snow, but I know we didn't have snow that early! The upper photo is probably taken either from the bridge in the lower photo or somewhere close by because we can see the beaver hut in the lower front corner, which is always why so many people like to stop on that bridge. And looking up at North Bubble, which is still getting sun even though it has gone down on the pond where it is being blocked by Penobscot and Sargent.

We hiked both South and North Bubble this year, although I think we split them up instead of doing two Bubbles and a Nubble. I know that we did North Bubble shortly before the colors really started getting good. And we finally made it back to the Jordan Pond trail in the late fall to see how they made out with the section they were redoing. Looks nice! And I was glad not to have to walk a plank that felt like a balance beam as I did earlier in the summer!

—Alison Lawrence, FOA Membership Table volunteer, *Bar Harbor, Maine*



Howie Morenko

A FAMILY UNITED

One of the real joys of working on the Acadia Centennial and FOA's Second Century Campaign has been the chance to see many families collaborate in assembling gifts involving different generations united by their love for Acadia. That is certainly the case for the Spahr family, who is introducing its fifth generation to Mount Desert Island.

The Spahr family has a deep connection with Acadia, cultivated by time spent on their very special family property at Latty Cove and countless outings on park trails and carriage roads.

Bob Spahr spent his childhood summering with his grandparents, and then his parents, at their beautiful property on King's Point in Manset. He introduced Julie to MDI when they were dating, and she was only nineteen. She has loved its beauty and the Maine coast ever since. She says that still, whenever they cross the Maine border, she feels a childlike excitement that they are returning to such a beloved and unique place.

I had met Bob and Julie Spahr at an event during my first summer on the job in 2012, and it took me little time to realize that their four daughters—Noel Cappillo, Becky Frazier, Ginny Keator, and Stephanie Pepper—and their husbands were also generous supporters of FOA.

As the Second Century Campaign took shape in 2015, I shared dinner with Stephanie and her husband, Serge, in Philadelphia. They took particular interest in the emphasis that FOA puts on engaging more youth in our work and in Acadia. It wasn't long before Stephanie and her sisters had pulled together a family meeting with their parents to discuss a strategy for everyone to collaborate on a campaign gift. At that time, Stephanie wrote:

"For me, FOA is hugely important because I feel strongly that the park and the Maine coast has been such a part of developing my own personality and resilience. I love that I can give the gift of

Maine to my kids because it is something that I think makes them more confident as they explore the low tide line, risk the cold water to find a sand dollar, climb the long ladders of Jordan Cliffs, and dare to try a lobster!" With their generous commitment to the campaign, the Spahr clan is now passing that gift on to many others beyond their own family. Stephanie continued: "I love the idea that local Maine kids might get to visit Acadia because of our help and then the seeds might be planted in them to protect Acadia or become more involved in the environment that Acadia showcases, or any ecosystem for that matter."

It is an honor for FOA to be the beneficiary of this shared family foresight and see the stewardship ethic handed down to Spahr children and grandchildren at Latty Cove—not to mention future generations of youth far beyond their family whom we will continue to serve through programs made possible by their gift to the Second Century Campaign. ✱

—David MacDonald

Campaign Update

Acadia's carriage road bridges each have a unique and lovely style of capstones, which cover the top layer of mortar and overhang the stone face of the bridge slightly—helping to keep water out of stone joints below. These capstones are an essential component to the bridge's longevity.

Late last year, a public-spirited family stepped forward with an offer to help us put the capstone on the Second Century Campaign with the \$500,000 Capstone Challenge. Although they had already given generously to the campaign, the anonymous donors offered to increase their gift



The Spahr family at Latty Cove on Mount Desert Island.

Spahr family

by \$1 up to a total of \$500,000 for every \$2 in new campaign gifts.

The great news is that the Second Century Campaign reached the \$25 million mark in the final days of 2016! We're grateful to every donor who helped to get us there during Acadia's centennial year. The even better news is that our Capstone Challenge donors want to help do still more for Acadia in its second century and encourage participation for those not able to be part of this historic effort thus far.

The Capstone Challenge will be open through June 30, 2017, or until we reach the challenge goal—whichever comes first. Please help us cap off a remarkably successful campaign and accomplish great leverage for your own gift by triggering these additional challenge funds. Thank you!

To make a gift:

- Use a credit card on our secure online page at friendsofacadia.org/secondcentury
- Call the office at 207-288-3340 to discuss the campaign or make a pledge or credit card gift
- Mail a check, made payable to Friends of Acadia, to:
Second Century Campaign
P.O. Box 45
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

MANAGING FOR A WILD ACADIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY

By Abe Miller-Rushing, Brian Henkel, and Rebecca Cole-Will

The National Park System and related areas face environmental and social changes that are increasingly widespread, complex, accelerating, and uncertain. Addressing these challenges requires updates of National Park Service policy to reflect the complexity of decisions needed for resource stewardship.”

So begins Director’s Order #100, “Resource Stewardship for the 21st Century,” issued by then-NPS director Jonathan Jarvis at the end of the National Park Service’s centennial year. The order officially enshrines changes in conservation and resource management in national parks that have been brewing for decades.

Since the 1980s, it has become increasingly clear that maintaining parks as “vignettes of primitive America”—long an imperative for the NPS—was an impossible task. Climate change, pollution, invasive species, and the like have been changing parks and the world around them in ways beyond the control of park managers—primitive America is gone and is not coming back.

So the Park Service has reworked its management goals and practices to fit this new reality: “to manage NPS resources in a context of continuous change that we do not fully understand, in order to:

- Preserve and restore ecological, historical, and cultural integrity;
- Contribute as an ecological and cultural core of national and international networks of protected lands, waters,



This peaceful view of Bass Harbor Marsh belies the environmental challenges caused by bridges and other development throughout the Marshall Brook Watershed.

Service mission to preserve unimpaired natural and cultural resources and values for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. But our policies now recognize that complex forces are affecting park resources in ways that are impossible for one agency to control and with consequences that are sometimes irreversible. Species, historic structures, and other resources may be lost from parks—some already have—but our job is to keep the ecosystems and cultural resources as healthy possible as these changes happen.

This is a big change for the National Park Service.

Wild Acadia

With the help of Friends of Acadia, we at Acadia National Park are ahead of the curve and already well on our way to implementing this new approach to stewarding resources. Wild Acadia began as an initiative

three years ago, and the strategy and goals we laid out then are exactly in line with the new NPS policy.

We have already learned and achieved a lot at our pilot area at Cromwell Brook Watershed, which starts around Dorr Mountain, the Tarn, and Sieur de Monts, then drains alongside Great Meadow Drive, past the Bar Harbor athletic fields, under Main Street, and into Cromwell Cove. Upper reaches of the watershed are in Acadia National Park, while the lower reaches flow through private property and land belonging to the Town of Bar Harbor.

We are working with dozens of partners

and resources; and

- Provide visitors and program participants with opportunities for transformative experiences that educate and inspire.”

Moreover, “NPS will emphasize resilience, connectivity . . . and life-cycle stewardship as guiding strategies for resource management.” In other words, we will manage so that we help natural and cultural resources—like plants, animals, water, artifacts, historic structures, and cultural landscapes—persist and adapt to changing conditions.

This does not alter the National Park

Tom Blagden

to preserve and restore the ecological, historical, and cultural integrity of the watershed. You can read about the rationale and early evolution of the Wild Acadia concept in the summer 2013 and fall 2014 issues of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*. Here we present three examples to give you an idea of our approach, our successes thus far, and the challenges that lie ahead.

Great Meadow

Tour buses traveling the Loop Road routinely stop to let visitors take in the view of Great Meadow with Dorr Mountain in the background—one of Acadia’s many spectacular views. Hidden to many visitors, though, is the reality of the meadow’s poor health. Thirty years ago Great Meadow was overrun with invasive plants; the septic field at Sieur de Monts leached harmful excess nutrients; decades of manipulations (e.g., soil removal and trail and road construction) altered the natural flow of water (hydrology); and culverts up and downstream of the meadow blocked the movement of fish and other aquatic wildlife.

In the 1990s, park crews began aggressively removing purple loosestrife and other invasive plant species, starting the slow process of bringing Great Meadow back to health. Now, with Friends of Acadia’s support, we have expanded our management actions. Last year, we removed the septic system from Sieur de Monts and tied into the town sewer system; we will restore native wetland plants on the former leach field. We are developing plans to replace the culvert at the outlet of Great Meadow, which will improve hydrology and connectivity for wildlife. In five years, we expect to see more native plants and animals, cleaner water, and improved fish passage in and out of the wetland—all of which supports the health and ecological integrity of the watershed.

Sieur de Monts Spring Pool

In 2014, the Sieur de Monts spring pool was surrounded by non-native plants—some invasive and some 20 feet tall. They obscured and impaired a cultural landscape closely connected to the creation of Acadia, originally named Sieur de Monts National Monument. As the very first

management action of the Wild Acadia initiative, park crews and Friends of Acadia volunteers removed the non-native plants, repaired and reset stonework, and replanted native species to recreate the spring pool landscape that George Dorr constructed more than 100 years ago. Next, we are exploring ways to improve the hydrology of this area—a maze of underground pipes seems to be contributing to flooding around the pool, Nature Center, and Wild Gardens. Already, though, the change in the view and cultural integrity of the site is incredible.

Cromwell Brook

Water pollution and obstructions to fish passage in Cromwell Brook threaten the health of the stream’s diverse assemblage of fish and the health of shellfish beds near the stream’s outlet. Shellfish beds between Bar Harbor and Thrumcap Island—including Cromwell Cove—are closed because of pollution, although the sources of pollution are not yet known.

Health as a metaphor

In many ways, the health of parks is analogous to human health. We regularly monitor park “vital signs”—like nitrogen and mercury levels in the air and precipitation, tree regeneration and growth, pH levels and water clarity in freshwater ponds and streams, and scores of other indicators—and the condition of historical structures, archeological sites, and cultural landscapes. We try to find the source of more acute problems to fix or improve them, like a local pollution source, an obstructed waterway, or an eroding trail. This reduces stress and improves the health of park resources so they can better bounce back from unavoidable and unpredictable big disturbances (think hurricanes and floods) and also handle the more chronic problems (think climate change and air pollution) that will take a very long time to solve, and that parks will have to live with for the foreseeable future.

To address these challenges, we assembled a team from College of the Atlantic, the University of Maine, and the US Geological Survey to test water quality and flow, help us find pollution sources, and plan fixes to culverts and other obstacles to fish passage. We are working with the Town of Bar Harbor to implement the fixes. This past year the town replaced the bridge where the brook passes under Cromwell Harbor Road; we worked together to ensure that the new bridge would provide adequate wildlife passage. We are now working on plans to replace culverts along the brook and find and mitigate sources of pollution to continue to make life better for the stream’s fish and other aquatic wildlife.

What the future holds

There is much more work to be done. But the health and ecological and cultural integrity of the watershed are already markedly improving. Recognizing that work in the Cromwell Brook Watershed will continue as we replace culverts and address more problems, we are now preparing to apply what we’ve learned to another Acadia watershed. The Marshall Brook Watershed starts on the south slopes of Mansell Mountain and drains developed lands in Southwest Harbor before passing back into the park and Bass Harbor Marsh, under Tremont Road at Tremont Consolidated School, and out to sea via Bass Harbor. This summer, we will begin mapping and prioritizing concerns in the watershed.

The Wild Acadia initiative will help us to protect Acadia’s health in a time of complex, uncertain, and continuous change. We are excited that this approach is now policy for the whole of the National Park Service. ✱

ABE MILLER-RUSHING is the science coordinator for Acadia National Park.

BRIAN HENKEL coordinates the Wild Acadia initiative as an employee of the Maine Natural History Observatory with funding from Friends of Acadia.

REBECCA COLE-WILL is the chief of resource management for Acadia National Park.

INSPIRING THE CREATIVE MIND

By Jacquelyn Jenson

Acadia National Park's majestic shores and stoic landscapes have been close to my heart since my first visit several years ago. Since then, I've come to cherish Acadia as a place of respite and inspiration in an increasingly chaotic world. This past June, I jumped at the opportunity to devote my time and attention to Acadia during its 100th birthday, as the Acadia Centennial Social Media Intern.

My responsibilities included promoting and attending Acadia Centennial events, taking photos and videos, and sharing them on social media platforms. Before the internship began, I couldn't imagine how unique an experience I was about to embark on. Nor did I realize how many inspiring people I would meet along the way, with such deep devotion to Acadia National Park and its community.

My first day on the job, I "had" to ride the ferry from Winter Harbor. I had already attended two Acadia Centennial events that day, in Ellsworth and at the Schoodic Education and Research Center; my next assignment was to cover the Schoodic Ferry's centennial offering, a narrated trip featuring information about Acadia's Frenchman Bay islands. The ferry also acted as my ride home to Bar Harbor, and it was a magical experience. I had previously been working as a waitress and baker in Bar Harbor and was accustomed to a fast-paced and physically demanding work environment. So, on that first day, I could hardly believe I was working as I took snapshots and felt the warm sun and cool ocean mist.

Perhaps my most cherished experiences during the internship, however, came from the personal connections I made. As an artist, I was especially happy to meet many members of the local arts community and was pleasantly surprised by the sheer number of artistic events included in the centennial celebrations. Acadia, with



Jacquelyn Jenson, on Gorham Mountain last fall.

its great capacity to inspire the creative mind, has deep artistic roots seeded by the Hudson River School artists of the 19th century—and an ongoing legacy of artistic endeavor.

I was particularly struck by the diligent work of Sherry and Ivan Rasmussen of Art on West, who hosted several centennial events including monthly Art Walks featuring artists inspired by Acadia. I came to expect to see them on the first Friday of every month, and I looked forward to it. I recall them showing me such kindness and having a deep gratitude for my efforts to photograph their events. I also connected with several of their featured artists, who seemed delighted to talk with me in depth about my own work and journey as an artist.

Likewise, I made an enriching community connection with Argosy Gallery in Bar Harbor. Amy Sidman and her husband, Charles, hosted several centennial events, including Acadia Art Walks and "Becoming an Artist," an art talk by painter Robert Hagberg, from my own home state of Minnesota. As I'm a painter myself, Hagberg's talk hit home, and I took away several valuable pointers. The Sidmans also showed me kindness and gratitude for documenting their contribution to the centennial legacy.

As I look back on the six months I spent posting, photographing, liking, and streaming for Acadia's birthday, my mind is brimming with memories. I witnessed the unifying power of Acadia first hand. I never expected to meet people from so many walks of life, collectively driven by a special place: scientists, artists, rangers, activists, writers, historians, musicians, storytellers, and many more. This experience has reaffirmed how integral it is to preserve and celebrate green spaces and public lands, for both a healthy planet and a healthy community. I've been carrying this notion with me since, using it as inspiration in my daily life and my work as a community-driven artist. ✱

JACQUELYN JENSON graduated from College of the Atlantic in 2015. Her courses in community development and fine art led to an internship with Atlantic Art Glass and Artsworth, a community arts nonprofit in Ellsworth. Jacquelyn has continued to work for both organizations, now as programming director for Artsworth, and as a glassblower and assistant for Atlantic Art Glass. In 2016 she (with mentor Linda Perrin) was one of three apprentices to participate in the inaugural year of MaineCAP, a contemporary craft apprenticeship program sponsored by the Maine Crafts Association and the Maine Arts Commission.

WALKING ON THIS PATH

By Sierra Frisbie

There are few moments in life that can be defined as pure serendipity. This was one such moment. I was standing in the middle of Yosemite Valley on the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service, August 25th, 2016. I looked around at a sea of ranger hats, down at my gold badge, and up at the unmistakable profile of Half Dome. It was a special day for me too, because I share a birthday with the agency I now work for—so I was celebrating 100 years of the NPS and my twenty-third trip around the sun. I couldn't help but think about how I got there.

I can trace it back to another such moment, during my senior year at Bowdoin College in mid-coast Maine. I was never one of those kids who always knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. But by this point I knew I wanted to work in some kind of environmental stewardship; protecting wild places, and the planet as a whole, was one of the only things that I consistently found worth doing. So when a friend forwarded a job posting from Friends of Acadia, I can now only view that moment with the same sense of serendipity. I couldn't have known it then, but it set me down a path I now feel incredibly privileged to be walking.

I moved a few hours up the coast to Mount Desert Island and began a whirlwind season as a Cadillac Summit Steward. For six months I patrolled the top of Cadillac Mountain, talking with visitors and collecting data to help tackle the big questions of how the park could better manage this busy and sensitive area. When visitors wandered off trail, I would speak with them to explain the importance of protecting the fragile alpine vegetation they were stepping on. More often than not, their transgressions were merely for want of education. Once they knew about the intricacies of the life under their feet, they were more than



Sierra Frisbie, heading to work in Yosemite.

Olivia Vande-Griek

happy to do their part in protecting it.

Fast forward one year, and once again I was crouched with a group of visitors, my hands in the dirt, pointing out the micro-wonders at our feet. Except that this time when I looked up, I didn't see a sweeping view of Frenchman Bay. Instead the trunks of silent giants surrounded me. "Did you know that giant sequoia trees can live to be two or three thousand years old?" The family I was with took a second to contemplate this. One boy looked down by my feet at the tiny seedling I'd pointed out. The little tree, two years old, stood perhaps three inches tall. He then craned his neck back to look at the very top of the mature sequoia to my left, towering 200 feet above us: "you mean that this little tree could grow and grow until the year 4000?"

I smiled. "It could. You'll have to come back and check on it."

My first season working for the National Park Service was full of moments like this: moments that were not only serendipitous but fully traceable back to my summer on the summit of Cadillac. When I turned my attention to getting a job with the NPS, I was lucky enough to land a spot in Yosemite. Jobs in that venerable park are highly sought after, and I attribute much of that success to the amazing park employees I'd had a chance to learn from at Acadia. Once I was on the job, I frequently turned to the skills acquired and the experience gained during my time with Friends of Acadia.

The mountains here in California are a bit taller, but the awe these places inspire is universal across the country. As much as I love Maine, I know there is plenty of country to see and wild places to look after. Whether I am keeper of the summit's secrets or guardian of the giant sequoias, I'm happy with the work I am doing—it's work that feels incredibly worthwhile. (Perhaps too, I just can't resist the timeless allure of the flat hat.) Though I am uncertain exactly where this path leads, I have a feeling my birthday will never be the same again. It will always be twice as special because I share it with the beautiful places I now get to call home. ✨

SIERRA FRISBIE grew up in Burlington, Vermont, and graduated from Bowdoin College in 2015 with a degree in environmental studies and a minor in education. She spent the summer of 2015 as a Cadillac Summit Steward with Friends of Acadia. In 2016, she moved to Yosemite National Park, where she now works as an interpretive park ranger.

SAVING OUR “WOW” MOMENTS

By Stephanie Clement

Two autumns ago, I innocently added a four-day camping trip in Rocky Mountain National Park to a Colorado vacation. I entered the park on a Saturday morning from the eastern gateway at Estes Park, found my campsite, and headed out into the park for some sightseeing. I quickly became overwhelmed and frustrated by long lines of idling traffic, over-subscribed parking lots, and crowds of people ditching their cars in meadows to photograph breathtaking bugling elk. I felt crazy to be in that gorgeous place tooth-to-jowl with so many people. Thankfully, the crowds thinned as the weekend progressed, and I had my glorious hiking experience.

Acadia National Park faces similar crowding issues. While we don't have traffic jams due to elk mating season, we do have times when visitors flock to a destination because of a natural event, such as sunrise on Cadillac. We also have popular visitor destinations—Ocean Drive, Jordan Pond, and Cadillac—that attract more visitor vehicles than parking areas can support. Thankfully, the National Park Service is working on finding safe and efficient transportation solutions that will help improve public safety and the visitor experience at Acadia while also protecting park resources. Last fall, the park accepted public comment on wide-ranging management strategy ideas for how to achieve these objectives. The preliminary concepts included everything from peak-time parking area reservation systems to increasing public transit to metering private vehicle entry onto the Park Loop Road and eliminating right lane parking on Ocean Drive. The National Park Service is currently weighing public feedback on these ideas and will release more refined alternatives for another round of public input in 2017.

Acadia is not alone in trying transportation solutions to improve the visitor ex-



A bull elk stops traffic in Rocky Mountain National Park..

perience and public safety. National park popularity is increasing globally as people seek quiet, restorative time in nature. To accommodate this increasing demand, national parks across the country are using reservation systems, transit, restrictions on vehicle use and type, and public information and technology to guide visitors to a higher-quality visit overall.

Reservations have long been a part of visiting the national park system. Visitors are used to making camping reservations on Recreation.gov and some high-demand experiences even have a lottery for limited reservation slots. Visitors have learned to reserve timed ticket entries into facilities like the Gateway Arch at Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C., and Independence Hall in Philadelphia. Popular ranger-led park tours, such as the Fiery Furnace hike at Arches National Park and the wilderness canoe tour at Congaree National Park, are also available via online reservations at Recreation.gov. The common theme behind these reservations systems is the need to ensure that visitors have access to the resource at a level that is sustainable for protection of the resource,

the safety of the visitor, and a positive, enjoyable visitor experience.

Increasingly, national parks are using reservation systems for public access to parking areas and road systems at popular times. Great Smoky Mountains National Park has implemented a lottery on Recreation.gov for visitors to reserve a date-specific parking space at Sugarlands Visitor Center as the only way for the public (outside the nearby, reserved campground) to access the two-week peak period of synchronous firefly mating displays. (Picture fireflies flashing all together, almost but not perfectly in unison. I've seen it—and it's amazing!) From the parking lot, visitors board shuttle buses to the firefly viewing area. The park has found this parking reservation system so successful that it plans to use Recreation.gov again this August during the total solar eclipse that will cover a swath of the park.

Haleakalā National Park has also recently implemented a reservation system for sunrise viewing on its 10,023-foot peak. The sunrise experience had grown so popular that vehicles regularly doubled available parking spaces, blocking emergency access and damaging habitat for endangered plants

and ground-nesting birds. Up to 60 days in advance and as late as 4:00 p.m. the day before a trip, visitors can now purchase a \$1.50 ticket on Recreation.gov to enter the summit area between 3:00 and 7:00 a.m. with a car. No refunds or exchanges are given for bad weather. National Park Service rangers report that visitors like the reservation system because it guarantees access, reduces congestion, and creates a quieter, more enjoyable experience. Rangers also reported that



At Zion National Park, the free shuttle system is the only way to visit certain top attractions during the busiest months. The open skylights allow for better views of Zion's towering rock formations.

only about 30 cars were turned away each day at the entrance without reservations during the first two days the system was in place.

Muir Woods National Monument is also moving toward reservations for parking and site access. Unlike the previous two examples, however, Muir Woods has opted to find a concessionaire to manage reservations for on-site parking and a transit alternative—the Muir Woods shuttle bus system. A prospectus is currently open to bidders, and the contract is expected to start in November 2017. Park managers acknowledge that the reservation system may decrease the number of people who access the site by 8% (or 76,000 visits annually), but this level of visitation is more in line with the goals and visitation standards of the park's General Management Plan. Additionally, the park and surrounding Marin County signed a memorandum of understanding in which both parties agreed visitation needed to be managed to improve the environmental health of Redwood Creek, reduce traffic congestion along the entrance road, improve visitor safety, and invest in local transit. The concessions prospectus incentivizes shuttle bus ridership through a fee structure that sets personal vehicle parking reservation fees at more than double the fee for riding the shuttle.

Glacier National Park has been on the forefront of transportation services since the institution of the Red Jammer Buses in 1914. In 1933 the Going-to-the-Sun Road across the Continental Divide officially opened, and millions of visitors have traveled the historic route over Logan Pass since then.

Because of Glacier's unforgiving landscape and the steep, winding, narrow character of the Going-to-the Sun Road, the park has enacted vehicle size restrictions and limited the summertime hours that bicycles can use the road. A free biodiesel shuttle is offered from July through early September as an alternative, and concessionaires offer interpretive tours on buses for a fee.

Transit has been used by many national parks, including Acadia, Bryce Canyon, Glacier, and Yosemite. Some, including the Grand Canyon and Zion National Park, actually require visitors to use the shuttle system to get to the park's most popular areas during the busy season. Many of these systems connect to local gateway communities, stopping at hotel and visitor attractions, as well as park-and-ride facilities. These systems operate under a variety of management scenarios; some are operated under service agreements with the National Park Service, others are operated by concessionaires, and others like Acadia's Island Explorer operate under more complex multi-partner agreements. It's important to note, however, that there are no one-size-fits-all park transit solutions. Arches National Park studied shuttle systems in several other parks and determined that long distances between several key park destinations would decrease a shuttle's effectiveness at Arches. In addition, the study noted that when a shuttle serves a small number of trailheads, pulses of 40 or more hikers being dropped off all at once can cause crowding on trails and significant resource damage.

Visitors can most easily find out about

park transportation options and ways to avoid congestion by looking at the "Directions & Transportation" page found under the "Plan Your Visit" tab on individual national park websites. Arches has a section of its website called "traffic tips" (www.nps.gov/arch/planyourvisit/traffic.htm) that includes a graph showing daily visitation numbers and a line through the middle that shows when parking lots are generally full. There's also a webcam pointed at the Arches entrance station so that visitors can see how long the wait is (there

were 22 cars waiting at 9:50 a.m. Mountain Time on March 14th). Yellowstone and Rocky Mountain National Parks use similar webcam views at their West and Beaver Meadow entrances respectively. Some parks, such as Haleakalā and Yellowstone (with support from Canon U.S.A. and Yellowstone Forever), have used webcams to share headliner natural wonders, such as sunrise over Haleakalā Crater or Old Faithful erupting, for those visitors who choose not to visit or who are unable to get a reservation. The Arches website also features links to nearby public lands and visitor information bureaus so that visitors can check out other nearby attractions if they don't want to add to crowds in the park.

As we think about Acadia's approach to the next century of visitation, there are precedents across the national park system for many of the ideas in Acadia's transportation plan. Would I return to Rocky Mountain on a congested weekend during elk breeding season? Likely not. Would Acadia visitors who circle the Jordan Pond House lot at midday in August recommend that experience to their friends? Likely not. As a community of park lovers, now is the time to embrace transportation changes and new ways of accessing Acadia so that future generations can have their "wow" moments and grow as attached as ever to our park's wild splendor. ✱

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.

THE NEW SCHOODIC: SIX WAYS OF LOOKING AT A PENINSULA

By Sam Coplton, Beverly Hawkins, Tom Walsh, Maureen Fournier, and David MacDonald

Reflecting on a Once-in-a-Career Design

Landscape architecture can be distinguished from other design professions by the diversity of scales we often work at. From the design of intimate garden spaces to the master planning of multi-thousand acre properties, our projects can vary widely in type, size, and design requirements. But rarely, if ever, does one project combine the range of scales and design challenges that was afforded by Schoodic Woods. Starting with the entire 1,400-acre property, a comprehensive plan for its conservation and development was created to be consistent with the management objectives of Acadia National Park. The large-scale concepts led into more detailed plans of the campground: the campsites, entry plaza, ranger station, amphitheater, trail network, etc. Working on all of these scales in a single project is perhaps a once-in-a-career opportunity. That this project was for a public landscape made it especially rewarding.

One of the project's greatest challenges was how to meet programming and design objectives while minimizing impacts. A 93-site campground, 100-space day-parking area, and 8 miles of bike trails is a significant development to be integrated into a natural landscape. We were guided by several important principles. One was to minimize visual impact from public vistas—we located the major components (camping areas, visitor center, parking lots, and bike trails) outside of the viewsheds of Schooner Head, the Loop Road, and other public vantage points. To minimize removal of mature vegetation, those major project components were located to the greatest extent possible in areas disturbed by the timber harvest activities of the mid 1990s. The yarding areas, haul roads, and skidder trails provided suit-



The lovely new bike path alongside the Frazer Creek causeway separates bikers and pedestrians from autos on the causeway, providing a safer crossing for all.

able footprints for approximately 80% of the built improvements. We also sought to minimize wetland disturbances; since roads used for timber management are exempt from wetland impact rules, more than half of the project's permitted wetland disturbances served to bring those existing, repurposed logging roads into compliance. In the end, for a project of this size and scope, wetland impacts were remarkably limited.

One of our goals, which was very gratifying to accomplish, was to provide a camping experience unlike that offered elsewhere in Acadia. Many Park Service campgrounds—including those at Blackwoods and Seawall—were developed years ago with a concentrated arrangement of campsites. The increased popu-

larity of car camping and its evolution to include RVs and pull-behind vehicles compromised the camping experience by fitting more and larger vehicles into historically tight arrangements of sites. At Schoodic Woods we sought to provide quiet and privacy by separating and visually buffering campsites from each other and also by providing electrical service to each site to eliminate noisy generators. Having sufficient space enabled us to succeed in this—there are roughly a third the number of campsites at Schoodic Woods as at Blackwoods, in roughly the same amount of area. The camping experience was further improved by “zoning” camping types and physically separating each into distinct loops: the larger vehicles—RVs and large pull-behind campers, which tend

Coplton Associates

to be a distinct camper subculture; the more traditional car camping, with tents or pop-up trailers; group camping, which can be disruptive to other campers; and the “hike-to” sites. Those last were one of the small things I most enjoyed creating: remote campsites (a few hundred yards to a half mile from parking) that offer a back-country experience not available at ANP campgrounds outside of Isle au Haut.

The bike paths were another enjoyable and challenging part of the project. From trekking through hundreds of acres and countless skidder trails to find the best path alignments, to working with the contractors to pick the most durable surface material, the bike path system was a significant project by itself. Having been involved with rehabilitation efforts for the carriage road systems at Acadia and for New York State’s Rockefeller State Park Preserve and Mohonk/Minnewaska, I was somewhat familiar with the design, construction, and alignments of broken-stone roads. Using these historic systems as a template, we designed the network of paths for bicycles, pedestrians, and skiers—keeping them narrower, more winding, and with some steeper pitches than found on the traditional carriage roads. The network allows visitors to make a variety of loops, but a key driver for the whole system was the cross-peninsula segment that links the end of the Loop Road with the campground and day parking. Another key connection is the bike path crossing of the Frazer Creek causeway that links the new bike paths to the one-way section of the Schoodic Loop Road. This came out particularly well, integrating the trail into the causeway in an attractive and environmentally benign manner.

We worked hard to minimize plant disturbance, but construction projects of this scale will always leave areas in need of replanting. From a landscape design perspective, it was gratifying to have a planting budget sufficient to heal the constructed landscape. Using a simple palette of plant species native to the site, we enhanced and restored key locations and disturbed sites. Some good examples include the ranger station and arrival plaza, the amphitheater, the day-use parking area, and the drifts of smaller evergreens

found throughout the campground.

Last, and perhaps most important, was the pleasure of working with an extraordinary group of people that brought the project from vision to reality. From the generosity of the anonymous benefactor to the vision and perseverance of former superintendent Sheridan Steele, to the staff at ANP who were exceptional partners throughout the design and construction process, to the talented team of architects and engineers and the skilled and dedicated contractors, the notable success of the Schoodic Woods project would not have been possible without their contributions. ✱

SAM COPLON is a Principal at Coplon Associates, Landscape Architecture and Planning, in Bar Harbor. Coplon Associates were the prime design consultants and project managers for Schoodic Woods. They have provided landscape architectural services to the Acadia National Park since 1998.

Roving the Point, and Other Adventures in Outdoor Education

I feel extremely fortunate to have had the opportunity to be a Friends of Acadia Teacher Fellow at the Schoodic Education

and Research Center (SERC) last summer. The six-week experience started off with the two-day “Environmental Living and Learning for Maine Students” conference at SERC. I was able to connect with representatives from some leading environmental education organizations—Chewonki, The Ecology School, the UMaine 4-H Camp and Learning Centers—plus teachers from area schools that were involved with these environmental learning centers. The goal of all these groups is “to provide outdoor learning experiences that empower students to create healthy, vibrant communities.” I was inspired!

I first applied to the fellowship because I had been looking into having some of my students participate in the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program; I wanted to scope out the campus and get the inside scoop from the ranger’s perspective. I have to say that I have gained so much respect for the work the park rangers do. Throughout the summer, and later in November when my 5th and 6th graders attended the SEA program, I could see that these rangers truly love their job of making the environment accessible and understandable for the public. I feel more and more compelled to work as much environ-



Beverly Hawkins (right) works with Nicole Gallup of Schoodic Institute to record the size and sex of green crabs living in a section of rockweed along the Schoodic shoreline.

Schoodic Institute/Libby Orcutt

mental education into my curriculum as I can because of my experiences last summer. I want my students to care for the environment—their environment—so that they in turn can influence others to do the same.

I took in all that I could in the time I was at Schoodic. I shadowed rangers, an intern, and an artist-in-residence. I took part in ranger-led programs: Arts Adventure, Baker Island Cruise, Birding Basics, Touch Tank, Schoodic Sleuths, and Star Watch. I helped with Schoodic Institute's rockweed/crab study, roved Schoodic Point, manned a Junior Ranger station, marched in the 4th of July parade, and traveled to Downeast Institute for Applied Marine Research & Education for a tour and to pick up some fresh critters for SERC's touch tank.

I have to say—the most challenging task was roving Schoodic Point. My breath was taken away by the beauty, and, to an extent, the danger. I was refreshed to see so many people set up with their folding chairs, lunches, and binoculars—just enjoying the scenery. I didn't want to be intrusive but I wanted to be able to have casual conversations with people, as I'd seen the rangers do quite successfully. With my binoculars around my neck, I discovered my authentic line: "Seeing anything good?" Finding a common interest made my roving duties an absolute pleasure! I also enjoyed the opportunity to interact with both children and adults at the Junior Ranger stations. Kids and grownups loved the "mystery" of who or what made the perfect little hole in the mussel shell. (Hint: certainly no pup, it has "dog" in its name.)

I wanted to give back for my incredible experience. I decided to develop some lessons plans aimed at students taking part in SEA, for both before and after their experience, with the intent that any teacher bringing students to SEA will have access to them.

Thank you, Friends of Acadia, for providing this opportunity to reconnect with our national parks and to meet some really amazing people who love what they do—and who love to share their passion with me and everyone else they encounter. ✱

BEVERLY HAWKINS is the science teach-

er for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades at Sedgwick (Maine) Elementary School. With an undergraduate degree in environmental conservation and a secondary education Masters in biology, she has a longtime interest in sharing the outdoors with her students.

Acadia's Transformative Ocean

When she was little, my granddaughter Ellie hated everything about the ocean that laps the shore of my home on the Schoodic Peninsula. Too cold. Too salty. Too laced with icky seaweed. "And, Papa, what if I get bit by a lobster?"

Fast-forward eight years. Now, at age 11, Ellie wants to study marine biology and become an oceanographer. No small dream for a kid who has always lived in land-locked Iowa, a thousand miles from the scent, the surf, and the daily cycles of the sea

How did that happen?

Ellie spent two weeks last summer immersed in an OceansWide marine science camp for kids. That involved living with other campers within the Schoodic district of Acadia National Park while doing hands-on ocean research every day with a staff of professional oceanographers. Her classroom was the Gulf of Maine, and what she learned often involved a research vessel provided by the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor.

"I used to be really freaked out by the ocean," Ellie says. "And I was nervous, because I had never been away from home, away from my mom for that long, and I would be living where I wouldn't know anybody. But after about 10 or 20 minutes, I felt really comfortable. My roommates were very nice, and we all got along really well. And on the second day we went to a tidal pool at Schoodic Point and caught urchins and crabs and other sea creatures."

Can't have fun like that in Iowa.

Now in their fourth year, OceansWide's camps for kids and the curriculum it offers continue to work their magic on "kids" from fifth grade through graduate school. It's been a labor of love from founder and director Campbell "Buzz" Scott, an expert in exploring the depths of the sea with submersible research vessels, both robotic and manned, like those used in exploring



Tom Walsh

The curriculum developed for Schoodic-based marine science research camps includes hands-on opportunities to pilot a remotely operated underwater research vessel. OceansWide Director Buzz Scott (right) oversees what he terms "ROV flying lessons."

the seafloor remains of the Titanic.

"Over the past few years we have taken our students and campers out and about to learn about their natural ocean and land-based environments," Scott says. "We have to travel to places that excite their imaginations and incite curiosity. We teach them to snorkel and SCUBA dive and how to use research boats in exploring the deep ocean, allowing them to 'fly' ROVs (remotely operated vehicles), not just watch from the sidelines. Our students have dissected whales and learned the value of conserving the ocean through exploration and adventure. Many have been with us year after year and most plan to work with us as long as they can. Some now work on research and exploration vessels, while others have gone on to earn degrees in marine and environmental sciences and engineering. We are proud of our students' achievements and happy to know that we have played a part in giving them direction and focus that will change the world for the better."

OceansWide works closely with Schoodic Institute and the new Schoodic Marine Center in Winter Harbor, offering both two-week and three-week programs. More information on marine science camp

schedules, curriculum, and costs can be found at www.oceanswide.org.

Looking back, Ellie now describes her two-week OceansWide camp session in life-changing terms. “It made me a lot less shy with people,” she says. “It made me much more curious. It made me a lot more competitive and a lot more serious. Now I always have questions and always have my hand up, and the teacher says ‘Ellie, right now is not the time for questions.’”

“It was the best time I ever had in my life,” she says. “I would recommend it to anyone who is comfortable with it, especially kids from places like Iowa, where we have lakes and rivers and swamps, but not an ocean.”✱

TOM WALSH is a journalist and longtime supporter of FOA. He lives on the Schoodic Peninsula in Gouldsboro.

Silence, and Other Pleasures

There's nothing quite like visiting a place for the first time. The memory stays fresh in my mind, and if I close my eyes I can sometimes even recapture smells and sounds. This holds true for me even when I discover somewhere new in my own “backyard” of Acadia National Park—a place I know so well. In late September of 2015, my husband and I eagerly packed our tent and sleeping bags, and headed for the newly opened Schoodic Woods Campground. The weather was a perfect “10” of blue skies and autumn temperatures giving sunshiny warm days and a cool night for sleeping. We had hiked and biked on the true “quiet-

side” of Acadia many times before, but were really looking forward to a night of retreat in the campground. It did not disappoint.

After being welcomed and registered by the friendly campground rangers, we drove a short distance to our assigned site. The campground had only been open for two weeks and whole loops of campsites weren't even finished, giving a pleasant absence of campers and crowds. Our site was well situated, surrounded by fir trees on three sides to offer further privacy. We took a walk around the campground to get familiar with the sites, already thinking we would return at least on an annual basis. “Another day,” we promised ourselves, “we will reserve a walk-in site”—which feature awe-inspiring views of Mount Desert Island, not to mention a backcountry feel and resulting sense of solitude.

Biking on the Loop Road of the Schoodic section of Acadia is a favorite activity of ours, so after pitching our tent we set off to do just that. This time, we were able to ride the one-way Loop Road and then—rather than exit the park and circle back via the state road from Birch Harbor—cut across on the new bike paths and land right back at our campsite! Although we found some of the bike loops a bit challenging, the option of connecting to various trailheads and the Loop Road make this another reason to return to Schoodic Woods Campground.

When I think back to that late September night at the campground, there is nothing more memorable than sitting at the campfire and gazing up at the thousands of

stars serenading the sky. A crescent moon seemed suspended on a string. And best of all, a total and complete sound of silence surrounded us. No ocean breeze, no joyful noise or laughter from nearby campers, no fluttering of animals in the leaves of the forest. The silence enveloped us, wrapped us up in it, and I know we have never had a better night's sleep.

Since that night my husband and I have returned to camp, hike, and bike two times, and are already planning our retreat to Schoodic Woods Campground in 2017. No matter how many times we return, however, we will never forget that first visit. The memory still makes me smile.✱

MAUREEN FOURNIER is a seasonal ranger at Acadia National Park and author of the foreword to *Creating Acadia National Park: The Biography of George Bucknam Dorr*, published by FOA in 2016. She and her husband, Gerry, have been members of FOA since 2006.

An Important Partner for Science and Learning at Acadia

The Schoodic Institute has been a big part of the recent growth in research and education activities on the Schoodic Peninsula and throughout the park. An independent nonprofit organization formed in 2003 to help with the conversion of the former Navy base at Schoodic Point into the Schoodic Education and Research Center, Schoodic Institute now partners closely with Acadia National Park, FOA, and dozens of other organizations to fulfill its mission to advance ecosystem science and learning for all ages.

Through fellowships, internships, education partnerships, and citizen science programs, the Institute attracts researchers, educators, and students to learn in and learn from the park's diverse ecosystem—and to be inspired by Acadia's unique beauty. This work—and helping to facilitate all of the research in Acadia—is important to providing Acadia's staff information they need to best manage the park's natural resources at a time of rapid environmental change.

Some of the Institute's well-established partnerships and programs, such as the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), have hosted thousands of grade-schoolers



Maureen Fournier's husband, Gerry, contemplates the MDI “skyline” from their Schoodic Woods campsite during a subsequent visit.

Maureen Fournier

from Maine and beyond on overnight field trips over the years. Newer initiatives such as the Second Century Stewardship Fellowships, in partnership with the American Association for the Advancement of Science, are breaking new ground in ecosystem research to benefit not just Acadia, but parks and conserved lands throughout the world.

In my role as president of Friends of Acadia, I have the opportunity to serve on the board of the Schoodic Institute and to work closely with its president, Mark Berry. Together we ensure that the programs and missions of our organizations are complementary and we seek synergies to maximize their value to Acadia and our region. As one example of this synergy, research conducted and facilitated by Schoodic Institute informs watershed restoration efforts FOA is funding through the Wild Acadia initiative. The Schoodic campus is also a great resource for meetings and conferences of all sizes, including FOA board meetings, and several FOA-supported Acadia Teacher Fellows are housed there each summer.

As I have remarked often, one organization alone could not possibly provide the range of support and expertise needed at Acadia at the launch of its second century. FOA is proud to work with dozens of partner organizations throughout our community, state, and nation, including Schoodic Institute. We are grateful for the emphasis on science and learning that the Institute brings to Acadia at this critical time, and look forward to more joint efforts in the years to come.*

DAVID MACDONALD is the president and CEO of Friends of Acadia.

Schoodic Day-Tripping Tips

Most Acadia visitors go to Mount Desert Island; a day trip to the Schoodic Peninsula (www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/schoodic.htm) can offer a new view of the park. Here are some tips to help you make the most of your visit.

From Bar Harbor, a car will take about 1:15 to drive around the upper reaches of Frenchman Bay but it's only six or seven miles as the crow flies—or as the ferry floats. Two ferry services connect Bar Harbor with Winter Harbor during the warmer months: frenchmanbayresearchboating.org and downeastwindjammer.com

Bicycling is a great way to see Schoodic. Note that the new multi-use trails are steeper than the MDI carriage roads in a few spots. Bicyclists must obey the one-way rules of Schoodic Loop Road. Both ferries accommodate bicycles, and you can connect with the Island Explorer—which can also carry bicycles—on both ends.

If you drive over for the day, try parking in the day-use lot at the Schoodic Woods campground—especially if you plan to bike or hike on the new multi-use paths and hiking trails. Bicyclists are asked not to park their cars at Frazer Point, to leave that small lot available for picnickers.

RVs and vehicles larger than 15-passenger vans are prohibited from the Schoodic Loop Road beyond the entrance to Schoodic Woods Campground.

The Island Explorer operates seasonally at Schoodic from the campground's opening day in May though Columbus Day weekend, traveling the Schoodic Loop Road with spurs to Schoodic Point, Prospect Harbor (three times per day), and Winter Harbor. See www.exploreacadia.com/route8.htm for route details.

Your Acadia park pass (weekly or annual) is good for the Schoodic district, too. If you don't have a pass yet, get yours at the Schoodic Woods Campground Visitor Center or at Rockefeller Hall on the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus. You can also purchase a pass online at www.yourpassnow.com/ParkPass/park/acad. Remember to leave a printed copy in your car if you park at any of the Schoodic lots.

Maps

A basic map with bike paths and trails indicated is available at www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/maps.htm. This website does a nice job describing Schoodic's hiking trails: www.mainetrailfinder.com/trails/trail/anp-schoodic-hiking-trails.



For a more detailed map of hiking and biking trails on your smartphone, try the Chimani Acadia app: www.chimani.com.

All of the links listed above can be found in the online issue of this *Journal*, at www.friendsofacadia.org.

What's in a name?

The word *Schoodic* as used in coastal Hancock County comes from the Micmac root word *eskwodek*, which has been interpreted to mean “the head”—referring to the rocky bluff

of Schoodic Head. (There are other Maine places that share the name Schoodic, but these come from different Wabanaki words that European settlers must have thought sounded the same.) So be sure to notice “the head” while you're there!

It's a Wrap!

The mood was celebratory when members of the Acadia Centennial Task Force, Acadia National Park officials, staff and board members of Friends of Acadia, and staff of Bar Harbor Bank & Trust gathered on February 3rd in the lobby of the bank's Bar Harbor branch to dedicate a time capsule intended to be opened in conjunction with Acadia's bicentennial year in 2116. The event featured brief comments from Acadia Centennial leaders and a ceremonial "gavel-thump" with an Acadia hiking stick to mark the end of the centennial celebration.

The time capsule, a specially-manufactured stainless steel box, was first unveiled in December at the final gathering of the Acadia Centennial Partners, the 453 businesses, organizations, and individuals who each contributed to the centennial celebration. It was then filled with documents, images, art, and artifacts in both physical and digital formats, as an extended missive from the Acadia Centennial Task Force to those who will collaborate to celebrate Acadia's bicentennial in 2116. During sealing of the capsule, the oxygen within was replaced with argon for an archival-quality environment. It is now housed in a glass-and-cherry



Acadia Centennial Task Force co-chairs Jack Russell and Cookie Horner give a high-five to celebrate a centennial well celebrated.

case, with a framed placard above explaining its significance to five generations of bank patrons and visitors. "But let's not let this tidy little package fool us," noted FOA president David MacDonald. "The work of protecting this place cannot possibly be contained in this box for the next hundred years. All of us are going to have to *think outside the box*. We're going to have to stretch, we're going to have to learn, to grow—and it will take all of us to protect this place for the next hundred years."

Products for the Park

Businesses selling official Acadia Centennial merchandise and services last year ranged from retail shops to art galleries to online or wholesale suppliers. The diversity of products included original art, logoed containers of many shapes and uses, wooden ornaments, food items, calendars, posters, wineglasses, and more. In addition to getting design approval from the Acadia Centennial Products Working Group, participating businesses committed to returning 5% of the proceeds to Friends of Acadia for a project to benefit Acadia National Park. At the end of February 2017, more than \$40,000 had been contributed by 61 businesses and organizations from their product sales and contributions were still arriving weekly.

Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service are working together to choose an appropriate park project to which the funds should be dedicated.

FIORE Artisan Olive Oils & Vinegars, located in Bar Harbor and several other Maine communities, contributed \$7,000 from their sales of a commemorative 375-ml bottle with the Acadia Centennial logo along with FIORE's trademarked logo. The bottle could be filled with any olive oil or balsamic vinegar offered by FIORE and was available at the Bar Harbor location throughout 2016. Pat O'Brien, director of marketing at FIORE, remarked, "The bottle was very popular with customers. [FIORE co-owner] Nancy and I and our staff were very proud to have been able to make such a large gift to Friends of Acadia. We hope that ours is but one of many donations that will be pouring in from our fellow retailers and from individuals who have celebrated this outstanding year for the entire National Park System, and in particular our great Acadia National Park."

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-Frank Lloyd Wright



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Gifford's Famous Ice Cream is a brand well-loved by residents of Maine. The annual opening of Gifford's five family-owned ice cream stands is often reported in the news as a celebratory event heralding the start of spring each year. To honor Acadia's 100th birthday, Gifford's developed and sold two special ice cream flavors last year: *Chocolate Brownie Crunch* and *I Scream for Cake*. The company also planned an "epic" birthday party for Acadia at the Hannaford grocery store in Ellsworth, inviting the public to enjoy cake and ice cream, color a giant birthday card for Acadia, jump rope, and take part in other fun activities provided by several Acadia Centennial Signature Sponsors. Gifford's contributed almost \$6,000 from the sales of their two special ice cream flavors. "Our family loves Maine and especially Acadia National Park, one of the state's most iconic places," said Gifford's CEO Lindsay Skilling. "When we learned of the centennial celebration more than a year ago, we knew we had to participate because of our love for this unique place and what it means to our family. We also knew that nothing goes better with birthdays than ice cream. We are delighted we could be a part of the celebration and thank all the ice cream lovers who purchased our two flavors, allowing us to make such a significant donation to Friends of Acadia."

The Acadia Shops designed and sold a



NPS/Rebecca Flesh

New rock climbing exhibits provide on-site information about regulations, climbing safety, and Leave No Trace principles. From left to right are Eli Simon from the Atlantic Climbing School, Brad Ryan and Pete Colman from the ANP Trail Crew, and Brad Wilson from Acadia Mountain Guides.

wide variety of centennial products including shirts, posters, mugs, and more. Dave Woodside, president of the Acadia Corporation, served on the Acadia Centennial Products Working Group with other shop owners from Mount Desert Island and Ellsworth. The working group provided invaluable advice to Friends of Acadia throughout the logo licensing and product sales program. Mr. Woodside said, "The Acadia Shops were

proud to partner with the Acadia Centennial initiative through our diverse centennial product offerings. Serving park visitors and enhancing visitor experiences in Acadia have been an important part of our legacy for over 80 years." The Acadia Corporation's contribution from centennial product sales was almost \$4,000—and they will continue selling some of these products in 2017.

We sincerely thank these corporate partners and everyone who contributed proceeds from centennial product sales for the benefit of Acadia National Park. "There were so many wonderful stories and contributions from businesses last year that it was hard to select just a few to feature," said Stephanie Clement, conservation director for Friends of Acadia. "Window Panes, Cool as a Moose, Willis' Rock Shop, the Gallery at Somes Sound, and Sagegrass Gallery also deserve mention for their significant gifts from product sales." The Acadia Centennial website at www.acadiacentennial2016.org will remain up for another year to highlight all Acadia Centennial Partners. For information on business membership and corporation partnership opportunities with Friends of Acadia, contact Sharon Broom at sharon@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

FIORÉ owners Nancy and Pat O'Brien made the largest single donation in their company's history as a result of their sales of olive oils and vinegars in bottles sporting the Acadia Centennial logo. Here, Nancy O'Brien hands the check to FOA president David MacDonald, together with staff from FIORÉ and FOA.

Better Climbing for All

In October, local rock climbers assisted the park trail crew with the installation of new


educational exhibits at the Otter Cliffs and Precipice Rock climbing areas. More than 5,000 climbers use these popular crags each year. Park staff and local climbers have worked together through a Climbing Advisory Group since 1997, when a climbing management plan was completed for Acadia National Park. The group makes recommendations on bolting requests, provides input on climbing use including commercial use, and improves climber education with projects like this one. Local climbers helped develop the sign content, park staff designed the signs, and FOA volunteers built the rustic wooden framework. The exhibits were funded by the Access Fund, a national climber organization, along with Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and a private donor.

Celebrating with Canon U.S.A. Five Years of Support of Wild Acadia

To say that a gift has revolutionized a program is an understatement when thinking about Canon U.S.A. support for Wild Acadia during the last five years. Since 2013, resource protection programs in most of our national parks have seen dramatic reductions in their capacity. Acadia, however, has been able to add experienced staff and make real advancements in the fight against invasive species; implement a continuous water quality monitoring program in Jordan Pond to track acidity, temperature, clarity, and other data; and pilot an array of new programs throughout the park.

As a part of the 2017 grant to Friends of Acadia, Canon U.S.A. will continue to support the successful Exotic Plant Management and Jordan Pond Monitoring programs. In addition, this year Canon U.S.A. has added support for restoration of a wetland in the Cromwell Brook Watershed. Inadequate septic facilities at Sieur de Monts and flooding at the site have long contributed to nutrient pollution in the streams and groundwater in the area. Studying the hydrology of the watershed and connecting the Sieur de Monts restrooms to the Bar Harbor sewer system in 2016 were first steps to restoring the wetland. Now park managers need to determine which plant species and hydrology changes will make the area of the former septic field a fully functioning, healthy,

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FOA/Aimee Real Church

Have the aliens landed in Acadia? Only alien plants—and Acadia's Exotic Plant Management Team is well-equipped to combat them thanks to long-term support from Canon U.S.A.

native wetland. Canon U.S.A.'s support for this restoration initiative will be matched by an equal contribution from FOA's Second Century Campaign, plus additional in-kind support from the Engineering Department at the University of Maine, whose students will create the hydrology designs for the site as a senior capstone project.

Partners are excited to begin taking what has been learned in the Cromwell Brook Watershed—research needs, potential partners, monitoring methodologies—and begin adapting them to the next watershed in Acadia National Park. This innovative, collaborative approach to resource protection is new for Acadia and would not have been possible without the support of philanthropic gifts and grants. We are thankful to Canon U.S.A. for their continued support.

Acadia Winter Trails

There was a lot of snow in a short time this winter—enough to allow for the first real grooming to be done with the program's new Kubota utility vehicle! With a climate-controlled cab, a plow blade, and four tracks in place of wheels, the Kubota is the right size for Acadia's carriage roads, easy to maintain, budget-friendly, and very comfortable

to operate. Volunteer groomers have driven more than 300 miles in the machine, testing different snow and temperature conditions. The groomers are gaining a lot of insight into operating the machine and how to team it with our existing equipment for maximum efficiency. Two new groomers completed their training this winter while five more are in progress; some of these groomers will be volunteering on the new Schoodic trails in a few winters as an extension of the program. At the beginning of the winter season, the park installed new travel lane signs to educate visitors on best recreation practices for the groomed sections of the carriage roads. The traffic pattern includes three lanes of travel: one classic lane, one skate-ski lane, and one non-skier lane for snowshoers, hikers, and dog-walkers. Balancing the sometimes conflicting needs of different groups of park users is an ongoing challenge as visitation increases in all seasons. We hope that most visitors will choose to follow the suggested travel lanes to assist the efforts of groomers, who volunteer many hours to make approximately half of Acadia's carriage roads more accessible for winter enthusiasts.

Making Acadia Whole

Acadia National Park received almost \$2.5 million in Land and Water Conservation



FOA/Paige Steele

The Acadia Winter Trails Association's new Kubota utility vehicle performed like a champion during two very snowy weeks in February.



FOA/Almee Beal Church

Members of the George B. Dorr Society were treated to lunch and a superb view of Greening Island.

Fund (LWCF) appropriations in FY 2016. This enabled the park to purchase three properties, totaling 76 acres, that had been privately owned but inside the legislated boundary of the park. These lands on Seal Cove Pond, Round Pond, and in the Northeast Creek watershed are important for water quality protection, wildlife habitat connectivity, and scenic preservation. Maine Coast Heritage Trust and FOA, who partnered to hold these parcels until LWCF funding was made available from Congress, will invest the proceeds from the sales into future acquisition of privately-held properties inside the park.

Leaving a Legacy for Acadia

During the Acadia Centennial, it was most fitting for us to celebrate the George B. Dorr Society members and all they will help FOA accomplish in the future while also looking back to our past and the great leaders who helped form Acadia and the park service in 1916. In this special year, Stephen Mather McPherson, grandson of the National Park Service founding director Stephen Mather, offered remarks on the beginnings of the NPS at the 12th annual gathering of the George B. Dorr Society.

Fifty guests assembled on the shorefront

lawn of society members Martie and Ed Samek in late July to hear Mr. McPherson's remarks. A buffet lunch was provided by the Jordan Pond House, featuring their signature lobster rolls. In addition to the great remarks and delicious lunch, the day provided a venue for this varied group of friends to visit with one another. Regardless of their background, they have one common thread: they all want to see Acadia preserved and protected long into the future.

The George B. Dorr Society recognizes those members and friends who have documented provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 with 18 founding members and has grown to 74 member families. If you have made plans for Friends of Acadia in your estate, or would like information about joining the George B. Dorr Society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org. Happy trails!



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Left to Right: Vegetation crew members Alex Fetgetter and Joe Kelley, along with crew leader Jesse Wheeler, were clearing this Loop Road vista to open a view to Bubble Rock. Friends of Acadia has supported Acadia's multi-year vista clearing project through matching grants and equipment purchases. Cut wood from this winter's work was donated to the Waldo County Woodshed, a charitable organization that gives firewood to needy families for winter heating.

FOA Offers New Business Memberships

Businesses have a new way to support Acadia National Park—the cornerstone of the local economy—by becoming a business member of Friends of Acadia with a gift of \$100 per year. Since its beginnings, FOA has received generous support from local and national businesses that have sponsored publications and events. The overwhelming success of the Acadia Centennial Partners program in 2016 led Friends of Acadia to believe that businesses would be interested in a simple but longer-term partnership with FOA as a way of continuing to support the protection of Acadia. Business members will be recognized in the following ways:

- Listing on the FOA website with a link to the business member's website
- Listing in the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, FOA E-News, and Annual Report

- Listing in our December newspaper ad that thanks all businesses for their support during the year
- Membership decal to display prominently, demonstrating support for Friends of Acadia's work to preserve and protect Acadia and the surrounding communities

We appreciate the assistance of our new Business Advisors in developing the business membership concept: John Bench of Cool as a Moose, Jane Holland of Aysgarth Station B&B, Susi Homer of The Birches, Lisa Parsons of the Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Julie Veilleux of Window Panes, and David Woodside of the Acadia Corporation. For information or to become a business member, please contact Sharon Broom at sharon@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340, or visit <https://friendsofacadia.org/giving-membership/business-members/>.

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October 1, 2016–
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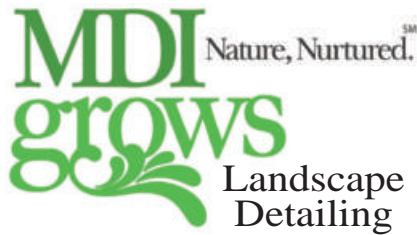


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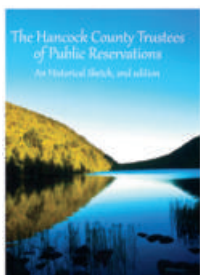
The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations:

An Historical Sketch
(2nd ed.)

By Samuel A. Eliot,
Ronald H. Epp, and
Joshua Campbell
Torrance

Photographs by Walter Smalling, Jr.

The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, 2016. Paperback, 48 pages



The first edition of this slim volume was published in 1939, just ten years after the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (HCTPR) accepted a bequest that was a first for the MDI-based land trust: the “noble old Black Mansion” in Ellsworth. Wrote Samuel Eliot, son of Trustees founder Charles W. Eliot, “the bequest included the house with its unique collection of old time furnishings and pictures, the carriage house and its ancient vehicles, the well-kept gardens and grounds, the remarkable woodlands accessible by roads built by Colonel Black more than a century ago...”

The Trustees have been amply celebrated in recent years for the organization’s essential role in the creation of Acadia National Park, and the 1939 edition traces its history up to that point. But then what? With the transfer of HCTPR properties to the federal government, did the world’s second-oldest land trust and its storied members simply close up shop?

The answer is no, and the Black Estate, known as Woodlawn, is both the reason for and the subject of HCTPR executive director Joshua Torrance’s contribution to this second edition. Rather than simply picking up the history where Eliot left off, Torrance focuses on the controversy the estate bequest stirred among HCTPR members and how it led them to question and ultimately re-direct their core mission.

Complementing these two histories is Dorr biographer Ronald Epp’s fine essay on the significance of the *idea* of land conservation that the Trustees pioneered in early 20th-century America. The book ends with a list of all properties donated by HCTPR to Acadia. In-

direct reference is made to an associated map which, had it been included, would have greatly helped a casual reader make heads or tails of the list.

But perhaps this is not a book for a casual reader—not sticking to chronology, the three essays speak to each other, each offering a bit of history, a bit of analysis, and a fair amount of insight. However, for the devotee of either Acadia’s or Woodlawn’s history, it offers original research and a truly important piece of the story.

AIMEE BEAL CHURCH is the communications director for Friends of Acadia.

*The Public-Spirited
Beatrix Farrand of
Mount Desert Island*
By Roxanne Brouse
Beatrix Farrand
Society Press, 2016.
Hardcover, 127 pages



This monograph, published in honor of the 100th anniversary of Acadia National Park, details Beatrix Farrand’s work in partnership with John D. Rockefeller Jr. on the landscaping of the park’s carriage roads and bridges. For most of us, the carriage roads allow familiarity with remote parts of Acadia; Roxanne Brouse’s book allows us glimpses into the close relationship between these two like-minded landscape sculptors.

The book presents the warm and respectful correspondence between Farrand and Rockefeller and includes many pages of transcribed notes and facsimiles of some of their letters. Brouse discusses in detail the way they shaped the landscape at specific sites and provides the 1911 Path Map for reference. Fortunately for native plant aficionados, she has included planting reports, a planting map, and a juicy plant list mercifully including scientific names.

Beatrix Farrand knew and loved Mount Desert Island. She knew the terrain, the soils, the flora, and where a particular plant would grow best. It is hard to imagine now, but building the carriage road system was quite controversial at the time. When you look at the scale of the road network and the size of some of the bridges, you realize that this was a massive construction project. Hence part of the value of Farrand’s contribution: her efforts quickly softened,

enhanced, screened, and “clothed” the raw new roads and bridges. One before-and-after photo of Duck Brook Bridge shows what a difference her work made.

Brouse makes clear that one of Farrand’s major gifts was her sensitivity to the subtle flow of the wild landscape: drawing on the nature of the background forest, Farrand would add similar trees and shrubs to a planting, varying the texture and groupings in such a way that the additions looked like they had naturally grown there. Yet if an undisturbed scene pleased her, she was wise enough to leave it alone. Although Farrand and Rockefeller endeavored to create distant vistas, they also turned the “camera” on their own work: they added plantings to frame, but not obscure, the bridges so that the views of those granite wonders would be graceful too.

The book contains surprises. Miller Gardens, hidden on Otter Cliff Road, is still growing plants for the public. I never knew that it once was the nursery of William and Charles Miller, who grew the trees and shrubs used for park landscaping. Surprising too is that Farrand worked to dress the coping stones with vines and herbaceous plants—yet now volunteers assiduously “floss Mr. Rockefeller’s teeth,” leaving them bare. A pleasant surprise was Brouse’s inclusion of snippets of Farrand’s garden writing, her voice so alive whether talking about plant communities or groundcovers: “The island is a meeting ground for the black spruces from the northern-muskeg swamps, and the pitch pines from the sand barrens to the south” and “Patches of lustrous and pervasively flavored wintergreen yield to tangled mats of Linnaeus’s favorite twin-flower and long pale runners of partridge-berry, with symmetrically paired and accurately spaced leaves, make prim sylvan processions towards sheets of scarlet bunchberries.”

The ultimate surprise: why “public-spirited”? Farrand was a volunteer! Although she invoiced Mr. Rockefeller regularly for her work on park landscaping, the amount charged was zero—she donated her time and expertise. We are the fortunate beneficiaries of their commingled vision.

HELEN KOCH is a Master Gardener and has volunteered at the Wild Gardens of Acadia since 2000.

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Birch catkins on the Murray Young Path.

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TRANSITIONS BRING OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

The centennials of Acadia and the National Park Service last year drew national attention to our parks' important role in local and national economies and in preserving America's natural and cultural heritage. Visitation at Acadia has risen 58% over the last decade to a record 3.3 million visits last year. Visitor spending in 2015 reached nearly \$248 million in the local economy, creating more than 3,800 jobs and a labor income of \$102 million. Friends of Acadia and other park support organizations are now working to convert this surge of interest in national parks to steadfast advocacy on behalf of these treasures.

Just before the December recess last year, Congress passed H.R. 4680, the *National Park Service Centennial Act*. Among other provisions, the bill advanced sustainable funding for national parks by establishing the NPS Centennial Challenge Fund to be used for projects and programs that support the NPS mission and enhance the visitor experience. All Centennial-Challenge-funded projects must secure a matching non-federal contribution. In FY 2015 and 2016, Congress approved a pilot Centennial Challenge program, and with matching funds provided by Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park successfully applied for funding to restore part of the Deer Brook Trail, clear vistas, rehabilitate the trails and carriage roads with the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and provide park experiences for almost 4,000 fourth graders from diverse Maine communities to Acadia. FOA's donations to the park will continue to leverage federal Centennial Challenge funds to accomplish important maintenance and visitor services projects.

In January, Friends of Acadia wrote to Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King outlining the impacts of climate change on Acadia and the region and asking them to discuss these issues with Environmental Protection Agency Administrator nominee Scott Pruitt. Concerns raised included rising sea level and its potential impacts on park infrastructure along Ocean

Drive and Seawall, loss of biodiversity, encroachment by invasive plants and insects, changes in predator/prey and pollinator/flowering relationships, and acidification in the Gulf of Maine. Both senators decided to vote against Attorney General Pruitt's nomination, and in her public statements, Senator Collins referred to FOA's letter as having played a key role in her decision.

In February, Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald, Acadia superintendent Kevin Schneider, and several FOA board members met with Maine's congressional delegation in Washington D.C. to provide updates on ANP transportation planning, land acquisitions inside park boundaries completed last year with support from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Centennial Challenge projects. The group also discussed anticipated impacts from the just-announced federal hiring freeze. Fortunately, Acadia subsequently received approval to proceed with hiring its regular seasonal workforce in enough time for the busy visitor season. Unfortunately, however, Acadia still has eleven permanent jobs vacant. These are important positions for Acadia, including IT administrator, carriage roads foreman, concessions specialist, maintenance supervisor, deputy chief law enforcement ranger, graphics and information ranger, and environmental compliance specialist. Guidance issued by the offices of Personnel Management and Management and Budget appears to allow the National Park Service to transfer current NPS employees into these jobs, but many of these jobs require specific skills and the hiring freeze will not allow new talent into Acadia's applicant pool.

Friends of Acadia staff, board members, and partners are in communication with ANP staff and the Maine congressional delegation about H.R. 763/S. 257, the *Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act*. This confirms the addition of Schoodic Woods to the park, clarifies that the 1986 boundary law shall guide future land acquisitions, and enables traditional

harvesting of clams and worms in Acadia's intertidal zone. Friends of Acadia supports these provisions, but is concerned that the bill also allows seaweed harvesting, a non-traditional commercial use in Acadia's intertidal zone. Friends of Acadia and partners, in consultation with Acadia National Park, have asked our delegation that this section of the bill be changed to permit only traditional clamming and worming. The bill also includes several smaller provisions: specific land transfers and considerations, authorization for an appropriation to a regional solid waste/recycling organization on Mount Desert Island, and importantly, the permanent authorization of the Acadia Advisory Commission.

Presidential transitions and new legislative sessions always create interesting opportunities and calls to action. Friends of Acadia will continue to monitor legislation of interest to Acadia and the surrounding communities and inform members as opportunities arise to provide input. We thank the Maine congressional delegation for their work on behalf of Acadia, and we encourage them to keep the park and its associated economic and social benefits in the forefront as they enter the new legislative session. ✨

—Stephanie Clement



Pitch pine with new pollen cones on Dorr Mountain.

FOA/Aimee Beal Church

PICTURING MYSELF IN ACADIA

By Rebecca DelMonico



A tide pool at Great Head. All photos by Ronald Spolarich.

When I was a little girl, I could find the family photographs in the bottom drawer of my parents' armoire. Amidst the pictures of birthdays and holidays, I hunted for my favorite envelopes—the ones marked “Acadia” containing 3x5” prints of our annual summer trips. In the pictures—my father's first cracks at shooting 35mm film—I could relive scavenging for starfish in tidal pools, building castles with Mom on Sand Beach, and roasting marshmallows beside my sister at the campsite. I could view the sunset over Eagle Lake in two whole rolls' worth of film, relics from Dad's experimental phase. In his early photographs, our skin is all tanned and glowing and unblemished, our smiles in oblivion to the future conflicts we would create together, before ambition and failures and the agonizing stretch to find out who we would become.



Rebecca DelMonico and Ronald Spolarich at Acadia in 1992.

We were happy and innocent in those photos, though the lens was sometimes out of focus, the aperture just a little too wide.

Since 1983, the year I turned one, I've visited Acadia annually; each time I return, I haunt the sites of Dad's photos. Acadia is a land of woods, pink rock and fog where time stands still; where I can return to the same

pebble beach at thirty-five and find it as I did when I was eleven; where once I cross that bridge over the Mt. Desert Narrows, I can forget the world receding in my rearview mirror. “There!” I say to my husband as I point to the Thompson Island Visitors' Center sign. “We're here!” I stick my head out the passenger-side window like a dog and lap up the August sun, radiant on the white caps and a balm upon my skin.

That head-out-the-window move—that was a ritual that started back when my parents were at the helm of our '82 Volkswagen Jetta. Before my husband, it was Dad charioting us onto the island after the five-hour drive, Mom leading us kids in a victory cheer as we crossed onto the island. I've driven over that bridge many times since, carting friends and boys, with music blaring and windows rolled down. The wind buffets my brown hair



like it did Mom's. I get the knots out later on my own.

It's 2017 and I drive the loop road with my husband now. Which spot was it? I try to decide, as our car rolls down the coastline, each cove of granite resembling the ones before. On which nameless rock did Dad take that shot of Mom and me? Dad's photographs have evolved. He's found his passion for landscape photography and can work a vista into a meticulous study of light and texture, but it's those simple portraits of us on Hunter's Beach that made us a family. I

sense my husband's indifference as I search, but it's really my own impatience pulling at my shirt, wondering why I need to revisit the past and find the rocky nook where the child in me stays, hiding, waiting. We need something constant in our lives, something certain. My child-self is there in Acadia, preserved like a secret between the breakers. When I return, I become that child again. ✱

REBECCA DELMONICO and her husband Tony are teachers who live in Amesbury, MA with their two cats.



Counterclockwise from upper left: Jesup Path in fall, The Beehive, and lily pads at Witch Hole Pond. All photos by Ronald Spolarich.

IN NOMINE

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FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Acadia volunteer coordinator Dianna McKeage and FOA stewardship coordinator Dana Petersen relax for a moment during last year's National Trails Day work party on the Canon Brook Trail. The 2017 National Trails Day celebration will take place on Saturday, June 3rd.

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.