



Friends of  
ACADIA  
Journal

Summer 2017  
Volume 22 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

# PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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## HELPING ACADIA TO ADAPT AND ENDURE

To many of us, Acadia and other national parks serve as a reassuring constant in our lives that are otherwise full of change. I often hear from park employees that “being part of something permanent” is the most rewarding part of their job. Likewise, donors to Friends of Acadia are inspired in part by the knowledge that their contribution adds to a legacy of lasting public benefit. Families return here year after year and feel rooted in places or traditions that are handed down from generation to generation. Having my feet firmly planted on one of Acadia’s granite summits never fails to ground me when my mind or emotions or email in-box are over-loaded.

As our planet and our society face change at an unprecedented pace, however, is the permanence we have long admired in our parks more important than ever, or is it an illusion?

Friends of Acadia is working closely with our partners in the National Park Service on a number of projects that support our belief that preservation and protection of Acadia’s resources remains the constant, critical core of our mission—but we also recognize the need to consider new approaches and adaptive management if we are to succeed in achieving this mission today and in the future.

Two articles that appeared in our *Spring Journal* earlier this year provided updates on work under our Wild Acadia and Acadia Experience initiatives; I have been extremely gratified that these pieces have generated more questions, feedback, and discussion from our readers than any other in my time here at FOA. Even more than the comments from our readers, your generous response to our Second Century Campaign and our spring membership drive clearly indicate that our friends and neighbors are well-attuned to the profound challenges facing Acadia from our warming climate and our growing visitation, and the need



FOA

for our organization to step up like never before. In the following pages, you will find more stories about the stresses and changes facing the park—some long-standing and some more recent and rapid.

Global forces such as climate change, population growth, and advancing technology are affecting our parks well beyond the control of park managers, prompting the NPS Director to issue a new directive last fall, “Resource Stewardship in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,” that calls for adaptation, partnership, and innovation to anticipate multiple possible future scenarios and to deal with “continuous change that we do not fully understand.”

In facing these challenges, Friends of Acadia provides resources, ideas, and the ability to respond more quickly than otherwise might be possible at a government agency like the Park Service. We have helped convene climate change scenario planning workshops, funded pilot projects on Cadillac Mountain, undertaken visitor use modeling at some of Acadia’s busiest locations, advocated for new options to purchase park passes on-line, provided new technology to help enhance park programs, and added capacity through seasonal and

year-round positions at Acadia. The Second Century Campaign has allowed all of these efforts to advance despite the uncertainty of a new administration in Washington and the hurdles of the federal hiring freeze.

FOA itself must adapt as we grapple with transitions within the organization. This *Journal* pays tribute to two dear friends no longer with us—David Rockefeller and Aimee Beal Church—and includes reflections from Ed Samek who is passing the leadership of the organization to his successor Anne Green following six stellar years as our committed and hard-working board chairman. We are thrilled that Ed will continue to serve as an FOA board member, as his hard work, quest for excellence, and his understanding and even enthusiasm for change, embody the qualities that will allow FOA and Acadia to continue to be leaders and forces for good in our community and our world.

Aimee, David, and Ed have each had a profound impact on this organization that began with their deep personal connections to Acadia, but that grew exponentially as they joined forces with others, exchanging ideas and gaining, and inspiring, new perspectives. Think of the history that David Rockefeller shared with this park during the last century! And yet among his most amazing qualities was his curiosity and willingness to try new things, even at age 101.

All of us at Friends of Acadia draw inspiration for our work from both the honored past of our park as well as the future potential that is possible, given your involvement and support.

—David R. MacDonald

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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## PARKITECTURE IN ACADIA

In its earliest days Acadia was shaped by the sensitive, thoughtful design priorities of George Dorr, Charles W. Eliot, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., who led its establishment. Acadia's roads, carriage roads, and trails were all designed to lie lightly on the land, to blend into the landscape, and to emphasize the use of natural, locally sourced materials. The park's early visionaries wanted these roads and trails not just to allow people to access the scenery but to inspire a sense of wonder and reverence by maximizing the natural environment's impact on visitors. Mr. Rockefeller hired renowned landscape architect Fredrick Law Olmsted Jr. to design roads to emphasize the most striking views. Trails were not intended to be the shortest distance between two points but to meander, to visitors' delight. Early designers wanted to ensure any structures blended with their surroundings so that they would literally become part of the landscape.

There is a local story that JDR Jr., who was personally involved in designing and laying out Acadia's carriage roads, was out one day inspecting the work of the stone masons building the beautiful carriage road bridges. Despite using only simple hand tools the stone masons had become quite skilled at their work, and on this particular day Mr. Rockefeller found that the work was becoming too perfect. He asked the masons to make sure that their cut lines remained a bit rough to deliberately ensure the bridges would reinforce a rustic appearance.

The work at Acadia, along with other contemporary designs at other national parks—including iconic lodges like the Many Glacier, Old Faithful Inn, El Tovar, and Ahwahnee—is today known as “parkitecture.” This rustic style of design is recognized as an important and unique contribution to American architecture and landscape architecture, and is symbolic of America's national parks.



Today, Acadia's transportation system, including the motor road system, carriage roads, and our historic trails, are listed on the National Register of Historic Places as nationally significant historic resources. The National Park Service mission requires us to care for these resources, to leave them unimpaired for future generations—providing the same level of stewardship as Acadia's lakes, forests, and vistas. When we rehabilitate the carriage roads, for example, we take great care to use materials similar to those used originally. When stone bridges are re-pointed, we use masonry materials that would be appropriate to the era of their original construction. Acadia's trail crew reviews historic photos to try and make sure trails fit their historic context.

We also avoid adding new developments—called “non-contributing features”—that detract from the look and character of historic structures. This is why many of Acadia's roads don't meet modern standards for width, or include shoulders. It is why the curves on the roads, designed for slow moving 1930s-era vehicles, include tight turns and why some of the bridges have relatively low height restrictions. To widen these roads, change their alignment, add

shoulders, or modify a bridge could cumulatively destroy their historic character. We also look at our own practices carefully, reviewing signs along the Park Loop Road, for example, in a struggle to tastefully provide enough information for visitors while not overwhelming the vistas.

In addition to the park's historic trails, carriage roads, and motor roads Acadia features several iconic buildings beloved by visitors. This summer Friends of Acadia is raising much needed funds for the park's historic buildings. Funds from the auction will help repair the historic lighthouse on Baker Island and fund interior and exterior renovations at the beautiful Jordan Pond and Brown Mountain Gatehouses. The years have taken a toll on these historic buildings that are as much a part of Acadia as the glaciated valley, rocky coastline, and vast forests. We are so appreciative of having a partner like FOA to help get this work done, which may not happen otherwise—thank you for your support!

This summer as you enjoy walking along a carriage road, summiting a mountaintop, or having a picnic along Ocean Drive, I hope you'll take the time to see the park's historic roads, carriage roads, and trails with a renewed sense of appreciation.

—Kevin Schneider

## Where in Acadia?



FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

**Where in Acadia?** Summer doesn't get much better than when hiking historic trails in Acadia, especially as they open out to expansive views. Occasional large boulders along the trails ground us in the near landscape and add perspective to the distant views opening before us. This trail illustrates the artistry of Acadia's pathmakers of the last century and today.

If you think you can identify the historic trail pictured here (and, if you wish, the mountain on which it resides) email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto: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 send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writer.

### Spring 2017 Where in Acadia?



FOA/Aimee Beal Church

The 'floating' island ... is Greenings Island. The mountain on the left is Norumbega (Brown); the fog in the foreground hides Somes Sound; the photograph is taken from St. Sauveur (Dog).

Since age 7, I have always had a strange ambivalence to St. Sauveur. It bothered me that the name was changed from Dog to St. Sauveur. Why change a most appropriate name (the mountain looked like a sleeping dog from the Sargent Drive side—still does)? I later

learned that the name St. Sauveur came from the 1613 French Jesuit mission that was allegedly located on Fernald point at the mouth of the Sound.

A second reason had to do with an old family tradition. My mother's family (Scott) had a tradition that when a child turned 7, he or she would become the monarch of Flying Mountain. On each child's seventh birthday (or as close to the birthday as possible), the new seven year old would climb Flying with his/her family and the current reigning Monarch of Flying Mountain. There would be a short ceremony at the summit at which power would be transferred.

At age seven, I took my newly anointed royal powers seriously. I remember asking my mother if we could climb Dog so that I could look down and survey my Flying Mountain domain. We duly climbed Dog. I was utterly frustrated because when we reached the wooded summit, I could not see Flying. As I recall, as you climb from the old Robinson Road Man O' War parking lot you do not get a single view of Flying. I have always held that against Dog/St. Sauveur.

— Rick Wheeler, Bryn Mawr, PA and Mount Desert, ME

*Editor's Note (Aimee Beal Church):* Interestingly, a number of people correctly identified Greening's Island, but nobody identified the mountain from which the photo was taken (cliffs of Beech Mountain). That fog sure does disguise a landscape! The mountain slope rising to the left is St. Sauveur, site of Mr. Wheeler's hike up to look over his new domain as the Monarch of Flying Mtn.

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

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

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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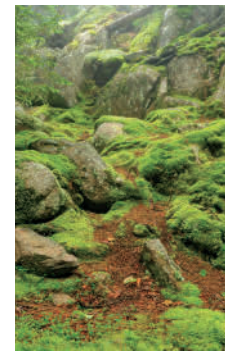
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Mossy Slopes on Beech Mtn. Valley Trail in Acadia.  
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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## DAVID ROCKEFELLER—A REMEMBRANCE

For twenty-five years, I had the privilege of working with David Rockefeller on all manner of conservation issues in my role as president here at Friends of Acadia and before that in my time on the staff at Maine Coast Heritage Trust. He inspired many of us with his generosity and kindness, and Acadia has not felt the same without him since his passing at 101 this past March.

My fondest memories of David are of outings together on the park's trails and carriage roads or on his boat exploring the Maine coast; but I got the sense that he was always happiest to see me in New York, as if I brought into his Manhattan office a whiff of spruce and salt air or the possibility of lunch at anchor in an island harbor. He loved Maine dearly, and I was the fortunate beneficiary by association.

We first met in the pouring rain in Seal Harbor in 1991. He and his wife Peggy hosted semi-annual garden parties (the invitation always read “come rain or shine”), and on that evening the two of them were sharing an umbrella and a cocktail in their rubber boots and yellow slickers as they greeted their guests. Peggy introduced me as the newest member of the land protection staff at MCHT, where she served on the board, and David asked me if I would join him the next day for a walk to discuss conservation options for his acreage in Seal Harbor.

A cold front blew through that night, and brought one of those Maine mornings when everything was clear and bright, with the granite shore scrubbed clean by the rain, every pointed fir in sharp focus, and the waves on the sea sparkling like a thousand diamonds. As we climbed Day Mountain, David spoke about the choices and responsibilities that came with owning most of the land in the community. Peggy was advocating for permanent protection from development for much of it, but David was not so sure. “I hope that there will



David Rockefeller in Seal Harbor.

always be an opportunity for people in the village to stay, or for their children to settle here if they wish,” he said, leaning on his walking stick and squinting out at the dazzling horizon. “It’s really rather wonderful here, don’t you think?”

He was a conservationist, yes, but a practical one. His first thoughts were often of friends and neighbors and employees who loved this island as much as he did. Along with the thousands of acres and dozens of wild islands that David and Peggy helped conserve over the years, he also leaves a legacy of countless thoughtful acts and personal favors large and small that he did for many of us here in Maine.

His spirit is everywhere here at Acadia, particularly on the carriage roads that his father constructed nearly a century ago, and which David worked so tirelessly in recent years through Friends of Acadia to restore and maintain for public enjoyment. The great care and personal touch that he put into outreach to potential donors in the community, as well as leadership within the National Park Service and the U.S. Congress, was absolutely essential to FOA’s first major success with the carriage roads campaign in the early 1990s.

A quarter of a century later, he stepped forward with the very first gift to FOA’s Second Century Campaign and graciously agreed to serve as one of our Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs, along with Senator George Mitchell. He was attending FOA meetings and gatherings as part of the park’s centennial celebration in 2016 right up until the last few months of his life. All of us at Friends of Acadia are grateful for David’s many contributions that have fundamentally shaped this organization and this park.

While there have been few figures who loomed larger on the global stage of finance and philanthropy over the past half-century, I often got the feeling that David’s time here in Maine helped keep everything in perspective for him. He genuinely made others feel like we had plenty in common with him as we bonded in our appreciation of the beauty and traditions of the Maine coast that were our shared inheritance. That was the magic of this great man; and that continues to be the gift of Acadia. ✨

— David MacDonald

*A version of this piece appeared originally in the April edition of Maine Magazine.*

## NANCY HOWLAND: AN EXTRAORDINARY VOLUNTEER

**N**ancy Howland has a rare and wonderful quality in a volunteer: she loves filing.

A retired director of the Jesup Memorial Library, Nancy is very much at home with a stack of documents that need to be organized, alphabetized, and filed with care. In January 2013 she took on the responsibility of organizing and maintaining all of Friends of Acadia's donor files. Since then, with the number of annual contributions to FOA increasing by 40 percent, her job has grown substantially. During the spring and fall fundraising campaigns, she sometimes files as many as 75 gift documents a day.

Nancy retired from the Jesup in 2009 after 20 years as executive director. She has become a model of a dedicated, tireless community volunteer who helps to keep multiple organizations running. Currently, there are nine nonprofits on Mount Desert Island where she volunteers on a regular basis. Nancy serves on boards and committees, helps with events, and works in the Bar Harbor Food Pantry and its thrift shop, Serendipity.

She comments that FOA is her favorite. "I appreciate and admire Friends of Acadia and all of the ways they assist Acadia National Park and the National Park Service," she says. "I have a lot of respect for the people who work here."

Most important, Nancy says, she always feels welcome and appreciated at FOA.

Nancy was born in New London, CT and grew up there. Her marriage to Coast Guard officer David Howland launched a lifetime of frequent moves all over the country that later included their two children, Susan and Jonathan. "We lived in 14 towns in 24 years," Nancy says. In 1974 the family was transferred from Washington, D.C. to Maine, and never left. Nancy comments that wherever they lived, she volunteered in school libraries. When she and Dave moved to Bar Harbor, she began working one day a week at the Jesup Memorial Library—a cataloging position that led to a full-time



*Nancy Howland at Duck Brook Bridge.*

job and ultimately the post of executive director.

Nancy is widely known as an avid walker, one who never drives a car if she can help it. Living on the West Street Extension, she walks to all of the organizations where she volunteers unless the weather is frigid or the sidewalks are icy. She stops by Hannaford for groceries to carry in her backpack on her way home. Nancy says her favorite places for leisurely walking are Duck Brook Road and the carriage road around Witch Hole.

Nancy's daughter, Susan, lives in Port Angeles, WA, next door to Olympic National Park. Her son, Jonathan, lives on Cape Cod. Her family also includes four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Whenever they visit Nancy puts her volunteer schedule on hold, but any other time you will find her hard at work, serving Friends of Acadia and the other organizations who are fortunate to have her on their team. ❄️

— Sharon Broom



# A WALK WITH HANK CHARY

By Shawn Keeley

Since FOA's founding 31 years ago, membership has increased steadily as more and more people have realized that joining FOA is a great way to give back to Acadia and help fund conservation projects in the park and surrounding communities. While many members make an annual contribution, a growing number are choosing to enroll as Trailblazers or join the George B. Dorr Society. Trailblazers make automatic monthly donations via credit card or their checking account, which provides steady funding to FOA. George B. Dorr Society members make future provisions for Friends of Acadia through their estate planning (naming FOA as a beneficiary in their will or retirement plan, for example), helping to ensure future funding for FOA. I recently had the chance to take a walk up Day Mountain with Hank Chary, who is both a Trailblazer *and* a member of the George B. Dorr Society.

Hank's lifelong love of Acadia National Park is a story that probably resonates with many FOA members. His parents first brought him to MDI as a toddler back when the fire of 1947 was a fresh scar on the landscape. His family fell in love with Acadia and began returning each summer—like migrating robins or humpback whales—and eventually put down roots in a 1920s summer cottage in Hulls Cove. Hank's first memories of the park are of riding in the sidecar of his father's motor scooter along Ocean Drive when it was a two-way road, picnicking at Long Pond, and swimming at Lakewood. As he got older, ranger-led naturalist walks became his informal B.S. in natural history. One summer he was on an outing to Great Head with a ranger who had become a good friend. The ranger was a biologist by training and when he found out Hank was majoring in geology, he asked him to lead the geology portion of the hike; quite an honor for a college kid.

As Hank and I wound our way up the carriage road toward the summit of Day Mountain, we discussed FOA's partnership priorities including transportation, natural resource management, youth engagement, and maintenance of trails and carriage roads. It was clear that all of these needs resonate with Hank but above all he values FOA's role in protecting Acadia's ecosystems and our work to maintain and improve the trail and carriage road systems. To him, protecting ecosystems is fundamental to the park's mission and the trails and carriage roads are what allow us to experience these magnificent natural areas.

When I asked Hank why he and his wife, Judie, are Trailblazers, he said, "because it is the easiest way for us to contribute to FOA and we find that it allows us to give more. It is much easier to give a little each month than to write a large check once a year." When asked why they are George B. Dorr Society members, Hank said, "It's one more way we can support FOA and the park, and unlike being a Trailblazer it's not going to cost us anything. It might 'cost' our children something but they, like us, love and care for Acadia."

As we enjoyed the gradual descent down Day Mountain, my thoughts turned to early "friends" of Acadia like Mr. Eliot, Mr. Dorr, and Mr. Rockefeller and it occurred to me that Hank exemplifies the generous spirit on which Acadia was built and is sustained by today. As a Trailblazer, he supports FOA's current needs and as a member of the George B. Dorr Society he is ensuring that FOA will have resources to help maintain and protect the park long into the future. A true friend of Acadia now, and in the future. As stewards of this awe-inspiring, timeless, and magnificent place, we couldn't ask for anything more. Thank you, Hank! ❄️



Chris Vullio

Hank on the Precipice Trail.

## 5 Reasons to Become a Trailblazer

1. Your membership is always current (no renewals needed) and you can change your gift or opt out of the program at any time.
2. It's easy on your budget, so you can give at a higher level without feeling the pinch.
3. Your dollars go farther by helping FOA avoid mailing costs.
4. You help FOA conserve natural resources like trees for paper and fuel for delivering membership renewals.
5. Best of all, you have the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve and protect Acadia all year long!

For information about Trailblazer membership, please contact Sharon Broom at 207-288-3340 or [sharon@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:sharon@friendsofacadia.org).

## The George B. Dorr Society

The George B. Dorr Society was established in 2005 to recognize members and friends who have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans, regardless of value. Such provisions may be made in the form of bequests, trusts, annuities, life insurance, or other means. Each year, the George B. Dorr Society members gather for a special appreciation event. For more information about the society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340.

# TWENTY YEARS OF STEWARDSHIP ON ACADIA'S SUMMITS AND RIDGES

By Marla O'Byrne

Summits and anniversaries both inspire reflection on the long view. So on this 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ridge Runner program, it seems a good time to look at the program over time, and where it's heading.

In 1997 then FOA President Ken Olson took a leaf from his Appalachian Mountain Club days and, with the generous support of a donor who recognized the possibilities, created and endowed the Ridge Runner program. Four talented young people spent 10 weeks in Acadia hiking and meeting visitors, prepared with water, maps, and good advice on how to enjoy the park, gently.

From that first year, FOA and the park recognized the potential of this team of ambassadors, particularly if guided well. Charlie Jacobi, Acadia's resource and visitor use specialist recalls, "When Ken asked me what I would do with this team if FOA gave them to me, I figured they would be a natural fit to maintain cairns and teach Leave No Trace (LNT) principles in the park." And the Ridge Runner Program was off and running.

Over the past 20 years more than 65 ridge runners have traveled thousands of miles in Acadia to maintain hundreds of cairns and miles of trails, helped thousands of visitors, picked up trash, and widely shared how we can all be conservationists just by how we enjoy and move across the landscape.

Alex DeLucia, a ridge runner in 2000, thought this job would be a great opportunity to hike all summer for work. "Yeah, it was great to hike every trail in the park that summer," he says, "but what caught me off guard was the diversity of people I encountered, and the significant spectrum of experience among those visitors." Cecily Swinburne, a 2009 ridge runner,



Charlie Jacobi and Jeff Dobbs (center) on Cadillac South Ridge with the 2007 ridge runners (left to right): Alexa Pezzano, Sandra Klausmeyer, Elaine Lauriat, Catie Carter, and Melissa Gates.

agreed. "LNT seems so basic, but because Acadia is so accessible a lot of people who visit don't have much experience in the outdoors." Some hikers on the trails knew what to expect and were prepared. Others were not.

Alex remembers going out with Charlie Jacobi, to build cairns and give Jacobi a chance to observe his interactions with visitors. "After a few meetings he was ecstatic," said Alex. "Charlie said that simply shooting the breeze and plugging in little nuggets of LNT is exactly what he wanted." Nothing more natural than talking about how to enjoy the park.

Vassar Pierce, a ridge runner in 2006 and 2008, recalls showing kids and their parents the impact humans can have on their landscape, using Bubble Rock as an example. "Once a week or so I'd go up to South Bubble and teach LNT," he said.

"We had a picture of Bubble Rock from the 50s with lichen growing on it. Today it's just bare because of 60 years of hands touching it. It's a clearly visible impact."

In addition to teaching LNT, a staple of the ridge runners' work has been maintaining trail cairns. The first year or two they removed misplaced conical cairns and rebuilt others. Jacobi wanted the cairns to guide visitors well, but saw that the conical cairns were magnets for overbuilding, rebuilding, and moving—all of which open up the landscape to erosion. In the early 2000s the park was wrapping up its work with the Olmsted Center, documenting the history of the park's trails. One of the outcomes was a better understanding of the history of Bates cairns in Acadia, and working with the park's trail crew Jacobi set the ridge runners to rebuilding conical cairns into the distinc-

tive, light-on-the-ground Bates cairns that not only mark a spot on the trail, but provide guidance for the direction forward. (You can learn more about the history and purpose of Bates cairns in the following article, “Place and Direction: A Short History of the Bates Cairn.”)

When talking with several former ridge runners this summer it became clear that the benefits of the program accrue not only to the park and its visitors but to the ridge runners as well. Yes, they got to hike in Acadia. For work. But they also had a mentor in Charlie Jacobi who made LNT fun and purposeful, and who opened doors to so many more areas of expertise and knowledge at work in the park.

Alexa Pezzano, a 2007 ridge runner, found her career working with national parks. Alexa remembers Charlie scheduling time for them to work with park professionals, “Charlie did a good job of getting us out with interpreters and scientists,” said Pezzano. “We worked with Jill Weber, who taught us about alpine vegetation, and I appreciated every experience and educational opportunity Charlie provided. It’s why I’m still at the park.”

Pat Mahoney, a 2006 ridge runner, saw how “the conservation/preservation mission of the National Park Service is infused into the way the staff operates.” He notes, “I always appreciated how people took conservation seriously, took the historic use of the park seriously, and took that into their daily work, which has informed my work.”

The diverse experiences and educational opportunities create a talented crew moving through the park every summer. Each year the ridge runners help Jacobi collect data—through visitor counts or short, targeted interviews, for example—but it has not been a major part of their work. Four years ago, a summit stewards program was added. A team of four was recruited and trained to collect more data, and to provide a bit more management on the summit of Cadillac Mtn. The ridge runner and summit steward roles are similar. “A summit steward hiking up Cadillac is a ridge runner,” says Jacobi. They do a bit of trail maintenance, and talk with visitors about LNT. “When up on the summit of Cadillac,” he says, “the role is somewhat



Pat Mahoney and Catie Carter move brush on Little Moose Island at Schoodic.

NPS/Charlie Jacobi



Vassar Pierce talking about LNT on South Bubble.

NPS/Charlie Jacobi

different, and includes some traffic management, perhaps a bit more interpretation of the human and natural history on the summit.”

Recently the two teams were combined under the one name, summit stewards. It’s not so much a change in duty as a shift in perspective. “They are all stewards,” says Jacobi, “and we are trying to teach all visitors to be stewards, too.” The former ridge

runners demonstrate that ethic—Cecily told me, “I still go back and clean up Bates cairns when I see them built up. It gets ingrained in you.” If Jacobi’s vision is fulfilled, stewardship will become ingrained in millions of people visiting Acadia. ✨

MARLA O’BYRNE is a former president and CEO of Friends of Acadia.

# PLACE AND DIRECTION: A SHORT HISTORY OF THE BATES CAIRN

By Moira O'Neill

Some things you never forget. Like the way the cold, wet fog advanced upon us from the Featherbed, stealing the sunny morning from Cadillac South Ridge.

We, a small band of fresh ridge runners, welcomed the cooling effect as we toiled at a first lesson in building Bates cairns.

The black flies flew ahead of the breeze, drawn to someone's homemade concoction meant to repel them. But we kept a steady pace with Pete Colman, seasoned trail crew and on that day our professor of stone.

Pete was small, nimble. The rocks were Goliath to his stature. Still, as he chatted amiably and directed gently, he lifted and coaxed dense granite into place with the effortless touch of an artist.

The Bass Harbor Lighthouse, the rolling pink granite, the water spray at Thunder Hole – these are the iconic images of Acadia National Park. But the most uniquely Acadian, and until recently the astoundingly least marketed symbol of the park, is the Bates cairn.

Maybe it hasn't been recognized for the symbol it is because you've really got to hike into the park and up the ridge trails to find one. By rough estimate, only about one-third of all park visitors hike the trails each year. The Bates cairns have marked trails and directed hikers for longer than Acadia has existed.

The unusual cairns were the brainchild of Waldron Bates, a Harvard man and Boston lawyer. His is not a legacy of law though. Rather it is one of gifted landscape architect and engineer. Among Bar Harbor's finest pathbuilders, Bates is known for his work that may be some of the most spectacular for beauty and complexity. Perhaps his true legacy is a least-intrusive esthetic.

A century before the advent of outdoor ethics and Leave No Trace initiatives, Bates



Volunteer researchers collecting cairn data on Gorham Mountain: Moira O'Neill, PhD (l.) and Mary Tedesco Schneck, PhD.

was intent upon minimizing the appearance of impact. In its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of 1909, the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association (BHVIA) described his work as “so carefully done as to leave no sense of Nature's having been rudely interfered with.”

This unobtrusive approach is nowhere better reflected than in the pathbuilder's unique cairn design. Simplicity is evident in his instructions for their construction recorded in the 1906 BHVIA Annual Report:

*Build the cairns as shown in the accompanying pictures: two large stones with an opening between in line with the direction of the path, across these one flat stone, and on top of this one long stone in line with the direction of the path. Use large stones and set them firmly in place.*

Unlike more common conical cairns that orient hikers to trails, Bates' design also orients to direction (the space between the base stones and the top “pointer” stones aligning with the path).

When you see a Bates cairn looming out of the sea fog, you know you have found the trail and you know where the trail goes. The directional aspect minimizes the number of cairns required. The simple design of four stones minimizes erosion caused by harvesting for use. Bates cairns are lower, less impactful on the view.

This is both an environmentally pleasing and protective design. The preservation of the Bates cairns themselves has been at times a battle, but that is starting to change.

When the trail system in Acadia National Park fell into disrepair for several decades, the cairns did too. Most remaining Bates cairns probably morphed into conical cairns with well-meaning visitor assistance.

Visitors no doubt built others in an effort to guide hikers, and park trail crew built and rebuilt some when they had the time. The Bates-style cairns became scarce.

Because of constant tampering and lack of staff, by the 1980s Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug had given up on all but the worst problems with cairn maintenance.

In the late 1990s, the first Friends of Acadia ridge runners built and attempted to maintain the conical cairns that had sprouted over the past 30-40 years. But they too were soon frustrated by the number of rocks required and frequent tampering.

Around the same time, the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation was researching the history of Acadia's trails. The role of Bates cairns as an important character-defining feature for the trail system was rediscovered.

In 2001 Natural Resource Specialist Charlie Jacobi (ridge runner supervisor) and Stellpflug put the ridge runners to work reviving the Bates cairns as an experiment.

The Bates cairns were easier to build and maintain. They required fewer rocks to build and thus minimized the impact on the natural environment. The effort restored a unique element of cultural authenticity to the landscape of Acadia's hiking trails.

"Building Bates cairns," Jacobi notes, "creates an ideal opportunity to promote hiker safety while educating visitors about park history and preservation of park resources through Leave No Trace ethics, and specifically the importance of the Leave What You Find principle, for Bates cairns and more."

The history of the FOA ridge runners is intimately tied to that of the Bates cairns. In some ways the cairns are monuments to the ridge runners' blood, sweat, and sometimes even tears spent crafting granite into trail markers. Several of the Bates cairns are even named for ridge runners (e.g. Larissa-Lee-Do-Dah).

Cairns on the Gorham Mountain Trail were named to ease data collection and keep researchers oriented as they recorded the efficacy of varying messages on signs introduced to stop tampering. All the tested messages worked to some extent, with none more effective than another. It is still a challenge to find the right message while minimizing the intrusion of signage. What may help, we discovered, is to address the fact that many people do not know the full directional meaning of the Bates cairn, and to help them understand that adding to, moving, or removing stones from the cairns obliterates their message.

The summer I ran ridges I developed an educational program for children that taught the meaning of cairns through hands-on construction of miniature versions, a great rainy day activity. Upon hearing the explanation that a cairn's message refers both to place and direction, parents invariably slapped themselves on the head saying, "I never realized that!"

My program was based on learning theory that takes a three-pronged approach: knowledge, skills, and attitude. Accord-



Moira O'Neill on Gorham Mountain Trail.

ingly, if a hiker receives information about the meaning of the cairns and is given the skills to read them, then the hiker's attitude for respecting and preserving the cairns will follow (as opposed to just telling hikers, "don't touch"). To that end, FOA ridge runners routinely teach how to read the structures.

To spread the message further, I developed a T-shirt, "Anatomy of a Bates Cairn," that features a diagrammatic explanation of the cairn's purpose. The shirts are strategically for sale in park-related shops for prime educational exposure.

Looking for a way to distribute T-shirts, I found Breaux Higgins of Town Hill. He developed an Eagle Scout project that included designing life-sized faux Bates cairns out of light portable material so he could take them on the road to teach folks about their meaning and to promote their proper use.

Breaux taught hundreds of people and even managed to get them to sign a pledge not to tamper with Bates cairns. We now use his faux cairns to teach thousands of park visitors and school children in the area. Data is inconclusive, but with so much effort we hope the tampering will diminish.

One hundred years after their design by a lawyer from Boston, it is fitting that two Bates cairns appeared on the official Acadia National Park Centennial logo to lead the park and its friends along the path through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, with the pointer stone pointing the way to the future and preservation of Acadia.

*The Anatomy of a Bates Cairn* T-shirt has been stored away in the Friends of Acadia time capsule, ensuring that 100 years from now we will know how to build and read these cairns. Waldron Bates' legacy leads us forever onward.

The next time the fog rolls in on your hike, look for a Bates cairn. It will tell you that you are on a trail in Acadia National Park, going in the right direction. Then leave it as you found it for the next hiker.\*

MOIRA O'NEILL lives in Surry, and was a ridge runner in the summer of 2013 ("best job in the world"). Since then she has been a dedicated volunteer with Waldron's Warriors, a small band of year-round Bates cairn caretakers, and a Centennial Partner.

# RISING SEAS AT ACADIA: IMPLICATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

By Catherine Schmitt

## Part I—Migration

Acadia's salt marshes are drawing increased scrutiny from land conservation organizations and park staff. While eastern Maine lacks the large, extensive marshes characteristic of southern Maine, small individual pockets and fringes of marsh are more numerous here, and Acadia has the major tidal marsh systems of Northeast Creek and Bass Harbor. But the future of even these areas is in question.

Marshes exist in the narrow space between low and high tides; they have developed over hundreds of years of slowly rising sea levels. With the rate of sea level rise accelerating, salt marshes could disappear within decades.

Why care? Marshes are as productive as agricultural cropland, supporting the coastal food web of fish, shellfish, birds, and other animals. Marshes act like a filter, helping to clean coastal waters. They absorb the energy of storm surges and floods, protecting property. With their grasses shimmering silvery green in the breeze and their buzz of life and bird song, marshes offer sensory texture and delight to the human mind and soul.

So people are trying to find ways to prevent marsh loss. One option is to make sure they have room to “migrate” or spread inland as the high tide rises higher. Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the National Park Service, and other partners have identified where land protection can help provide for marsh migration.

Northeast Creek is mostly tidal freshwater marsh, but in the future it will be saltier. As rising sea levels raise the tide, the salt marsh plants creep up into coastal forests and bogs as the seaward edge of the marsh sloughs off into the water. Conservation specialists with Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Misha Mytar and Jeremy Gabrielson, pay attention to areas that can accommodate this shift. They look



Northeast Creek.

C. Schmitt/Maine Sea Grant

at topography, elevation, soil type. “Northeast Creek and Bass Harbor Marsh are two really significant estuaries,” said Mytar. “We’ve been involved, in partnership with Acadia, in quite a bit of conservation work in both marshes. At Bass Harbor Marsh, most of the current and future marsh areas are conserved, and so right now we’ve been focusing more on the marsh and adjacent uplands at Northeast Creek and Jones Marsh, a smaller but important marsh near the head of the island.”

Using mapping software and field reconnaissance, they look for low, gradual slopes, and undeveloped buffers adjacent to existing salt marsh.

Areas within only a couple of vertical inches of the highest annual tide, where cranberries and bog laurel now grows, they expect vegetation to shift.

“We don’t know what the rate of sea-level rise is going to be, but one of the things

we look at is existing salt marsh vegetation, plants and their seeds that are surviving and doing well, and helping to trap soil to build the marsh over time. Hopefully that process will continue, even as sea levels rise,” said Gabrielson.

“We are keenly watching the shifts in salt marshes—gathering data on how they are moving, forecasting plausible future scenarios, and working with scientists and other stakeholders to discuss our goals and test management responses, such as helping plant species move upland,” said Rebecca Cole-Will, Acadia National Park chief of resource management. “Most of our resource managers were trained to prevent change to the extent possible—managing change is new for most of us, but necessary. We are taking a deliberate and thoughtful approach as we learn.”

## Part II—Disappearance

The glaciers that created Maine left behind a varied coastal landscape. Salt marsh filled in the low-lying areas adjacent to the sea. In other parts of the coast, ice scraped the bedrock to bare stone and cliff. Elsewhere, glacial meltwater deposited piles of gravel, sand, and clay that became beaches and soft bluffs. These features, exposed to waves and currents, have been gradually eroding ever since. When a big storm comes, like a late winter nor'easter or a fall hurricane, surging waters can swallow whole sections of coast.

Now, warming temperatures have accelerated the rate of sea-level rise, boosting storms to new levels of damage. Flooding reaches farther inland. Storm waves grow taller, stronger, hungrier. Climate change is slow, until it isn't. Storms have a way of turning the creeping into the catastrophic, the subtle becomes obvious.

For the most part, the National Park Service does not intervene in these processes, but there are exceptions. For example, at Thompson Island, which the ocean has been eroding for the last 20 years, the Park Service has moved some fire pits inland but otherwise allowed picnic sites and trees to be washed away. "In this case, retreat seems to be the most reasonable alternative," said Cole-Will. Response is different where human safety is threatened. After large storms, roads like those on the Schoodic Peninsula need to be cleared of rocks and debris. The roads are preventing shifts in the cobble coastline that would happen were they not there. The Park Service is starting to think about the long-term future of these roads and other vulnerable coastal infrastructure.

Culturally important sites are another exception. The southern end of St. Croix Island, a tall bluff made of soft sediment, is eroding,



An eroding bluff on St. Croix Island.

Joe Kelley

a case of gradual weathering that has been occurring for hundreds of years, now worsened by higher sea levels and stronger storms. Listed as an international historic site, the only such designation in the National Park System, St. Croix represents the early attempt by France to colonize the region known as "Acadia" in 1604. Today, the island is managed as a cultural landscape, with significant historic resources related to the colony. Detailed maps by French cartographer Samuel de Champlain from 1604, and another by Canadian historian William Francis Ganong in the 1800s, show how the outline of the island has changed over the centuries. The Park Service is conducting research and survey work to document erosion in order to assess the vulnerability of the island. In 2016, to begin a planning process for management, they assembled a team of experts—natural and cultural resource managers, interpreters, and consulting scientists, including Alice and Joseph Kelley from the Climate Change Institute and School of Earth and Climate Sciences at the University of Maine. They followed up with a ground-penetrating radar survey, a non-invasive method that sends an electrical signal down into the earth. The signal is reflected back to varying degrees depending on the subsurface material and structure. Irregularities could indicate the remains of floors or walls, soil disturbance, and other signs of human activity. They are still analyzing the data, assembling and interpreting hundreds of two-dimensional sample slices into a comprehensive picture.

The Kelleys are using the same radar tech-

nique to assess shell middens, complex coastal archaeological sites that document thousands of years of Native American history. "These sites contain evidence of ancestral Wabanaki occupation, use of marine resources, and changes in material culture that provide one line of evidence about their history," said Cole-Will. Most middens are at the very edge of shore; many have already disappeared.

By calibrating the process on excavated portions of middens, the Kelleys and graduate student Jacque Miller have been able to ground-truth the depth, layers, and extent of middens. Now they are using the method to map out other sites, in the hopes of developing a way to quickly assess areas without having to do an expensive, time consuming archaeological dig. The Park Service protects and manages coastal sites within its boundaries, and consults closely with Wabanaki tribal historic preservation officers. The Kelleys' research may contribute to understanding the impacts of coastal erosion on archaeological sites.

Temperature will continue to warm; sea levels will rise. Those charged with stewardship of public land and waters want to preserve what they can of our shared human and natural history, so that not all is lost to the sea. ✱

CATHERINE SCHMITT is communications director for Maine Sea Grant and author of *Historic Acadia National Park*.

Portions of this story aired on WERU-FM Community Radio earlier this year.



St. Croix Island.

# FIRE AND FOG

By Tom Wessels

When the Laurentide Ice Sheet made its farthest advance 18,000 years ago, it created a terminal moraine that is seen today as Long Island, Martha's Vineyard, and Nantucket. Stretching east from this terminal moraine is the Georges Bank, which, in spots, rises to just thirteen feet below sea level. Although Georges Bank lies well over a hundred miles south of Acadia, it has a major influence on the island. Because the bank rises so high off the ocean floor, it acts as a barrier to the Gulf Stream and deflects it into the Atlantic well south of the Maine coast. This allows the cold Labrador Current to flow into the Gulf of Maine, creating ocean water temperatures that, even during the warmest time of year, only make it into the fifties. Along with this cold water come lots of nutrients, making the Gulf of Maine a very productive place for abundant sea life. This cold water also generates heavy ocean fogs.

Fog that forms when warm, moist air flows over a cold surface, like the waters that surround Mount Desert Island, is called advection fog. On summer days, when the wind comes from the southwest and brings warm air masses from interior New England over the cold ocean water, the moisture in those air masses condenses to form fog banks, which, when they come in contact with Mount Desert Island, can cover the entire island, rising right up over summits like Sargent or Cadillac.

Advection fog in Acadia plays a big role; it not only increases the amount of precipitation through fog drip, but it also—and this is possibly even more important—dramatically increases the amount of nutrients available to plants. Fog drip is something I first became acquainted with while camping in the Blackwoods Campground many years ago. I woke one night to hear what I thought was a gentle rain tapping on the



*Advection fog rising over the Beehive and Gorham Mountain.*

fly of my tent, but when I got up to go to the bathhouse and stepped onto the road, I felt no rain at all—even though I could hear it coming down all around me! I quickly realized that it wasn't raining at all. The trees in the campground, acting like huge dehumidifiers, captured the fog as it slowly drifted through their needles, forming water droplets that fell like rain. Fog in Acadia can add many inches of precipitation accumulation each year as it is captured in vegetation, as I witnessed with the trees in Blackwoods, and then falls to the ground. It also boosts the amount of nutrients available to plants.

Each raindrop and each droplet of fog forms by condensing on a particle of dust, which can contain nutrients such as calcium, potassium, or phosphorus. Since it

takes about one thousand droplets of fog to equal one raindrop, fog carries as much as a thousand times more dissolved nutrients than rain. Because granite weathers into nutrient-depleted soils, Acadian fogs add greatly to the nutrients in the soil. This increase in moisture and nutrients from fog is why the vegetation is so lush on Acadia's granite domes when compared to others in North America, such as those found in Yosemite, which has very limited plant coverage. It is also the reason for the incredible array of lichens that grace both the granite bedrock as well as the trees that grow on Mount Desert Island.

I love foggy days in Acadia, when the lichens are in their glory. Seeing pale-green, old man's beard lichen slowly swaying in the breeze on spruce boughs along the

All photos by Tom Wessels



coast or bold, emerald-green, leafy lungwort growing on the trunks of maples or ash is inspiring. Lungwort is often used as an indicator of old-growth forests in the interior of New England. On Mount Desert Island, it is frequently found on red maples only fifty years of age—the reason, fog.

Fog can also encourage plants to grow in sites where they usually would not be found. While hiking across a forested talus slope of granite on the Jordan Cliffs Trail, I was surprised to come upon a population of doll's eye baneberry. This is a species that is an indicator of nutrient-enriched sites, and Acadian granite is certainly not that. Farther along, I encountered red-osier dogwood, which is also an indicator of nutrient-enriched, moist soils. Here, rather than growing in a shrubby swamp, it was growing on a ledge of granite! Unusual plant occurrences like these are not uncommon on Mount Desert Island.

Wind is another factor that sculpts this island, although not as dramatically as fire and fog. Ice-blasting winter winds from high-pressure gales out of the northwest and nor'easters with winds out of the northeast can exclude vegetation on the northern slopes of Acadian summits, leaving only black-on-black lichen and three-toothed cinquefoil tucked into crevices. It also sculpts trees, causing them to be flagged—having limbs on only one side of



*Old man's beard lichen.*

their trunks, which makes them look like a waving flag on its pole. On the western side of Acadia's ridges, spruce are often flagged; their limbs stretch to the southeast because ice-blasting, high-pressure winds have killed the branches on their northwestern sides. On the eastern-facing ridges, the flagged limbs point to the southwest, because their trunks protect them from harsh

nor'easter winds. At lower elevations, winds can cause blowdowns in the forest. Three kinds of storms are responsible for this. Thunderstorm microbursts produce stand-leveling winds that come out of the west. Nor'easters will drop trees to the southwest, and the infrequent hurricanes bring winds that come from the east. It is difficult to separate blowdowns from nor'easters and ones from hurricanes—unless the winds are from the southeast, which indicates a hurricane. If you come across a number of downed trees all lying in the same direction with noticeable upturned roots, it is the result of a blow down. Just note the direction the wind came from to figure out the kind of storm that did the damage.

A good place to see evidence of a nor'easter is along the lower section of the Cadillac Mountain South Ridge Trail. Starting on Route 3, the first mile of the trail gently rises through coniferous forest, which abruptly opens onto exposed granite. When you reach the exposed granite, you step across the southern boundary of the 1947 fire on Cadillac that removed a forest that would have been there during World War II. A look to your right just after you leave the forest but before you reach the upper end of the Eagles Crag Loop Trail will reveal a number of very old pitch



*Lungwort lichen on an unusual substrate — granite.*



*A flagged red spruce.*

pine with large coarse bark plates that are alive today only because the fire stopped just a few feet from where they stand. In fact, this section of the trail follows the 1947 fire boundary. On the left, about a hundred meters beyond the upper end of the Eagles Crag Loop Trail, is a large pitch pine that was toppled to the southwest. The nor'easter that dropped that tree occurred after the 1947 fire that affected the site; if it had happened before the fire, the tree would have been consumed in the blaze.

The 1947 fire—a story we will come back to, since it had such an unexpected outcome—was the most recent large-scale blaze to affect Mount Desert Island, which has a long history with fires that have repeatedly denuded its summits. Although Samuel de Champlain probably didn't know it in 1604 when he first viewed this island, fire was the reason for him naming it l'Isle des Monts Déserts—the Isle of Bare Mountains.

Granite weathers into coarse, dry, nutrient-poor soil, which is the preferred growing environment for plants like lowbush blueberry, black huckleberry, pitch pine, and jack pine—all thrive in areas where fire plays a major role. These four species are highly adapted to fire and produce fo-

liage that is decay-resistant. Over time, as the leaves and needles of these plants drop to the ground, they build up deep layers of duff. Duff is a layer of litter that covers the soil and whose components are identifiable. I have dug into a bed of duff about a foot deep and could still easily identify pitch pine needles and lowbush blueberry leaves.

By producing deep beds of duff, these plants are creating a source of fuel that promotes intense fires. In fact, in the northeastern states, the only sites where lightning can spark wildfires are in deep beds of duff, where it will start as a subsurface, smoldering ground fire that eventually works its way to the surface to become a true wildfire. The

whole purpose of this strategy is to promote fires that extinguish other plants that are stronger competitors than these berry and pine species, thus allowing the fire-adapted plants to thrive. But how can plants thrive when exposed to intense fire?

The lowbush blueberry and black huckleberry have rhizomes—roots that can clone new, aboveground plants—that can survive very high temperatures. In terms of the blueberry, its rhizomes can tolerate a temperature of one thousand degrees F for up to twenty seconds. Hot fires will outright kill other plants and destroy the above-ground portion of the blueberry and huckleberry, yet their root systems will survive, allowing these shrubs to not only sprout back but also increase the area of their holdings by spreading rhizomes. This is one reason that blueberry barrens in Maine are burned every few years—to reduce plant competitors and allow the blueberry to expand its coverage.

In terms of fire adaptations, pitch pine is the most developed. Not only does it produce rot-resistant needles that allows it to build a fuel load, it also has very thick bark to protect itself from the heat of a fire. If its trunk happens to be harmed by a hot fire, the pitch pine has adventitious buds—

those not occurring on twigs—under its bark that can sprout new branches below any damaged portions. In this way, it is the only species of pine that can stump-sprout like a red oak.

Farther south in the pitch pine's range—places like the Pine Barrens of New Jersey—this species has serotinous cones. Serotinous means “late,” and serotinous cones do not open when they mature after two years to release their seeds. Instead, they can hold viable seeds up to a quarter of a century, and they will only open when temperatures around the cone rise to above 120 degrees F. This times the seed release to when there is a fire, which exposes bare soil that they need to successfully establish. So fire not only removes their competitors; it prepares a perfect germination site as well!

With a ground fire, the temperature around the cones may reach 150 degrees F, allowing the cones to open in a few hours, well after the fire has moved on. If the fire becomes a crown fire, the temperature around a cone may rise to a few hundred degrees. In this case, the cones will open in a matter of minutes, releasing the seeds into the blaze. Luckily, the seeds can withstand high temperatures for short periods of time. This allows the updrafts generated by the fire to carry the seeds up and away to land in an area where, hopefully, the fire has already burned itself out. Since the frequency of fire on Mount Desert Island spans many centuries, serotinous cones are not helpful to pitch pine here, like they are in the Pine



*Serotinous cones on a jack pine.*



Jack pine (left) and pitch pine (right).

Barrens, where the fire frequency is about every twenty years. Mount Desert Island's pitch pines have only regular cones that open after two years of development.

However, serotinous cones can be found in Acadia on jack pine. Jack pine is the true master of serotiny, producing more of these cones in relation to its biomass than any other pine in the world. In fact, along with rot-resistant needles, serotinous cones are the jack pine's sole adaptation to fire. Unlike the pitch pine, adult trees do not try to protect themselves from fire by developing thick, insulating bark. Instead, they are the phoenix of trees—they allow themselves to burn up in a blaze of glory and then rise again from the ashes as seedlings. To locate serotinous cones on a jack pine, find a limb that has cones on it and, starting at the tip, count back three or more sets of lateral branches. Any cones you find that are closed from this point back to where

the limb joins the trunk will be serotinous. To age the cone, just count how many sets of branches there are from the limb tip to where the cone is located. When serotinous cones on a jack pine reach a decade in age, they will be a light-gray color and are distinctly curved, holding viable seeds waiting for a blaze to release them.

Acadia is the only place in North America where these two fire-adapted pines coexist, with pitch pine reaching the northeastern limit of its range and jack pine coming close to its very southern boundary. The South Ridge Trail of Cadillac passes through the largest mixed stand of these two pines, which starts a few hundred meters south of the Featherbed. As you walk through this community, realize that you are within a very rare plant community — this association of pines only happens in a handful of spots in North America, and all of them are in Acadia.\*

TOM WESSELS is an emeritus professor of ecology and the founding director of the master's degree program in conservation biology at Antioch University New England. He is the author of *Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England*, *Forest Forensics: A Field Guide to Reading the Forested Landscape*, *The Myth of Progress: Toward a Sustainable Future*, and *The Granite Landscape: A Natural History of America's Mountain Domes, from Acadia to Yosemite*.

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# REMEMBERING OUR FRIEND AIMEE

By Julia Walker Thomas



FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

*Aimee, Jim, and Maia walking the path around the field behind their home in Blue Hill.*

Our friend, colleague, mentor, and role-model Aimee Beal Church passed away peacefully on June 15, 2017 after a long and courageous journey with cancer. Aimee was the communications director at Friends of Acadia for over seven years and elevated every aspect of our work, from the *Journal* to the website, social media to the two centennial books she helped edit and publish last year. She was beloved by everyone within FOA and beyond for her warmth, grace, talent, and eternal optimism.

Having grown up in the Acadia region, Aimee was truly connected to this place. She spent her early years on her family's farm in Blue Hill and at their Bar Harbor home next to the Connors-Emerson El-

ementary School, which she attended. She spent much of her formative years playing and exploring on MDI, before her studies, Peace Corps work, and early career in writing and publishing took her to Pittsburgh, West Africa, and Farmington, Maine.

In 2010, Aimee joined the staff of Friends of Acadia. As communications director, she created, designed, edited, took photographs, and wrote essays for the Friends of Acadia *Journal* and managed media relations and the website. Most recently she edited Ron Epp's book, *Creating Acadia National Park*, and played an integral role in the planning and development of the Acadia National Park Centennial Celebration: building and running the centennial website, mentoring two interns, and managing

grants and advertising campaigns.

Many of the photos that appear on our website and in our print materials were taken by Aimee, who had a keen sense for composition and light. Mornings before work she could be found taking photos of something that caught her eye during her drive in from Blue Hill. Aimee especially loved to photograph Northeast Creek and its dramatic changes throughout the seasons. She was in the park on weekends, exploring hiking trails, cross-country skiing, skating, and observing nature with her daughter, Maia, husband, Jim, and other close friends and family—all the while with camera in hand.

If anyone embodied the spirit of Friends of Acadia, it was Aimee. Her voice lent itself



FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

Aimee on an aerial photography flight over Acadia, during which she took the iconic photo of Sand Beach, Great Head, and the Beehive that became the “image” of the Acadia Centennial.

beautifully to our publications and online presence, and her breadth of knowledge of our area’s history both natural and human was remarkable. Any time that one of us on the FOA staff had trouble identifying a plant or animal, or figuring out the location of a photo from the park, Aimee was our go-to. She knew and loved this place as if it were a part of her.

We often find ourselves asking, “What would Aimee do?” when wondering how to respond to a difficult question. Aimee had extraordinary skills as a communicator. Those of us lucky enough to be within earshot would often sit in wonder while listening to her handle differences of opinion with respect, calmness, and strength.

For us, Aimee was more than just a talented professional and important asset to FOA; she was a warm smile at the start of the day, a dry sense of humor with quick wit, calm amidst the chaos, and a beautiful soprano that smoothed out our otherwise rocky renditions of “Happy Birthday to You” at lunchtime birthday celebrations.

Aimee balanced her health, family, and work with incredible grace despite difficult and frustrating circumstances. The intentionality in which she chose to live her life was admirable and inspiring. Her many contributions to FOA, Acadia National Park, our communities, and ourselves will always remain. We will miss her. ❁

“Buildings, too, are children of Earth and Sun.”  
-Frank Lloyd Wright

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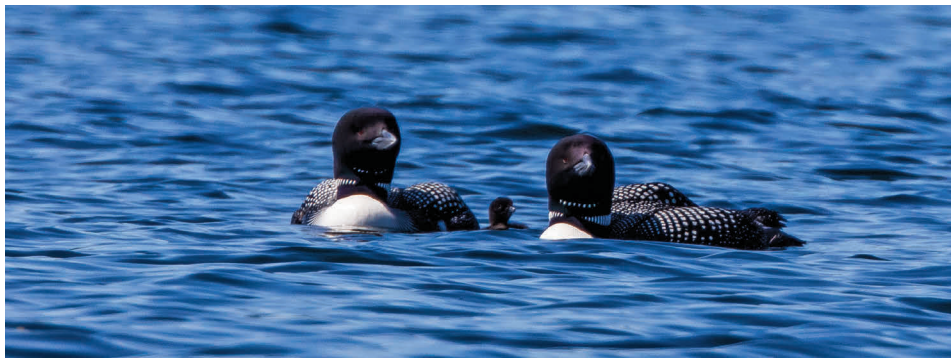
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## Volunteers Hit the Roads

On April 29, crew leaders led more than 325 volunteers to collect over 815 bags of trash on MDI and 150 bags of trash along Trenton and Ellsworth roads. The Maine DOT estimated that volunteers collected a total 4 tons of trash. Cleanup teams included groups from the Acadia Fire Football Club, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Bar Harbor Congregational Church, Bar Harbor Rotary Club, Bar Harbor Savings and Loan, Cadillac Mountain Sports, Climate to Thrive, Cub & Girl Scouts, Home Depot, Jackson Laboratory, Knowles Company, MDI National Honor Society, Trenton Community Group, True Nature Zen Sangha, U.S. Coast Guard, and many more individuals and families. In Southwest Harbor, 14 bags of trash were removed from a wetland with nesting geese.

## UMaine in Acadia

Last fall Wild Acadia Coordinator Brian Henkel pitched several problems to students at the University of Maine's Civil and Environmental Engineering Department. He must have been particularly engaging that day because five groups of seniors selected projects in Acadia as the focus of their research for their capstone engineering course.

Three of the groups looked at the Abbe Dam at the mouth of Duck Brook. One analyzed dam removal—how to do it and the implications for fish passage and streamflow afterwards. Another group made recommendations for replacing the culvert under Route 3, and a third group examined partial dam removal and/or options for restoring fish passage through fish ladders, rock ramps, or alternate stream channels.

Two additional groups took on projects in the Cromwell Brook watershed. One studied ways to reduce flooding at Sieur de Monts and to restore a wetland at the location of the former septic mound, all within the context of preserving the historic and cultural integrity of Sieur de Monts. The second group examined the culvert under the Park Loop Road that drains the Great Meadow. The group had to balance sizing the culvert to prepare for more intense rainfall events, while also retaining water necessary for the



Girl Scout Troop #760 cleaning up along Route 3 in Otter Creek as part of the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup.

FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

health of the Great Meadow.

The students' work was stellar and a great example of a Wild Acadia partnership. Their reports have provided preliminary design recommendations and cost estimates that will help the park and Friends of Acadia prepare on-the-ground solutions to some of the park's pressing natural resource issues. One can't ask more from a partnership program.

## Route 3 Reconstruction Begins

This spring the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), Emera Maine, and contractors began work on a multi-year project to improve Route 3, one of the major routes to Acadia National Park. Over the last year, Emera has been replacing utility poles along the road as part of their initiative to pro-

vide a second transmission line and reliable electricity to downtown Bar Harbor. They also constructed a new power substation designed to look like a traditional carriage barn on Prospect Lane.


Over the next two years contractors for MDOT will reconstruct approximately 4.8 miles of Route 3, from Ireson Hill to the new stoplight installed at the intersection of Route 3 with Eagle Lake Road in Bar Harbor. This summer the contractors are focusing on the northern end of the project, and outbound traffic from Bar Harbor is being re-routed onto the Crooked Road. For 2018, as the contractors move closer to downtown Bar Harbor outbound traffic will be re-routed via the Park Loop Road to Hulls Cove. The Island Explorer campground route



Conceptual illustration of new sidewalk and shoulders on Rte. 3 in Hulls Cove.

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has been split into two routes to facilitate quicker passage through and beyond the construction zone.

Prior to initiating the project MDOT worked with a citizens' advisory committee comprised of residents, tourism providers, the park, Friends of Acadia, and others. The group recommended that MDOT redesign the road with 11-foot travel lanes and 4- or 5-foot paved shoulders for bicyclists. A multi-use path for pedestrians and cyclists will also be added from the major hotels on Route 3 to West Street. While visitors and residents will be inconvenienced for several years, the road improvements should make the corridor safer and more enjoyable over the long term.

### Outdoor Classrooms

This spring FOA accepted the first applications for funding to connect classrooms to the outdoors from Trenton Elementary School and Piscataquis Community Elementary and Secondary School in Guilford, Maine. At Trenton, teachers partnered with Healthy Acadia to design their outdoor space. The school had already made many connections throughout the grade levels to Acadia and to outdoor education, but needed funding to assemble the connections in the best way. The biggest hurdle was funding "big ticket" items such as a heater, garden bed expansion, and materials for the outdoor classroom. Trenton applied for the outdoor classroom grant so their kids can benefit from growing up in a community that not only fosters education of the mind but of the whole body. "Something happens when students are working in the gardens. Talk flows more easily. Engagement shoots up (pun intended) and students shine," said Cynthia Lambert, middle school science/math teacher. At Piscataquis, teachers partnered with the Appalachian Mountain Club and enlisted the Moosehead Trails volunteer group to create an accessible outdoor classroom and trail connecting the two school campuses. To assist them with the project, the school received \$5,000 from FOA's Outdoor Classroom Grant and a Recreational Trails Grant from the State, which they successfully matched by raising an additional \$6,000. By connecting the campuses, grades K-12 are able to use the space to learn about science, math, art, English, and more. Lead





FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

FOA staff and volunteers worked with Trenton students on their new Outdoor Classroom trails on NTD.

project teacher Grace McGeehan says, “Our greatest hope for this project is that students will receive a concrete, hands-on approach to their learning while connecting on a range of study topics engaged through the environment.”

### National Trails Day

On a sunny Saturday in June, 40 students and volunteers celebrated National Trails Day at the Trenton Elementary School’s brand new outdoor classroom, which enables learning about Acadia National Park in the outdoors. With assistance from FOA, students designed the new classroom space and trails. Several students shared their enthusiasm and appreciation for this exciting endeavor. They noted, “Looking into how we could improve the [school] trails, we got interested in developing an outdoor learning area. This is what we learned: Outdoor Based Education, also known as OBE, lowers violence and decreased bullying as well as improves social skills. This would help make our school a safer place to be and to learn. OBE also shows improvement in student moods and makes for happier students.”

As part of the NTD event students also directed work projects on the school trails, with help from Acadia’s stewardship staff and volunteers. The day’s project accomplishments included installation of a bog walk, a new drainage area with culverts, and hardy weeding of the student vegetable gardens. “The volunteers who are helping today

are also making our plan come true,” said the students.

National Trails Day of course is not the only time you can volunteer. Check out volunteer opportunities with FOA on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

### FOA Programs Providing Models for National and International Programs

Last year’s Acadia Centennial Quest saw more than 270 teams participate on the ground, and more than 20,000 participate through the Chimani Acadia National Park app. Many teams commented on how much they enjoyed the centennial edition of Acadia Quest, which took them to new locations, brought Acadia’s history alive, and enhanced their visit through digital maps and park information. The digital version has received international attention as a model for digital interpretation in nature and other national parks, like Glacier, are looking into creating their own digital quest. Internationally, the digital Acadia Quest was presented by webinar to the national park managers and Environmental Protection Agency of Sweden in February. The digital program also won Honorable Mention for Innovative Product of the Year at the Public Lands Alliance annual awards ceremony this winter. We look forward to sharing the digital Acadia Quest model with more parks and public lands agencies as an innovative way to engage visitors, particularly young visitors and their families.

### Bringing Back the Seaside Path



FOA/Julia Walker-Thomas

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps working on the rehabilitation of the century-old Seaside Path. When completed, the path will lead from Jordan Pond House to the Seal Harbor Beach.

The Acadia Youth Technology Team—“High-tech Teens at Acadia”—presented at the regional Maine Land Conservation Conference in April. Session participants learned the history of AYTT and the great body of work produced by the team. AYTT alumnus Matt Lambert did a fantastic job presenting with FOA’s Paige Steele. Matt will be returning for a third season of AYTT. He is a graduate of MDI High School and studies electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Orono. The presentation is posted on FOA’s Facebook page.

## Stewardship

In May, the Stewardship Volunteer Program staff—FOA stewardship coordinators and ANP volunteer coordinator—attended the International Trails Symposium in Dayton, Ohio. The team presented Acadia’s stewardship program model to a packed room. Participants all the way from Lebanon are interested in using the Acadia model to start a stewardship program. Dana Petersen summarized his experience: “The International Trails Symposium offered me a startlingly comprehensive overview of all things trail building, with the breadth of offerings more than I expected. I learned from professors studying the science of trail sustainability, planners linking communities through trail



FOA Stewardship Volunteer Program staff Dana Petersen and Jeff Tucker with ANP Volunteer Coordinator Dianna McKeage at the International Trails Symposium.

systems, and community assessors funding large projects through health grants. My aspirations for the future of the stewardship program have been enriched through this experience.” As a result of its presentation at the Symposium, FOA staff will present for the National Park Foundation’s webinar series this July.

## Ocean Drive Modeling Work

In consultation with Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia has hired the consulting

firm RSG to prepare an integrated traffic and parking model for Ocean Drive. The consultants will use existing data—number of vehicles passing through the entrance station, transaction time at the entrance station, and information about visitor routes and behaviors along Ocean Drive—to predict conditions such as numbers of vehicles at the Sand Beach parking lot, the number of vehicles parking in the right lane, the number of people at any time at the Thunder Hole observation platform, and queuing time at



Visitors at Thunder Hole on a summer day.

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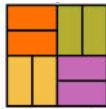
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the entrance station. This information will inform the park's transportation planning initiative and help the National Park Service predict how different transportation alternatives (for example, metered entrance or parking reservations) might affect crowding, safety, and the visitor experience along Ocean Drive. RSG completed a similar integrated model for Cadillac Mountain in 2016, and is contracted for the Ocean Drive project through the end of 2017.

### Acadia Centennial Online

[www.acadiacentennial2016.org](http://www.acadiacentennial2016.org)

The Acadia centennial website will remain online throughout 2017. The site served a vital function in 2016 by sharing information about organizations, businesses, and individuals who signed up as Acadia Centennial Partners, as well as listing events and programs of the year-long celebration. Information on the site remains relevant. Visitors can read condensed descriptions and timelines for Acadia's geologic and human history, find a fact sheet about the park, view historical photographs of the park and its founders, and plan their vacations through links to the park and local chambers of commerce. Many vendors are still offering Acadia centennial products at their stores, so visitors can also browse the merchandise section of the website and contact the product supplier if interested. Check it out, and stay involved as Acadia begins its next century.

### Acadia Quest 2017

Acadia Quest is celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year this summer. The Quest's 2017 theme is "Acadia Pathmakers," featuring wonderful portraits of Acadia's trails staff. The images were taken by The Nature Conservancy's Dan Grenier while he participated in Acadia's Artist-in-

### Hanging Staircase



FOU/Julia Walker-Thomas

Acadia National Park Trail Crew Sarah Baldyga and Gavin Willow stand on the just completed Hanging Staircase that they built on the Beech Cliff Trail. The staircase took 140 person hours to build, using multiple highlines (lines strung between two points) to move large granite rocks for the steps. Sarah was recently interviewed as part of Acadia Quest: Pathmakers edition. Her interview, along with others from the ANP trail crew, are part of Acadia Quest: Pathmakers Edition, focusing on Acadia's historic trails and the people who make them great. View the interviews on our Vimeo page: [Vimeo.com/FriendsofAcadia](http://Vimeo.com/FriendsofAcadia).

Residence program. "Acadia Pathmakers" will highlight the people of the park and their amazing work. This year's activities will be chosen by the featured park staff. For example, Heather Cooney will send teams to Connors Nubble summit via Eagle Lake carriage road on bike, "because it is easy, you get to bike and hike, and the view is amazing!"

### Ways You Can Give

Every gift, however large or small, helps further Friends of Acadia's mission to preserve and protect Acadia National Park. Please consider these options for providing essential financial support to FOA.

- Gift of cash or marketable securities
- Gift of retirement assets
- Gift of property
- Gift through a bequest in your will

For more information about how you can help support Friends of Acadia, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org), or visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

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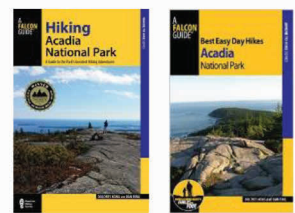
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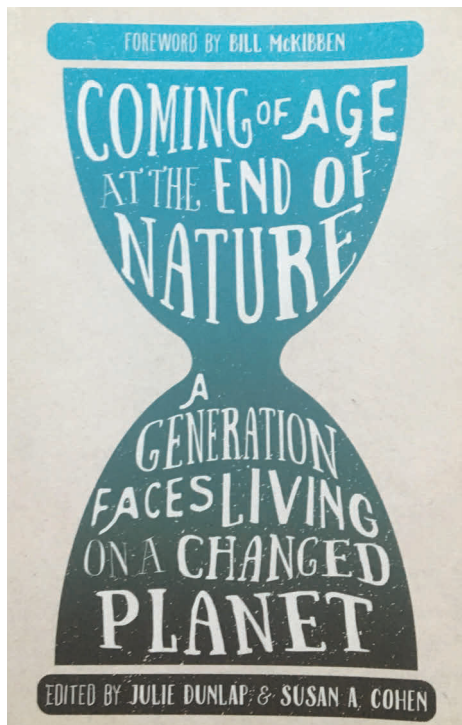
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## Recommended Reading



### *Coming of Age at the End of Nature*

Edited by Julie Dunlap & Susan A. Cohen, written by various authors. Trinity University Press, 2016. Paperback, 216 pages

If you've ever felt a connection to the natural world around you, been overwhelmed by time that seems to be running out, or feared for the lives of your grandchildren on a dying planet, you may find the catharsis you need in *Coming of Age at the End of Nature*.

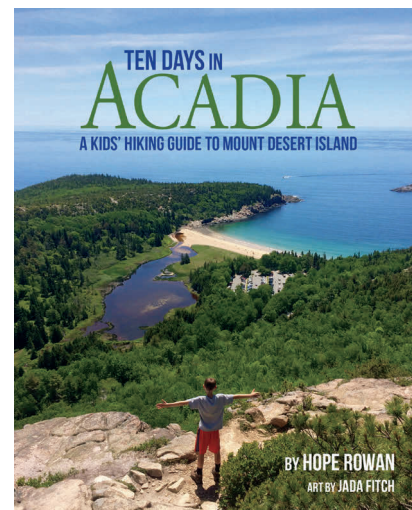
This diverse collection of essays from the young generation depicts how growing up in an environmental crisis can shape a life. Through twenty-two eloquent voices, we hear the pleas, the frustrations, the encouragements, and the calls to action of those who are left to clean up the mess that our past has left untended. This is not just a book, this is a much needed reality check from the very people we now rely on to save our planet.

Perhaps the greatest appeal of *Coming of Age at the End of Nature* is its modest origins that relate to every reader. Within these pages are not the highfalutin musings of extremists, experts, or celebrated authors, though the writing is beautifully wise and indisputably significant. Here we find the voices of the people we pass on the street—our fellow compatriots—who know, simply from experience, that it is time to fight for our world.

In reading this anthology you will hear from journalists, academics, editors, adventure seekers, naturalists, and recent college graduates, all with a different story to tell. The essays are brilliantly organized by the themes of resilience, conservation, and creative solutions, but in the end they all work together to provide the reader with viewpoints that embody an entire generation—a seemingly impossible feat. Regardless of where you come from or whether you like the dirt, these essays will call on you to think about your own interactions with nature. Whether it was transcendent or miserable, it was probably a memory that stuck, and within it lays an inescapable love of place.

I, too, came of age at the end of nature, and reading these essays only further corroborated every flash of anger, moment of despair, nostalgia for simplicity, and longing for answers that I have ever had. These may seem like hopeless sentiments, yet hope is exactly what you find in this work. Climate change has never been an easy subject, or a hopeful one. But somehow, hearing from an entire generation about what they feel, see, and aspire to be gives every one of us the assurance that times are changing. Change has never been so necessary and so appealing as it is today. Change is the hope we need, and in *Coming of Age at the End of Nature* we can see that change has finally begun. It turns out we have a great deal to learn from our peers; all we have to do is listen.

KIERSTEN UTEGG is a copywriter at Y&R in Memphis, TN. She graduated from Boston University in 2016 with a degree in Communications and then set out to pursue her project, Chasing58, which explores the national parks through the people who love and protect them. One year, one broken rib, and 28 parks later, Ms. Utegg is just beginning her advocacy for causes that benefit our earth, and its people.



### *Ten Days in Acadia: A Kids' Hiking Guide to Mount Desert Island*

By Hope Rowan, Art by Jada Fitch. Islandport Press, 2017. Paperback, 98 pages

*Ten Days in Acadia* invites you to come along on hikes with 12-year-old Hattie. She may be a make-believe girl, but what Hattie talks about seeing and doing can be discovered and experienced by any real kid. Through Hattie's stories about her days in the park, young visitors learn about hiking the trails, discovering and observing plants and animals, and swimming in lakes. This hiking guide includes full-color trail maps by the author and mapmaker, Hope Rowan, and beautiful color illustrations of what can be found in the park by Maine artist Jada French.

Written from a kid's point of view, *Ten Days in Acadia* began with the author's long experience teaching kids about making maps. "I noticed my students were thrilled by their newly acquired navigation skills," Rowan said. So she set out to write this guide from a kid's perspective—with fun and interesting details that also give them the tools to be navigators. "They can pick out a hike for the day," she says, "inform their parents what to expect on the trail, and be empowered by the knowledge they've gained."

*Ten Days in Acadia* includes hiking tips, rainy-day ideas, blank pages for notes and illustrations, and other resources to help young hikers and their families be prepared to enjoy and remember their days in Acadia.

MARLA O'BYRNE

## IN NOMINE

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

Acadia Centennial Task Force  
 Earl Brechlin  
 Jane Bushwaller  
 Aimee Beal Church\*  
 Judy Eggleston  
 Peg Emple  
 Jennifer Fenn  
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## BUDGET FAR FROM MEETING PARK NEEDS

**Y**ou know the saying, “If you don’t like the weather in Maine, wait 15 minutes and it will change”? With the flurry of activity in Washington, advocacy for national parks sometimes feels like that. Recently we’ve seen positive developments and setbacks, and Friends of Acadia continues to work with the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition to monitor legislation and administrative actions.

On the positive side, two companion bills have been introduced to establish a dedicated revenue stream for tackling deferred maintenance projects. According to the Pew Charitable Trusts, the estimated deferred maintenance backlog in all national parks totals approximately \$12 billion. Over 41,000 assets—such as trails, water systems, buildings, roads, bridges, and tunnels—are included in this estimate. Acadia’s deferred maintenance backlog is estimated to be \$71 million, with more than half attributed to paved and unpaved roads. Its maintenance division is working diligently with limited resources to care for the park’s facilities, but the sheer number of facilities they are responsible for is staggering: 128 miles of paved and gravel roads, 44 bridges, 152 miles of trails, 162 vehicles and equipment, 6 boats, 175 buildings (including 33 restrooms and 16 outhouses), 620 campsites, and more.

Senators Collins and King have co-sponsored S.751, the *National Park Service Legacy Act*, a bill that would establish a fund from mineral revenues for high-priority deferred maintenance needs in the national parks. Eighty percent of the funds set aside would be used for historic structures, visitor facilities, water and utility systems, and employee housing; twenty percent would be allocated to transportation projects. The bill provides incentives for private matching contributions, as well. A companion bill, H.R. 2584, has been introduced in the House by Representative Will Hurd and co-sponsored by Representatives Derek Kilmer, David Reichert, and Colleen Hanabusa. Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce Director

Gretchen Wilson and I recently joined Chad Lord and others from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) on a visit to Capitol Hill to discuss infrastructure and backlog maintenance needs at Acadia and the importance of the park to the regional economy.

Another bill has been introduced by Rep. Mike Simpson, H.R. 2863, the *Land and National Park Deferred Maintenance Act* or *LAND Act*, which proposes \$450 million in mandatory funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and an equal amount to address deferred maintenance in U.S. public lands over the next six years. The bill draws attention to these issues and dedicates funding to them; however, LWCF is currently authorized at \$900 million and is the most critical funding source to help Acadia purchase the remaining inholdings within its boundaries. FOA continues to support full funding at \$900 million, and permanent reauthorization of the program. Three bills, S. 896 (co-sponsored by Senators Collins and King), H.R. 502 (co-sponsored by Representative Pingree), and S. 569, would enable permanent reauthorization.

Disappointments from Washington include flat-funded and/or decreased appropriations for national parks. Congress passed a spending package to keep the government running through September 30 but it only increased the National Park Service (NPS) operating budget by 2% and decreased LWCF by 35%.

The budget picture for parks in FY 2018 looks grim. The President has proposed an overall 13% cut to the NPS, which NPCA reports as the largest cut to national parks since World War II. Included in this recommendation are an 8% cut to the operational budget, \$30 million in cuts to deferred maintenance, elimination of the National Heritage Area program, and a 37% cut to the Historic Preservation Fund. The operational cuts are the largest concern to FOA, as Acadia’s entire seasonal staff—including seasonal visitor use assistants, law enforcement rangers, interpreters, and maintenance

crews—make up about 10% of Acadia’s operating budget. A cut in the 8% range will be extremely difficult for Acadia to absorb.

Cuts to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are especially dire. The President recommends cutting the EPA budget by 31%. The Natural Resources Council of Maine reported that Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection received \$11.4 million in funding from the EPA last year for redevelopment of brownfield sites, air and water quality programs, and lead paint and radon programs. FOA joined a letter with other Maine organizations to support any efforts that the Maine Congressional delegation could take to reduce of these cuts.

On top of these budget cuts, the NPS and other federal agencies have been asked to reduce their workforce significantly. The NPS has been requested to freeze all hires in the national and regional offices, as well as submit hires at the GS-12 level and above for review by the Administration. The NPS’s and federal offices provide tremendous support for national park units in areas where unique expertise may be needed. Acadia has received assistance in transportation planning, cultural resources management, and preparation of legal documents, such as purchase and sale agreements for acquisition of inholdings.

Compounding the bad news about the budget is that national parks are being asked to do more: provide a positive experience for increasing numbers of visitors and protect natural and cultural resources in the face of a rapidly changing global environment. Acadia’s visitor season now begins earlier in the spring and extends later into the fall. While visitation has been steadily increasing (up 58% since 2006), Acadia’s budget, adjusted for inflation, is down approximately 8% from its peak in 2010, and total staffing during the peak season is down nearly 6%. FOA and others will continue to fight to reverse this trend so that millions of visitors can continue to enjoy our national parks.\*

—Stephanie Clement



## REFLECTIONS . . .

For the past six years I have had the pleasure of serving as chairman of Friends of Acadia. As I prepare to pass the board leadership of FOA to my successor, Anne Green, I reflect with admiration on the vision of Friends of Acadia's founders and the meaningful accomplishments over FOA's 31-year history.

In 1986 a group of concerned MDI citizens and summer residents met to discuss their growing concern about the condition of Acadia's trails and diminishing federal funding. They formed Friends of Acadia with a clear mission: to preserve and protect the park to assure that it would remain beautiful and relevant for future generations. From that beginning the organization has grown and developed to its prominence today as a powerful partner with Acadia National Park and as one of the strongest and most respected friends groups in the nation. It is considered a model of what friends groups can accomplish to enhance our national park system and it has influenced efforts at many other national parks.

Over the years Friends of Acadia has made many significant additions to the park that have benefited the MDI community as well as the park. These include: America's first endowed trail maintenance program; endowed support for Acadia's unique carriage roads; and leading the creation of the fare-free Island Explorer propane fueled transportation system, designed to reduce congestion and air pollution in the park and surrounding towns.

Shortly after I became board chair in 2011, FOA began working with park managers to study the needs and principal threats to the park. The objective was to identify the ways FOA could give the most valuable help to alleviate some of these challenges. Not surprisingly the greatest short-term threat is the adverse impact on the visitor experience from rapidly-growing visitation and vehicular congestion. Longer term there is deep concern about the possible impact of global climate change and its effects on the park's natural resources, beauty, and quality. We

also prioritized the work needed to introduce more young people to national parks and give them the opportunity to play, learn, work, and serve here at Acadia.

The challenge to implementing the agreed upon priorities, however, was the lack of money needed to move forward. Quite simply, with the bulk of FOA's existing funds already committed to previously initiated, successful programs Friends of Acadia did not have enough money to go forward with its new strategic priorities. Thus was born the Second Century Capital Campaign, led by our honorary chairs, David Rockefeller and Senator George Mitchell. The fundraising effort was timed to coordinate with the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Acadia National Park.

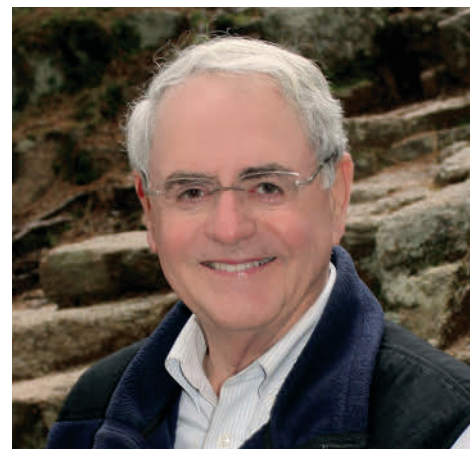
FOA's professional staff and a dedicated and energetic team of volunteers worked tirelessly to meet the campaign's \$25 million goal. And we did it! The goal was reached by the target date of December 31, 2016, and when the campaign closed a few months later we had raised more than \$26.2 million to help FOA meet its strategic programs to support Acadia National Park. Now we can move forward. Kudos to all!

It has been a joy to serve as chairman of Friends of Acadia. I have been privileged to work with a superb team who care so deeply about the FOA mission and who will continue to work to assure the present and future of our extraordinary park. My sincere thanks!

I am grateful for the accomplishments of those who preceded me, on whose shoulders I have stood. And I am grateful for the accomplishments that so many remarkable and talented individuals joined together to make happen.

\* \* \*

For those of you who, like me, appreciate numbers, here are examples of what has been accomplished over the past six years through the skill and dedication of FOA's staff, the hard work and commitment of the Board of Directors, and many hard working



and passionate volunteers who contributed thousands of hours of their time—much of this fueled, of course, by the generosity of past and present donors!

- Initiated and completed the \$26.2 million Second Century Campaign, nearly tripling the amount of private support raised by FOA in its previous capital campaign.
- Granted \$15.4 million to Acadia National Park and its partners.
- Doubled FOA's invested assets from \$18.4 million to \$38.2 million, with \$10 million more yet to come from campaign pledges. These are the funds required to support the current and endowed needs of FOA's strategic plan.
- Nearly doubled the number of donors to FOA's Annual Fund.
- Doubled the number of members of the George B. Dorr Society, those far-sighted members who have included FOA in their estate plans.

There are many more significant numbers but you can see that Friends of Acadia is poised to become an even more important voice and hand in pursuing our unending goals for Acadia National Park.

May you have many happy days in Acadia! \*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Samek". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

—Edward L. Samek, Chair 2011–2017

# ACADIA NATIONAL PARK: INSPIRATION FOR ARTISTS, EXHILARATION FOR THE PEOPLE

By Sherry and Ivan Rasmussen

**SHERRY:** The first sight of Acadia National Park is a life-changing experience. I know it was for me. I first came to the island in 1969 just after finishing college and thought this must be one of the most beautiful places in the world. I knew right away I wanted to live here. It had that kind of allure—that kind of pull—for me, as it has for artists and craftspeople from around the world who have been touched by Acadia and find inspiration to produce beautiful works of art and craft. It's hard not to be inspired, surrounded by such magnificent scenery: the sunrises and sunsets, quiet and cool trails, raging surf, peaceful islands, leaves turning color, the clear night sky, the moon rising over the Porcupines, the wildflowers and berries, the visiting summer birds, and perfect spots to camp, such as Schoodic. I managed to make my dream a reality, and in 1976 moved to Bar Harbor.

**IVAN:** I am both an artist and craftsman, one of those who came to Maine in the early '70s to build a life here. Art has always been an important part of Acadia National Park. My best-loved trail is the Homans Path, which has been a favorite subject of my watercolors. I also love to paint the views from the top of Cadillac Mountain. Each day sparks imagination for art!

**SHERRY and IVAN:** We believe in promoting art, encouraging its creation, and bringing it to the people. We enjoy holding art and craft workshops for visitors and residents, and have been active in Bar Harbor's



Ivan and Sherry with friend Eric Fitzpatrick

ART Walks, which bring artists and galleries together with the public each month during the summer season.

The Acadia Centennial in 2016 was important to us. Ivan did his official Centennial Painting, "Summer Visitor," choosing a scene near the location where Frederic Edwin Church painted "Otter Creek, Mt. Desert" in 1850. (Once owned by Amory and Elizabeth Thorndike, Bar Harbor residents and lovers of Acadia, "Otter Creek" is now in the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston.)

We recruited other artists, taught special workshops, promoted a Centennial ART Walk, and dedicated our own gallery ART Walks to Acadia. A percentage of Ivan's watercolor "Summer Visitor" and the limited edition prints was donated to Friends of Acadia. It was joyous to hold Centennial workshops with names like "In Love for 100 Years and Beyond" and "The Colors of Acadia." The folded star from "Sea Stars

to Starry Nights . . . the gift of stars in Acadia" was included in the Centennial Time Capsule to be opened in 2116, and I will teach others how to make the time capsule star this September to benefit the 2017 Acadia Night Sky Festival.

It is most meaningful for us to share our island home with people from all walks of life who come to see Acadia. After all, we the people are both owners and stewards of the land that is Acadia. We have been able to share through ART what Acadia has given to residents and visitors from around the world for over a hundred years. Our fondest hope is that this tradition will continue, and

that thousands of new artists will be inspired by this national treasure during the next 100 years. ✨

SHERRY and IVAN RASMUSSEN have been active in the island art community for over four decades and were among the first Friends of Acadia business members. Just a few years ago, they were jointly honored with the Chamber of Commerce Acadia Arts Achievement Award, given to individuals who have contributed to the cultural enrichment of the area. In 2015 they were Grand Marshals for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade themed "ART in America." Ivan can be found painting at ART on West located at 78 West Street, Bar Harbor, and on location from their VW camper. Sherry joyfully cuts, pastes, folds, and prints with friends and visitors at the studio upstairs. Visit them at: [www.facebook.com/Art.on.West.Gallery](http://www.facebook.com/Art.on.West.Gallery)

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Our 4,913 members from all over the world help to fund essential park projects and new initiatives, benefitting trail and carriage road maintenance, programs getting young people out into the park, land and resource conservation, and much more.

Member benefits include a subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, published three times annually, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you're a vital part of FOA's work to protect Acadia for this generation and for all time.

Help us to protect Acadia by joining Friends of Acadia. To renew your membership or become a new member, you can visit the friendly FOA membership table volunteers at the Jordan Pond House entrance this summer! Or use the envelope provided in this magazine, call the Friends of Acadia office at 207-288-3340 (1-800-625-0321), or visit our website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).



Geneva Chase Langley





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*Sunrise over the Beehive.*

FOA/Acadia Youth Technology Team

## 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.

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