



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Spring 2018
Volume 23 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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LOOKING FORWARD TO SPRING—AND BEYOND

When I first joined Friends of Acadia as President in 2012, I benefited greatly from strategic planning that the organization had undertaken the year prior to my arrival. The board and staff had identified four “strategic pillars” of our work with Acadia National Park and expressed a determination to focus the majority of FOA’s efforts on these priorities—youth engagement; natural resource protection; visitor experience; and trails and carriage roads—even as the list of other requests and suggestions for our involvement continued to grow dramatically.

This past winter, FOA took time to work with ANP leadership to consider what has changed over the past six years, to evaluate our progress and areas where we can do better; to re-assess the critical issues facing the park; and to update our goals and how FOA can be most strategic and effective going forward. It has been an energizing and affirming process!

What has changed?

A new administration in Washington with inevitable shifts in policies and priorities; an historic addition to the park with the creation of the Schoodic Woods campground and surrounding trails and acreage; a new superintendent to lead Acadia into its second century; and most noticeable, many, many new visitors to Acadia. Visitation was up more than 30 percent in that time.

Our climate also continues to change and impact Acadia in ways we are only just beginning to understand. While it is with mixed emotions that many of us enjoyed swimming and sailing and hiking in shirt-sleeves well after Columbus Day this past October, and skating on the flooded trails and Great Meadow wetland at Sieur de Monts in late January, this strange weather is a harbinger of greater stresses to come on our park.

What has not changed?

The fact that Federal funding from Washington is not adequate to operate Acadia. Despite the many ways that the park—and the public’s expectations of the park—have grown in recent years, its operating budget has re-



FOA

mained flat. In fact, it actually shrank when measured in real buying power, when taking six years’ inflation into account.

Friends of Acadia’s core priorities have also remained unchanged. The board has affirmed that our strategic pillars will continue to guide our work in our updated plan for the next several years. If anything, working on these issues is more critical now than it was six years ago. And while the pillars remain constant, FOA will remain nimble and able to adjust and introduce new strategies necessary to adapt to the rapidly-changing world in which we operate.

Indeed, given the inherent size and many levels of decision-making at a federal agency, this flexibility and ability to pivot quickly if needed is one of the greatest assets FOA can offer to our partners at the park.

This partnership with the park, and the importance of FOA remaining independent and adaptable, yet closely coordinated with, and complementary to, the work of the Park Service, has defined FOA since our founding.

Even as we recognize the forces of change all around us, we tend to look to national parks like Acadia as a reassuring constant, an anchor to hold us steady despite the swirling currents of our own lives and the complex modern world.

When our partners at Acadia share their best thinking this spring on what new ap-

proaches might be needed to address overcrowding and vehicular congestion at Acadia through a new Transportation Plan, it will undoubtedly involve change. And while our heads might tell us that these changes are for the betterment of the park, for public safety, and for a higher quality experience for all visitors, our hearts might take a while to embrace the recommendations—especially if some of our own traditions or personal connections with favorite locations are affected.

As of this writing, we are still awaiting details of the possible options. But, FOA is 100 percent supportive of the overall initiative and the commitment by the park to address the issue of over-crowding. Anyone who has experienced the gridlock and frustration of the park’s motor roads on a busy day knows that the status quo is simply no longer a viable option.

We applaud the park for its comprehensive approach and for soliciting so much public input over the past two years, at a time when its staff was already stretched extremely thin. And we have encouraged the park to consider not just the immediate challenges, but the likely longer-term trends and emerging technologies.

I love the changes that come to Acadia this time of year when a warm, windy day brings the annual spring ice-out to lakes and ponds on Mount Desert Island. The sounds, the smells, the movements of wildlife, and my own imagination, are all transformed. As much as I savor the winter quiet, the anticipation of the seasons’ turn and the park coming back into full bloom, never fails to fill me with energy and gratitude.

This year, with a strengthened and focused commitment by FOA to the work ahead, and the new ideas emerging from the park’s Transportation Plan, the spring brings more renewal and excitement than ever.

Thank you for being a friend of Acadia at this crucial time for our park!

—David R. MacDonald

Friends of ACADIA Journal

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SHARING ACADIA IS PHOTOGRAPHER'S MISSION

By Susan Garver

As a landscape/nature photographer my camera is always with me. My favorite time to explore is very early in the morning when the sun is just coming up and the trails are wet with the early morning dew. Often-times I am alone as I wander on the carriage paths or the hiking trails. I enjoy the solitude as I focus on the sights and sounds that are so unique to the park.

This is also the time of day when many animals and birds are active. I have special places that I go to see beavers swimming, loons with their babies, otters playing, and owls looking for prey.

One of my special sightings was of a doe and her fawn on an early morning stroll near Murphy's Lane. I took a few quick pics of the doe and then saw her fawn come out from behind the trees and walk over to her mother. I was thrilled to have the opportunity to witness a tender moment as they quickly touched noses. You never know what you will have the opportunity to see—that is what I love about my treks in Acadia.

You never know what you will have the opportunity to see—that is what I love about my treks in Acadia.

One of my favorite places to explore is Sieur de Monts Springs. This area is full of gorgeous trails and paths and it can be so enchanting as the native plants begin to emerge and come to life. There are so many birds here and I love listening to the sounds. The little ponds are full of tadpoles and, later in the summer, frogs will be relaxing on the lily pads.

On a warm, sunny day the air even smells like spring. One morning, as I was walking along the little stream at the Wild Gardens of Acadia looking at all the



Susan Garver

Trenton photographer Susan Garver captured this touching moment between a doe and fawn while she was out on an early morning walk along the Murphy's Lane Trail in Acadia National Park.

plants along the edge, I looked up and saw the early morning light illuminating newly opened ferns. It was absolutely breathtaking. It is moments like these that make me thankful for getting up so early to explore.

The Jordan Stream Trail is a wonderful hike any time of year, but in the spring after the snow and ice have melted it is quite a sight. I enjoy listening to the sounds of the water along the trail. I love reaching the Cobblestone Bridge where I always stop and take in the view. What a beautiful sight, the water flowing over the huge rocks and the different shades of green on the leaves in the trees. With peace and the beauty of nature all around, you can't help but realize it doesn't get much better than this! *



Susan Garver

Susan Garver

SUSAN GARVER is a resident of Trenton and a proud Friends of Acadia member.

Where in Acadia?



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Where in Acadia? When visiting this location in Acadia National Park, you will most likely be alone. Only 10 percent of total visitors to Acadia make the trek to this section of the park. Look for clues to identify this location using the species of lichen on the rocks in the foreground and the two islands in the background as your guide. If you think you can identify the scene pictured here email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory about your answer. We'll print our favorite responses in the next issue of the *Journal* and we'll send a coveted Friends of Acadia cap to the writers.

Winter 2017 Where in Acadia?



NPS/Kent Miller

That is under the Bass Harbor lighthouse. It is one of my favorite spots in the world. I always try to get there at low tide so I can sit on the rocks for the best view of the lighthouse. It is an ever-changing view because the sky, the clouds, the light, the harbor are never the same.

— Carol Lander

Bass Harbor Head lighthouse! My husband and I watched a ship come in from this exact spot on our honeymoon in September. We can't wait to come back this year with our son who will be born in June!

— Becky Mochak

The second I saw this, I knew in my photographing gut that it was a mob trying to get a "unique" shot of Bass Harbor Lighthouse. I have been guilty of this a couple of times.

— John Agricola

Bass Harbor. This is a favorite site for a family outing when my son returns to Maine for our annual family vacation in Southwest Harbor. We all (three granddaughters and daughter-in-law) enjoy exploring Bass Harbor as my son and I did when he was a boy. David is an avid photographer and always seizes the opportunity to snap a few prized shots. We love Acadia; now the fourth generation to do so!

— Priscilla Giroux

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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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Earl D. Brechlin

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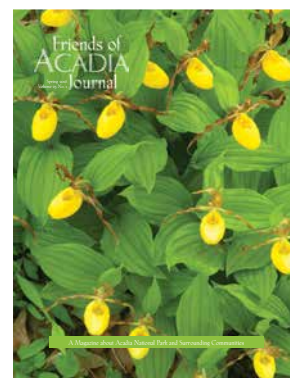
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Relatively uncommon in Maine, a patch of yellow lady slippers blooms in Acadia National Park. Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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BENEFIT TO FEATURE A PIECE OF ACADIA'S HISTORY

By Shawn Keeley

The success of the Annual Benefit over its 29 year history is thanks, in large part, to donors who contribute wonderful items to the event's silent and live auctions. From unique art work, to local excursions and far flung trips, to bicycles, kayaks, and paddleboards, FOA has been fortunate to receive a wide range of items that have raised a significant amount of funds for Acadia. Nearly every year, we also receive one-of-a-kind items that have a special connection to Acadia.

This year we are very excited that Peter Liscomb has donated a structure that was once part of George B. Dorr's Bar Harbor estate, Old Farm, near today's Compass Harbor. Dorr's estate was bequeathed to Acadia National Park in the 1940s and

later torn down, leaving the old foundation as a cultural treasure to discover when hiking the Compass Harbor trails. For decades Peter has had an old structure on his property that his father, Horace, acquired from Old Farm when the buildings were razed. When you take a close look at the structure you can see that it appears to have been a bulkhead covering a set of stairs.

This spring, Trail Shop volunteers, many of whom are FOA crew leaders, who spend the winter creating Carriage Road signs for the upcoming season, will stabilize the bulkhead so that it is structurally sound and can be auctioned at the Annual Benefit. All the structure's ornate doors feature the original hardware and glass – glass that shows

the tell-tale air bubbles and variable surface suggesting it is antique cylinder glass manufactured more than 100 years ago.

This special piece of Acadia's history will be one of about 75 auction items that will be sold at the 29th Annual Benefit, which will be held at the Asticou Inn on Saturday, August 11, 2018.

If you would like to place a bid on the Old Farm Bulkhead, learn more about the Benefit, or donate an item to the auction, please contact Shawn Keeley 802-233-6863 shawn@friendsofacadia.org.

Thanks to Peter and all of the Benefit donors who make the event such a wonderful tradition and important fundraiser for Acadia. ✱



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas



FOA/Earl Brechlin

Acadia National Park Sign Shop volunteer crew leader Bob Sanderson displays the doors from what is believed to be a bulkhead entrance to park co-founder George B. Dorr's estate, Old Farm.

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ANP

DEEP FREEZE FOLLOWS FLOOD DISASTER

In January, a combination of unusual weather extremes led to unprecedented flooding and freezing in the Great Meadow of Acadia National Park at Sieur de Monts Spring. Below right, Ranger Gary Stellflug paddles a canoe “across” a footbridge near the Nature Center after heavy rains.

The sustained back-to-back 50-year rainfall events were followed by a sudden and deep freeze. The photo below, left, shows Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement on ice that entombed the Wild Gardens. The presence

of ice enticed scores of people to ice skate through the frozen forest and play hockey on the usually-dry meadow.

The Sieur de Monts Nature Center (See photo above), parking lots, bathroom structures, Spring House, and Wild Gardens of Acadia were enveloped in more than a foot of water and ice. Restrooms, phone booths, and park signs were also encased. The full extent of damage to structures and fragile and sensitive plants in the Wild Gardens that have yet to be tabulated. ✱



Leadership in Philanthropy

If you are interested in the George B. Dorr Society, and Friends of Acadia's Planned Giving program, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or email: lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas



ANP/Charlie Jacobi



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WINTER IN ACADIA

Despite a seemingly endless stretch of below-zero weather in early January, and well-above average snowfall, there was a mixed bag of recreational opportunities in Acadia National Park this winter. A deep, mud-spawning thaw in early March resulted in the Carriage Roads closing early and all grooming activities to cease. Nearly three feet of snow, thanks to back-to-back Nor'easters just weeks later, allowed skiers and snowshoers back on the Carriage Roads but use of grooming equipment was prohibited. Still, as the photos on this page demonstrate, scores of people who shared their images with Friends of Acadia found time for great adventures in the park in winter. Email your best images at any time of year to photos@friendsofacadia.org or share on social media using #ImAFriendofAcadia.



Ashley Epstein



Jason Leighton



Jeremy Dougherty

ELIZA WORRICK: TRAILBLAZER PROGRAM FITS HER BUDGET

By Sharon Broom

At age 29, Eliza Worrick is well into her career, working on the administrative staff of a university president.

However, as much as she wanted to contribute to Friends of Acadia—where she was employed as a summer intern nine years ago—she was finding it difficult to fit philanthropy into her budget. Last summer, Eliza discovered the perfect solution when she signed up for Friends of Acadia’s Trailblazer program, allowing her to make a modest gift each month.

“People my age can be intimidated by the idea of being a donor,” she said. “Joining FOA’s Trailblazer program makes it easy and affordable.”

At FOA, Eliza learned how immensely satisfying it can be to serve alongside a group of people who are passionate about their work...

As a Bar Harbor native, Eliza knows Acadia National Park intimately and understands the essential role that Friends of Acadia plays in protecting the park. “Acadia has been a very special part of my life,” she says, recalling that while growing up, she hiked in Acadia with her parents and brother every weekend regardless of the weather. “The pleasure of being outside has always been important to me.”

In 2009, as a rising junior at Clark University, Eliza served a summer internship at Friends of Acadia. Her job in the development department was “duties as assigned,” but she was especially busy with summer events such as the Benefit Auction and filmmaker Ken Burns’ talk on the documentary series “The National Parks: America’s Best Idea.”



Eliza Worrick, right, and her mom Ann of Bar Harbor, on the grounds of the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse. See related story on page 30.

“That summer increased my interest in development and marketing,” Eliza says. “But I also knew that I wanted to get behind the mission of a nonprofit organization, and Friends of Acadia was the perfect fit.”

At FOA, Eliza learned how immensely satisfying it can be to serve alongside a group of people who are passionate about their work, pull together as a strong team, and have fun doing it. The experience inspired her to continue working in the nonprofit sector.

Since earning her degree at Clark, Eliza has worked in higher education while volunteering at an animal shelter and with the Austin, Texas Young Sierrans chapter of the Sierra Club. Her current position is administrative coordinator in the President’s Office and Office of Environmental

Sustainability at St. Edwards University in Austin. She returns to Bar Harbor at least once a year and spends as much time as possible in Acadia. Penobscot Mountain and Great Head are her favorite hikes.

“Now that I’m in a financial position to donate to charity, I want to give back to an organization that has given so much to me,” Eliza says. “Being a Friends of Acadia Trailblazer lets me give a little at a time, which works best for my budget and schedule.”

“Plus, I enjoy seeing ‘Friends of Acadia’ on my credit card statement every month!”

For information about becoming a Trailblazer, please contact Sharon Broom, development officer, at sharon@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340. ✱

SPRING – A GREAT TIME FOR THE BLUE DUCK

As I write this on a foggy, dreary, spring-like day it is easy for my mind to wander to thoughts of summer in Acadia. For many of us, one of the seminal experiences of a beautiful summer day is hopping on a boat, smelling the salt air, and visiting Islesford, or Little Cranberry Island. The island's pace immediately sets one's heart rate back a little bit and refreshes us.

One of the first things you see when approaching Islesford is the Blue Duck, perched right along the water just to the left as you approach the Islesford Dock from the water. Built around 1850, the Blue Duck (See photo on page 22.) is a testament to the proud maritime heritage in the Islesford community. Today, it is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Through the years, it was a ship's store, a general store, an artists' gallery, and a sail loft. It has also been a residence and a museum. It has always been a place for community members to gather and a source of pride for the community.

In recent years the National Park Service has used the Blue Duck for storage. While the exterior of the building has been maintained, the interior has fallen into disrepair because of a lack of use. One of the axioms in historic preservation is that historic buildings that are used get maintained—thus preserving them. When left alone—historic buildings will quickly succumb to the elements and mold.

Adding to the challenge is the Blue Duck's offshore location. It takes a huge amount of effort just getting there to do basic maintenance.

With a \$60-million backlog of deferred maintenance, steadily growing numbers of visitors, and declining federal budgets, we are often faced with a seemingly overwhelming amount of work to care for Acadia National Park and ensure our visitors have great experiences. One of the most challenging questions we often ask ourselves is how do we do more with less. Not



NPS/Kristi Rugg

surprisingly, there usually are no easy answers to be found.

This is why I am particularly excited that we have signed a new agreement to lease the Blue Duck to Islesford Boatworks, a community-based non-profit organization. Islesford Boatworks uses the medium of boatbuilding to preserve the local maritime legacy and to teach important educational skills. Islesford Boatworks programs include children, teens, and adults from the Cranberry Islands and Mount Desert Island communities.

As part of Islesford Boatworks' lease of the Blue Duck, they will carefully renovate the building over the next two to three years, keeping in mind its historic integrity. Islesford Boatworks will use the Blue Duck as a demonstration space and teaching shop, showcasing traditional boatbuilding techniques to the island community and summer visitors. From chiseling the stem, to shaping planks or steam bending frames, much of the actual construction of their boats is still accomplished the traditional way with hand tools. In having a dedicated space for this work, Islesford

Boatworks will preserve and share traditional techniques that reflect the history and artisan past culture of Little Cranberry Island.

In the future Islesford Boatworks may use part of the Blue Duck to sell merchandise and create a small hardware store that would carry a selection of items not currently available for purchase on Islesford, reconnecting to the building's history as a ship's store.

Thanks to this lease with Islesford Boatworks, we will improve the condition of this historic building, restore a connection to the waterfront for the Islesford community, and benefit kids and adults who participate in Islesford Boatworks' programs, while not requiring any financial investment from Acadia National Park. This model of leasing historic structures has been very successful at other national parks in the United States, and we are happy to apply it at Acadia.

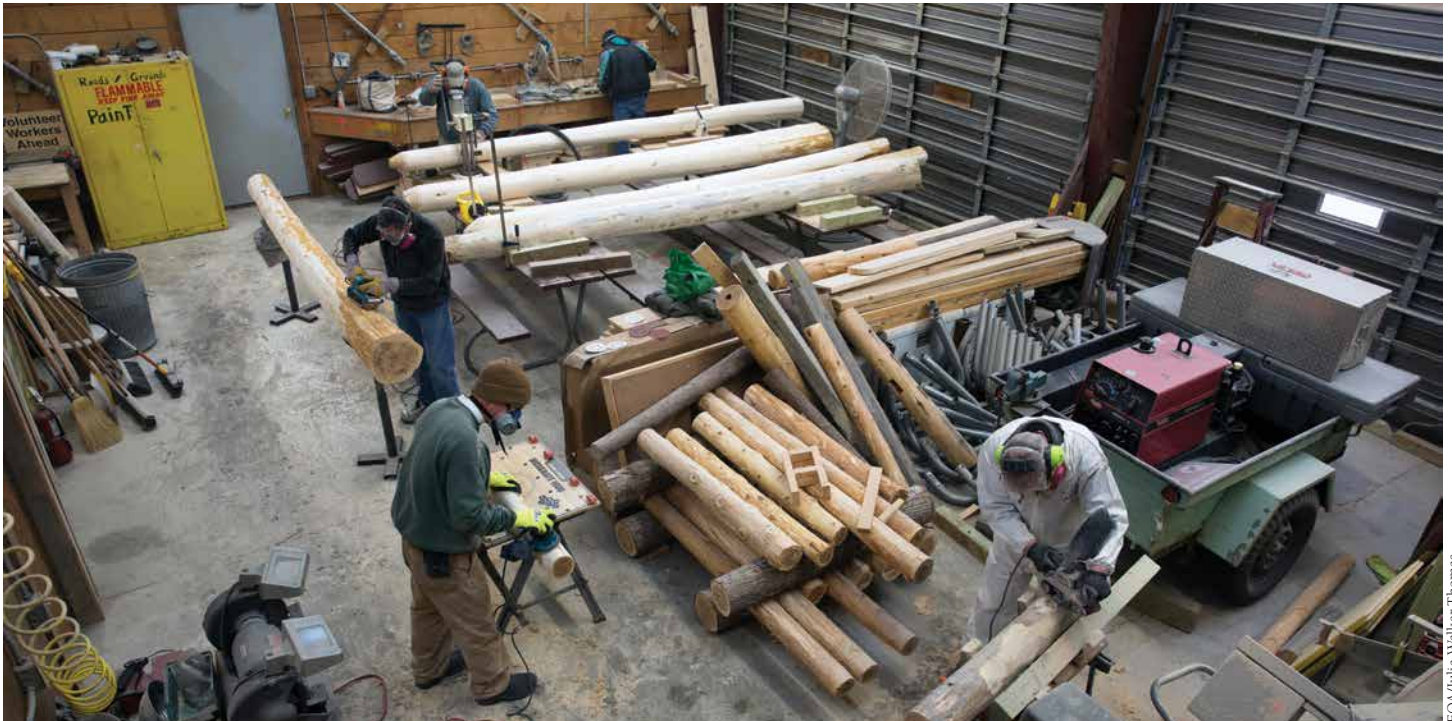
If you're like me, and your mind occasionally wanders on a rainy spring day to summer in Acadia, let it wander to a beautiful afternoon on Islesford. This summer, I hope you are able to drop in and meet our new friends at the Blue Duck and learn more about Islesford Boatworks.

—Kevin Schneider



SIGN SHOP VOLUNTEERS PREPARE FOR SPRING

By Earl Brechlin



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Volunteers in the Acadia National Park Sign Shop fashion cedar logs into posts and crossbars for directional signs at Carriage Road intersections.

Throughout the winter they have been toiling away in a remote, rustic workshop, armed with handchisels, saws, belt sanders, and paint brushes in a scene not unlike fictional depictions of Santa's North Pole workshop. But the "gifts" crafted here are designed for summer delivery—new posts, cross arms, and direction signs for Acadia National Park's fabled carriage roads.

Every Monday and Wednesday morning, once the cold breath of winter permanently envelops the park, a dedicated cadre of Acadia National Park VIPs (Volunteers In Parks) arrives at the park's sign shop around 8 a.m. Ironically, without a sign of its own, it is tucked away, down a narrow lane from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. Like workers in any manufacturing operation, they shuffle in wearing sacrificial work clothes, often toting Thermoses and snacks for the mid-morning coffee break.

One by one, long rows of glaring white

fluorescent lights on the steel rafters high overhead are snapped on. The former maintenance garage's robust hot air furnace roars to life sending a welcome plume of hot air into the normally frigid space. On occasion a mouse can be seen skittering along a steel beam along the wall, disturbed from its mid-winter repose by a surprising surge of activity.

Sometimes it can take as many as four of the volunteers to wrestle with or reposition a log.

With the building brought to life, volunteers don Tyvek coveralls, dig out their safety glasses and hearing protection, and test the fit on their respirators. By the time they are ready to work, they appear more like astronauts than woodworkers.

With scores of machines processing raw cedar logs, purchased from a local vendor, into sign posts and cross arms, and sanding units running constantly, great care is taken to protect the crew from the fine sawdust. Many woods, including eastern white cedar which is the species of choice here, contain resins and other chemical compounds that cause health problems, particularly for those who might be allergic.

This season's focus is the creation of more than a dozen replacements for signposts that are located at every carriage road intersection in Acadia. The crew has also made collapsible barricades for traffic control, as well as signs for buildings and noteworthy geographic features.

The volunteers are also working on creating identical cedar signs for intersections on Land and Garden Preserve carriage roads that connect with those in Acadia to provide for a continuity of experience for visitors. The logs for that

project were harvested from the Preserve's own forests.

Signs for the St. Croix Island International Historic Site near Calais, which is overseen by Acadia's superintendent, are also made at the Hulls Cove facility.

Some members of the crew also work regularly helping out at the Trail Sign Shop at park headquarters on McFarland Hill.

In all, more than a dozen men and women regularly are part of the effort. Schedules vary, but it's not unusual to have nine or ten show up on any given day. Many bring advanced skills they developed while working for years in the building trades or as finish carpenters.

A familiarity with tools, an eye for detail, and plenty of safety training complete the required skill set.

Bob Sanderson of Southwest Harbor has been working in the sign shop at Acadia for more than 20 years. Like most of the workers he organizes, he does double duty during the year. When the weather improves, most are volunteer trail crew leaders for Friends of Acadia. While the sign shop program is supervised directly by the park, FOA provides support in the form of tools, safety equipment, and materials.

"Mostly we do signs but we've also done some strange things," comments Sanderson. The craftsmanship and patience of the volunteers means they are sometimes tasked with other duties as well.

"We've done everything from measuring and recording the dimensions of every structure in Acadia to putting bunk beds together," he continues.

They also have rebuilt a custom, horse-drawn, handicapped-accessible carriage.

Also this winter, they have been working to stabilize a Victorian-era shed that may have once been a bulkhead covering stairs at Acadia co-founder George B. Dorr's estate, Old Farm. (See related story on page 5) "We are doing the minimum needed to stabilize it," Sanderson says.

After being stripped of bark and allowed to dry, cedar logs for the posts and cross arms are laid out on metal racks in the processing shop. Sometimes it can take as many as four of the volunteers to wrestle with or reposition a log.

On one side of the shop Don Bell and another volunteer use a mortising bit to craft a precise, 2 by 4-inch rectangular opening near the top of one of the sign posts. Each mortise requires multiple passes from both sides of the log to get it just right.

In the middle of the shop, Kip Warren of Tremont uses an electric chainsaw to taper the top of a post to a beveled point. Mindful of the environment, they use vegetable oil, rather than a petroleum product, to lubricate the chain.

At the opposite end, Jim Linnane of Bar Harbor holds onto a powerful belt sander



FOA/Earl Brechlin

Jim Linnane of Bar Harbor sands down a cedar crossbar.

Sign Shop Volunteers

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| Bill McArtor | Bob Graham |
| Gerry Fournier | Cliff Olson |
| Jim Linnane | David Orsmond |
| Jean Bell | Dana Petersen |
| Don Bell | Betsy Roberts |
| Ken Burgess | Bob Sanderson |
| JC Camelio | Julia Schloss |
| Randy Ewins | Kip Warren |
| Becca Flesh | |



FOA/Earl Brechlin

A Sign Shop volunteer inspects a Ranger Station sign that is being refurbished.



FOA/Earl Brechlin

Julia Schloss of Bar Harbor paints the inset letters of a sign destined for Acadia's Carriage Roads.



FO/Earl Brechlin

Acadia Sign Shop volunteers carefully remove old metal fasteners so they can repair and recycle a vintage sign.

with two hands as he finishes the tip of a cross arm. He stops frequently and runs a hand over the wood's surface to see if it is smoothed to his satisfaction.

The din of those tools, plus other power equipment and the occasional bang of a hammer, leave little doubt as to the intensity of effort required to craft custom items that many park visitors probably take for granted.

Throughout Acadia there are just fewer than 80 of the tall cedar carriage road sign

posts. They sport up to an estimated 800 individual direction signs. This year the crew will replace about a dozen posts and 120 signs.

According to Sanderson, working on the signs and other projects offers different rewards compared to leading crews doing trail maintenance during warmer weather. "To me it's about the camaraderie of the folks in the shop. It's nice to be inside in winter and do something meaningful to give back to Acadia," he continues. "It's also nice to be able to work with our hands."

Sanderson credits park maintenance department officials, including Alan Farnsworth and Keith Johnston, with giving the crew some latitude to explore projects of interest. "We have our assignments and we get them done but we also get to muck around," he says. "We all love it."

In an adjacent space, away from the noise and dust of the main shop, Julia Schloss of Bar Harbor carefully paints the indented letters of a direction sign created with a router. The pale yellow paint helps highlight the text making it easier for visitors to read. But, it has a much more practical purpose too. The paint coats the end grain of the wood exposed when the router bit cut through the board at thousands of revolutions per minute. It seals the wood, slowing the infiltration of moisture, which lengthens the lifetime of the sign.

"You don't have to be too fussy," Schloss laughs. "Once the paint dries we sand the entire face smooth to remove any excess and give it a nice finish," she adds.

Volunteer Betsey Roberts carefully hand-letters the signs before they are sent to the shop. On this day, Jean Bell is also helping out with the painting duties.

According to Dianna McKeage, Volunteer Coordinator for Acadia, sign shop volunteers donated more than 1,200 hours of work last winter.

"They are dedicated local volunteers who bring years of experience, passion, and dedication to their work," McKeage explains. "They are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of our carriage road signs, and many other behind-the-scenes projects.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have them here at Acadia National Park. Their skills and expertise as sign makers is unparalleled."

Perhaps the best reward, according to Sanderson, is when sign shop volunteers are out in the park, which is often, and chat with visitors about what they do. "People really appreciate it," Sanderson said. "I have yet to run into someone who didn't say 'thank you.'" ❄️

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

Sign Shop Volunteers Win Top Honors

The volunteers of the Acadia National Park Sign Shop have been named the winners of the George B. Hartzog, Jr. Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service for the Northeast Region.

The region stretches from Virginia to Maine and includes more than 80 parks, heritage sites, and other areas. Thousands of people volunteer in the region annually.

In Acadia, Sign Shop VIPs (Volunteers-In-Parks) help repair and replace many of the park's rustic signs, particularly the historic posts and directional markers gracing

intersections on the Carriage Roads. Volunteers also help with trail signs and with other projects involving maintenance and higher-level carpentry and craftsmanship throughout the park.

"We are very honored and grateful to the 'Sign Shop Volunteers' who are best known for their exceptional carriage road signage," said Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "This team of dedicated and passionate vol-

unteers has donated their most precious resource, their time, toward handcrafting wooden signs to help every visitor enjoy their park."

While the volunteers answer directly to the park, their work is broadly supported by Friends of Acadia through the purchase of key tools, materials, and safety clothing and equipment.

Activity ramps up in the shop in winter after many members wrap up their work

with FOA leading trail maintenance volunteers.

The NPS created the annual Hartzog Awards in a variety of categories to honor volunteers' hard work, draw attention to their vast skills and contributions, and stimulate development of innovative projects and volunteer involvement. The intent of the awards is to distinguish those exemplary individuals or groups who give of their skills, talents, and time beyond the normal call of duty. The recognition is named for the late George B. Hartzog and his wife Helen.



New Donors

October 1, 2017 –
January 31, 2018

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Martha Aliwalas
Julianna Allen
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Kathy Ameche
Eleanor Archer
Rebecca and Keane Aures
Hans Bader
Rick Baker
Joel Barkan
Phoebe Barnes
Christine Barry
Alan Bayles
Sue Bell and John Brissette

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Phyllis Santer and
Carl Suchar
Jennifer Sawyer
Acadia Schecter
Tyler and Jamie Schiff
Sarah and Thomas Schwarz
Bennett Sciacca
Jan Seide

“Enclosed please find the March installment of our monthly giving pledge.

“This visit will bring our first grandchild to the park for the first time fully ambulatory – I hope the park is prepared for this young force of nature. I expect that Zora Quinn will learn to love the park as much as the rest of her family does...”

“Keep up the work of preserving this marvelous vacation spot.”

— Quinn family, Bloomfield, CT

Charlene Bennett
Kathy and Dick Berggren
Philip Bernardi
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Sallie Boggs
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Bryson Brodie
Mark Brown
Natalie and Mike Brown
Paul Bryan
Carol Buchanan
Elaine Buchardt

Julie Clark
Jane Collins
Kathy Combs and
John Kaminski
Jeremy Coon, on behalf of
Anna Coon and
Charlotte Colvin
Lin Corliss
Carol and James Crawford
Noel and Mark Croce
Wardene Crowley
Robyn Cuffey
Maggie Culyba
Caleb Cushing
Nan and Zhi Da
Lynn D'Agostino and
Nancy Drolet
Kathryn Dahlin
Mary D'Alessando
Dallas Foundation

New Friends

NEW FACES JOIN THE FRIENDS OF ACADIA STAFF



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

JASON IRWIN has joined FOA as Vice President of Finance and Administration, stepping into the post vacated by the retirement of Dianna McDowell.

Irwin is a resident of Mount Desert, a native of Maine, and a graduate of the University of Southern Maine. He is a CPA and comes to FOA with a wide range of prior experience.

As VP, Irwin will be a key member of FOA's leadership. He will be responsible for several areas including all of FOA's financial management functions and human resources.

Prior to joining FOA, Jason served as Controller at the Jackson Laboratory and Central Vermont Medical Center. Irwin began working part-time in February and became full-time in March.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

JOANNE WOOD began work in January as FOA's new Development Assistant, taking over from Carol Potter, who is shifting to a part-time schedule and will now focus her work on supporting the finance and administrative team.

Wood has served most recently as part of the administrative team at the University of New England and has relocated to Bar Harbor from southern Maine.

She is a Maine Master Naturalist and, together with her husband, photographer Doug, has spent countless hours exploring Acadia.

Wood adds needed capacity to our development team in gift entry and data management and will help with our front-office presence as well.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

DANA PETERSEN has been promoted to fill FOA's new full-time position as Volunteer Stewardship Coordinator after serving so ably in the position seasonally here for the past two summers.

In addition to Petersen's many contributions to FOA during 2016-17, he has several years' experience as a back-country park ranger and a high school teacher. A native of Montana, he earned a B.A. in English and an education endorsement from Montana State University.

Petersen lives in Pretty Marsh with his partner, Annah, and is already giving additional support to the volunteer program, trails and carriage roads, Acadia Winter Trails, and community engagement.

New Donors, continued

Barbara Seidman
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Kelsey Sheaffer
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Deborah Stacey and
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Sarah Wolcheski
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Julia Wright
Ben Wyman

REFLECTIONS ON SERVING ON THE FOA BOARD

By Jack Russell

Come July I will conclude nine years of service on the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors. I have been asked to reflect on my experience as a board member. Before any personal gestures, however, I must honor my colleagues. Like them, I have served on many boards. My FOA service has been the most gratifying. I believe many board mates would say the same.

Smart, generous, and passionate people govern FOA. The fifty or so folks with whom I have served over the past nine years have included corporate CEOs, elected officials, portfolio managers, ambassadors, star lawyers, advisors to foundations, counselors to presidents – and a few community organizers. Some are wealthy. All are generous to Acadia. (During our Second Century Campaign, most board members made the largest charitable donation of their lives.)

Brains and bucks matter, but heart counts most. As the only Mount Desert Island-born director, I joined the board in 2009 with some skepticism. My only contact with summer people as a kid here in the 1950s was waiting on them at Daney's Market. Would we share a commitment to this extraordinary place? Absolutely, I learned. I leave the board with deep respect for those whose Acadian bond is not a birthright but a choice sustained over decades and through generations.

My Friends colleagues have become friends for life. Thus the best way for me to convey my experience as an FOA director is to celebrate four collective achievements of the board in my time and share the moments that distill each.

Your board advocates for Acadia with one voice. This is not a casual achievement. We define a broad political spectrum from right to left but find common ground to serve our beloved park. We've defined and funded four strategic pillars to focus new support for Acadia, adopted ten fundamental prin-



FOA/Earl Brechin

Jack Russell has served on the FOA Board for nine years.

ciples to guide our advocacy, and come to unanimity on gradual divestment from fossil fuel securities. This concord was reached during the partisan times of the Obama administration and the Trump adventure.

We've had fun working to shared purpose. I've anchored the left of the board, but

some of my most enjoyable work has been with colleagues with whom I would otherwise arm-wrestle on most matters political. At our May 2017 board meeting hard work and hard arguments by leading board members over the preceding year finally brought us to a unanimous vote for gradual divestment from carbon-based energy producers. We partied hard together that evening!

Your board has forged an exemplary partnership with the ANP leadership and staff. FOA support for ANP provides a margin of excellence for Acadian visitors and helps ANP attract and keep stars from the NPS. The independent but intimate FOA-ANP relationship requires trust and solidarity. Too few realize that the ANP staff has worked for more than two decades without proper federal funding. They have done more with less but not always been given the respect they deserve.

Thus one of my golden moments was the evening of June 25th, 2016. That night the Bar Harbor Brass Week ensemble celebrated the Acadia Centennial with a concert that filled The Criterion. The balcony was

continued on page 30



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Acadia Centennial Committee Co-chairs Jack Russell, left, and Cookie Horner celebrate the dedication of a time capsule slated to be opened in the park's bicentennial year, 2116.

ACADIA DEFENDER READY TO 'ROCK' RETIREMENT

By Earl Brechlin

ACADIA NAT'L PARK — Suggesting someone has rocks on the brain is seldom considered a compliment. Say that to Acadia Ranger Charlie Jacobi however, who retired in December after a 34-year career with the National Park Service, and his instant reply would be “thank you!”

Whether it is efforts to educate visitors about the issue of “rock art” cluttering up

the shoreline or battling to make sure Acadia's historic Bates Cairns on the hiking trails remain intact, keeping rocks in their proper places has been no small part of Jacobi's passion for protecting the park.

The Sandy Hook, Connecticut native credits a road trip around the country with high school buddies in 1976 with planting the seed that grew into a lifetime of caring about

conservation. “During that trip we went to 16 National Parks,” Jacobi explains. “I think that started a little something in my head.”

Later, while working for the Town of Newtown's Recreational Department and supervising outdoor activities, Jacobi met an experienced outdoorsman who had trained at the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). That further fanned the flames of his interest in conservation.

Although he held an undergraduate degree in Sociology, Jacobi went back to school at Virginia Tech and obtained a Masters in Forest Recreation and Park Management. His first seasonal NPS job was a fee collector in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. “I was happy as a clam. There was lots of great hiking,” Jacobi recalls.

With no preconceived career plan in place, Jacobi took a job in Acadia in 1984 and first worked running Blackwoods Campground seasonally during the first year it was part of a national reservation system. He then worked as a law enforcement ranger in his role as campground supervisor.

Chief Ranger Norm Dodge tapped Jacobi to supervise the park's then-newly opened entrance fee station near Sand Beach. Eventually he applied for specialized natural resource program training and became one of just two dozen specialists throughout the park service.

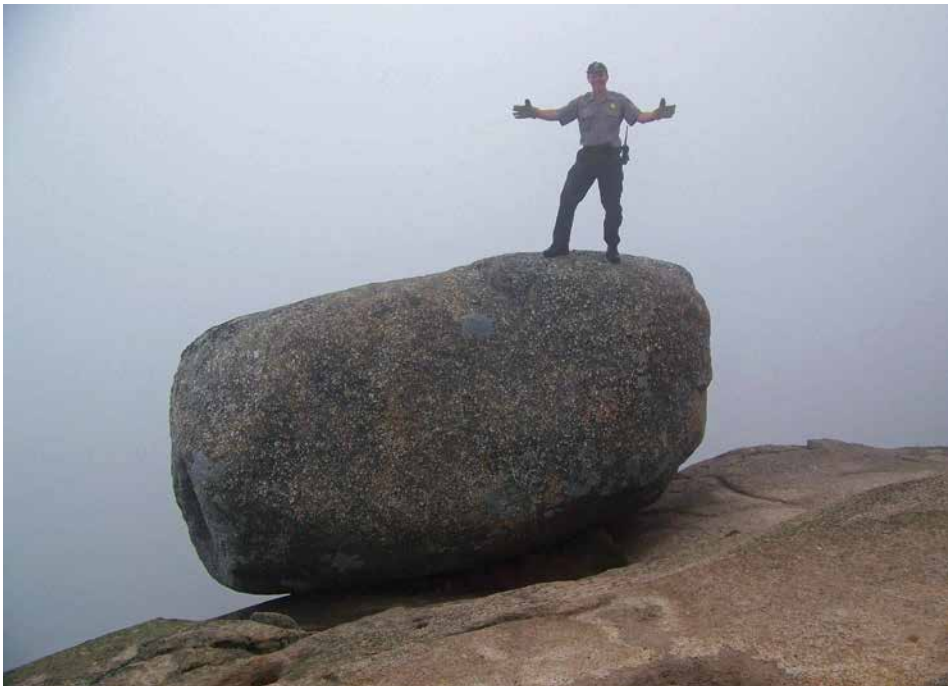
Eventually he purchased the house in Otter Creek that he had been renting for several years and that has been his base camp ever since.

During his tenure at Acadia, Jacobi has been a pioneer, enhancing Leave No Trace (LNT) education and helping to get FOA's early Ridge Runner and recreational tech programs off the ground. He has worked closely with the FOA Summit Stewards on a variety of efforts to protect all areas of the park, stretching from the summit of Cadillac Mountain to the rocky beaches of Isle au Haut. “I like to call them my mini-army of



Acadia National Park Ranger Charlie Jacobi retired in December after a 34-year career with the National Park Service.

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas



Don Lenahan

Ranger Charlie Jacobi and volunteer Don Lenahan carried a step ladder to the top of South Bubble in order to access the top of Bubble Rock to remove an illegal rock art installation.

data collectors,” Jacobi explains. “They are kind of like utility infielders.”

Jacobi also was instrumental in the restoration of Bates Cairns (See related story.) on historic trails, primarily on the east side of Mount Desert Island. In 2001, he founded “Waldron’s Warriors,” a special cadre of back-country volunteers that check on Bates Cairns in spring and fall and repair them when necessary.

Jacobi worked as part social scientist, part recreation ecologist, part recreation planner, part educator, anything to do with inventory, monitoring, management, and mitigation of the impacts from visitor activities and behaviors.

“People think I just hike for a living, but it wasn’t quite like that,” says Jacobi. “I liked the diversity of the job. I dabbled in a lot of things.”

While all aspects of Acadia’s natural resources have gained from Jacobi’s attentions, it is the rocks, both on the shores and the summits that have benefited the most.

Maintaining the simple structure of Bates Cairns isn’t easy as visitors often “augment” the precise design with extra stones. Some less enlightened park visitors cannot seem to resist the urge to kick Bates Cairns over.

In addition, well-meaning hikers frequently build “bootleg” cairns along trails. When they proliferate they become eyesores or they can make things confusing for less-experi-

enced hikers trying to stay on the trail. And efforts to gather rocks for those creations disturb thin soils and can harm fragile mountain vegetation. Volunteers and trail crews spend hundreds of hours annually removing them.

Likewise, stacks of balanced stones along shores or streams may seem like impressive personal accomplishments but they are, in effect, human graffiti that interjects an element of the artificial and contrived into the natural landscape. It is no small effort to disassemble those as well.

Removing one of the more prominent installations required Jacobi and volunteer Don Lenahan to hike to the top of South Bubble with a ladder so they could climb on top of Bubble Rock and remove an illegal pile of rocks there.

While visitors are sometimes caught stealing large quantities of stones as keepsakes or for personal landscaping projects, Jacobi’s efforts to educate folks to leave rocks alone have borne fruit. Over the years, boxes of rocks mailed anonymously have arrived at FOA’s office with a request they be returned. One of the last things Jacobi cleaned out of his office was a bag of painted rocks from Acadia that Ridge Runners and Summit Stewards had collected over the years. Jacobi hopes to clean them up and then put them back.

Despite spending hundreds of hours each year hiking while at work, lacing up his hik-

ANATOMY OF A BATES CAIRN

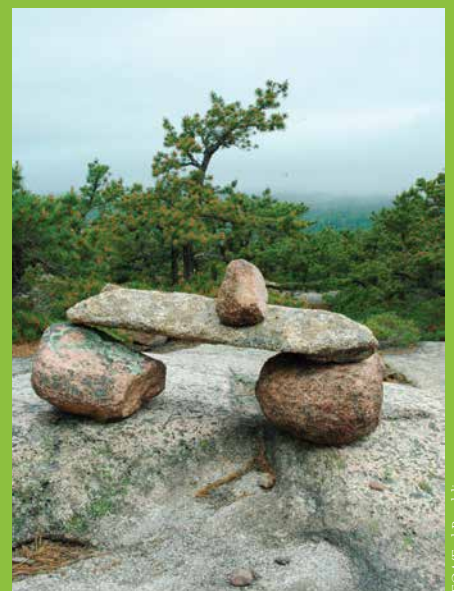
By Earl Brechlin

Trailside piles of stone, called cairns after the Scottish term for them, have guided hikers around the world for centuries. In the early days of trail layout and construction at Acadia, in the early 1900s, pathfinder Waldron Bates, created a unique cairn design that now bears his name.

Bates Cairns employ two or more stacked foundation stones capped by a longer, and usually flatter, horizontal stone mantle. A fourth stone, called the pointer, is then positioned on the top with the tip showing the way to the summit. Somehow, perhaps after the Great Fire of 1947, Bates Cairns fell out of favor in Acadia and were replaced with the traditional conical cairns used in the high country throughout New England.

Acadia stewards began experimenting with a return to Bates Cairns on historic trails in the 1990s. A concerted effort to complete the switch over began in 2001. The entire process took approximately a decade.

Now-retired ranger Charlie Jacobi spearheaded the Bates Cairn movement by helping to found “Waldron’s Warriors,” a special cadre of park volunteers that works primarily in spring and fall, before seasonal trail crews arrive. Members patrol trails featuring Bates Cairns and make repairs, or remove illegal cairns, as necessary.



FOA/Earl Brechlin

A Bates Cairn on the Champlain Mountain North Ridge Trail.



Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org

THE LEAVE NO TRACE SEVEN PRINCIPLES

The Leave No Trace Seven Principles are the bedrock of the Leave No Trace program. They provide guidance to enjoy our natural world in a sustainable way that avoids human-created impacts. The principles have been adapted so they can be applied in your backyard or your backcountry.

1

Plan Ahead and Prepare

2

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

3

Dispose of Waste Properly

4

Leave What You Find

5

Minimize Campfire Impacts

6

Respect Wildlife

7

Be Considerate of Other Visitors

ing boots has also been Jacobi's favorite leisure time pursuit.

He estimates he has climbed Katahdin in Baxter State Park, Maine's highest point, more than 70 times. A former two-time president of Friends of Baxter, he "adopted" the North Traveler Trail in the rugged northern area of Baxter 15 years ago and makes several trips each year to do trail maintenance there.

Over the years, Jacobi's vital work on protecting nature in Acadia has not gone unnoticed. Acadia was selected as a LNT Gold Standard Site. According to The Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics officials, that is largely thanks to Jacobi's efforts.

Along with working with the Appalachian Mountain Club in New Hampshire early in his career, Jacobi has been a board member of the Waterman Fund and in 2010 was given that group's Guy Waterman Alpine Steward Award. In 2013, he also won the communications award from the public lands group, The George Wright Society.

Last year, Jacobi was named Acadia National Park's George B. Dorr Award employee of the year for "exceptional dedication to the park's mission."



FOA



FOA

Bootleg cairns can confuse neophyte hikers. Illegal rock structures and sculptures on Acadia's trails and shores, such as these installations on Cadillac Mountain, are graffiti and must be removed by trail crews and volunteers.

At a gathering in January to mark Jacobi's retirement, more than 100 people gathered at the Neighborhood House in Northeast Harbor. FOA President David MacDonald highlighted Jacobi's close working relationship with the organization and thanked him for his many decades of service. He continued that he thinks of Jacobi often while hiking. "What would Charlie do?" he said. "That's what I'm thinking out there."

People think I just hike for a living, but it wasn't quite like that.

— Charlie Jacobi

Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider told the crowd that Jacobi epitomizes the type of commitment a ranger should have in a national park. He also praised Jacobi's research surveys on visitation patterns that have helped guide creation of a master transportation plan for the park.

"Charlie's one of a kind," Schneider said.

In his retirement, Jacobi is looking forward to working with Judy Hazen Connery on putting together an administrative history of the park. "I'm really looking forward to researching the early history," he says.

Along with knowing the trails in Acadia and Baxter like the back of his hand, Jacobi has also traveled the world in search of new adventure. His life list of hiking trips includes Nepal, New Zealand, Australia, Madagascar, Patagonia, Malaysia, Venezuela, Pakistan, South Africa, and several other countries on that continent. He has also trekked in Mongolia, Bolivia, Turkey, Croatia, Dominica, in the Middle East, and climbed Kilimanjaro in Tanzania.

He says he hopes to continue that tradition in retirement. "I hope to just keep going although my knee is not giving me a clear signal about what I should do."

Still, it is the trails of Acadia, some of which he can literally access right out his back door that the 64-year-old Jacobi considers home. "Acadia is special," he says. "It's pretty hard to beat this place." ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

IN NOMINE

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

Julie Banzhaf-Stone and Steve Stone
Alexander Beebe
Bobby Bell
Mom and Dad Benedict
Gerry Berlin
Nancy Berliner and Alan Plattus
Bodmans and Dunhams
Samuel Bradbury IV
Carol Bult and Lili Pew
Chris Cairns
Aimee Beal Church*
Bob, Lisa, and Grace Clark
Stephanie Clement
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Caden and Maggie Olesniewicz
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Kate and Larry Stern
Jean Tewksbury
Pam Thiboutot and Andrew Kaufman
Elizabeth Thorndike
Marilyn Winkelstein
Yulie Yang*

October 1, 2017—January 31, 2018

*Deceased



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



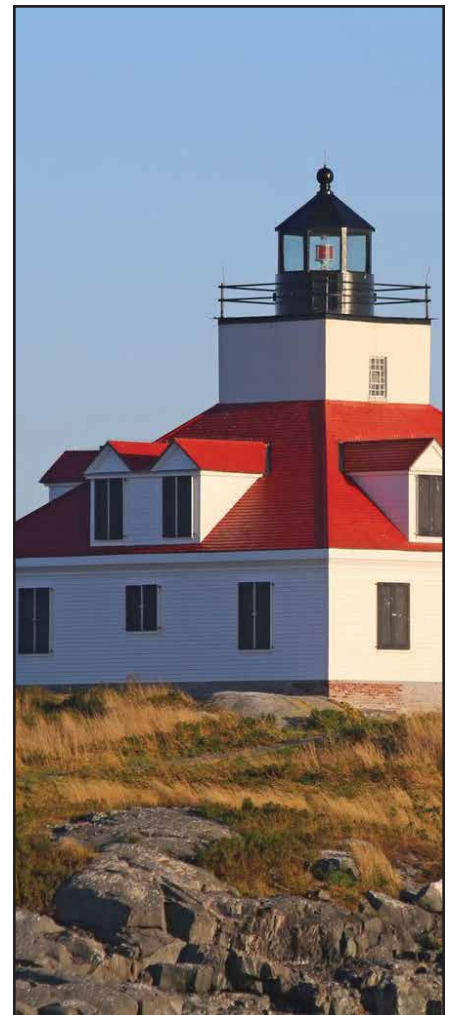
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WILD GARDENS BOOK SHARES TRIUMPHS

By Earl Brechlin



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Friends of Acadia volunteers and authors Sue Leiter and Anne Kozak with their book *The Wild Gardens of Acadia*.

ACADIA NAT'L PARK — Precisely how much damage was sustained by this winter's trials by flood and ice at the Wild Gardens of Acadia at Sieur de Monts may not be fully known until later this summer.

Cursory inspections show a damaged gate and the loss of some sections of the fence designed to keep deer from getting at the plants. Whether or not the delicate plants in their unique mini environments escape unscathed remains to be seen.

There is no question, however, that the beloved gardens, and its dedicated group of caretakers, have new challenges ahead. Those circumstances, however, are really no different than those surmounted in the past.

In collecting and displaying hundreds of plants from every biome on the island in one compact location, those who created and have nurtured this marvelous resource have worked tirelessly for decades to gather specimens, group them together, supply precise growing conditions, and help them flourish.

The story of that triumph is well documented in the book *The Wild Gardens of Acadia*, released during the park's centennial year.

It has been written by two longtime friends, Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers and supporters of the gardens, Anne Kozak and Sue Leiter.

Founded in 1961 at the park's Sieur de Monts Springs, the Wild Gardens mission is to display, preserve, propagate and label native plants in areas simulating natural plant communities. Countless park visitors have

come to the gardens to identify plants they have seen on walks or hikes or to learn more about cultivating native plants.

Few of the thousands of park visitors that tour the garden each year have any inkling of just how much of a struggle it has been to create and continue the effort. A brief chapter outlines the history of the effort. Most of the story is told in photographs taken by Josh Winer.

The images are more than a simple look back. They serve as a roll call of the personalities, talents, and sacrifices that have kept the garden going, as well as a casual guide to the plants and trees themselves. The beauty of it all is that it demonstrates the truism that when it comes to nurturing a garden, even a "wild" one, the growth of people, plants and knowledge is inextricably intertwined. ✱

All proceeds from the sale of The Wild Gardens of Acadia benefit the Founders Fund, an endowment for the Wild Gardens at Friends of Acadia.

The book is part of Arcadia Publishing's "Images of Modern America" series.

It is available for purchase at Sherman's Bookstore in Bar Harbor and at Acadia Corp shops or online. If you happen to be stopping by the Friends of Acadia Office, you can pick up a copy of The Wild Gardens of Acadia, or other FOA books including Ronald Epp's wonderful biography of George B. Dorr, Creating Acadia National Park, the Biography of George Bucknam Dorr, or photographer Tom Blagden's book Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration.

Updates

Acadia Transportation Plan

Details of Acadia's proposed transportation plan were unavailable prior to the Journals press time. Acadia National Park hopes to release it in April with a 45-day public comment window.

The aim of the plan is to reduce traffic snarls and improve the visitor experience, particularly in highly-congested areas including Ocean Drive, near the Jordan Pond House, and on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Last year alone, rangers had to close down the road to the top of Cadillac Mountain some 80 times, at sunrise, sunset, and during the day, when the number of vehicles exceeded parking and travel way capacities, causing gridlock. Congestion, particularly on

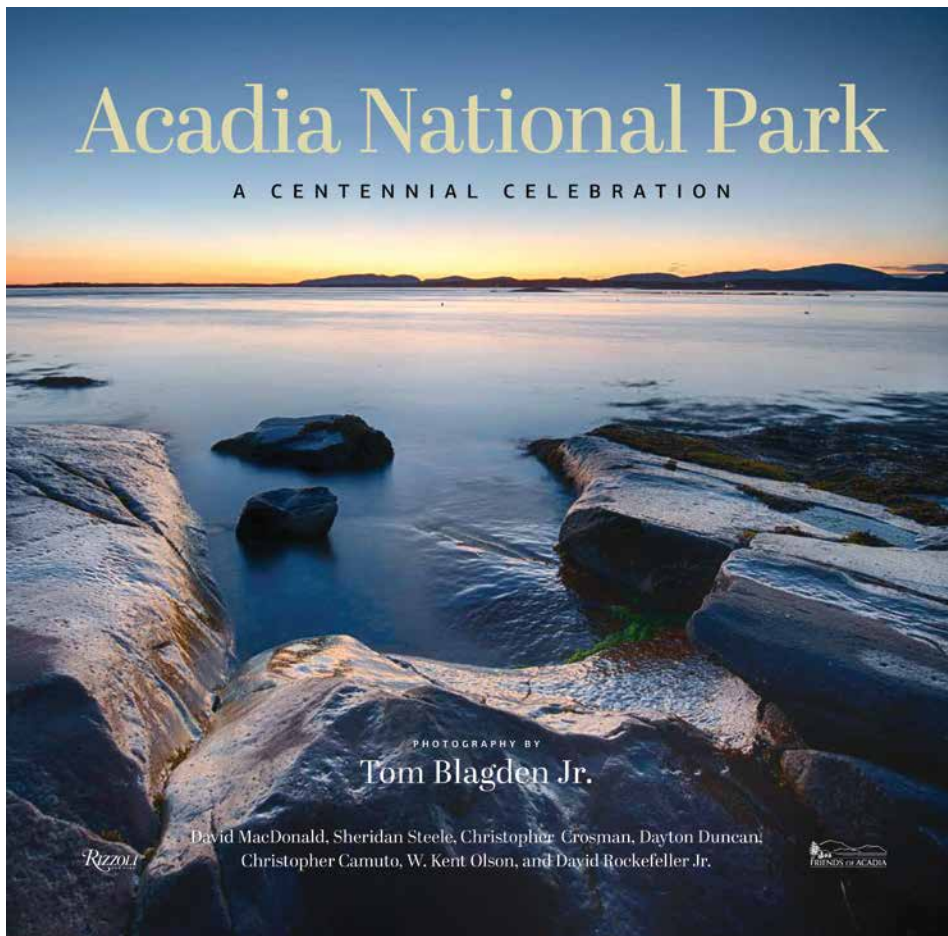
Cadillac Mountain and along Route 233, also can hinder emergency responders. Reducing it will help improve visitor safety.

While Acadia officials have not been able to share the details of the plan prior to its release, it may contain elements of programs currently being implemented in other congested parks around the country.

Muir Woods in California began a parking reservation system and shuttle system that began operating in January. Parking reservations have to be bought in advance and cannot be purchased on-site.


Reservations are now required for a parking space atop Haleakala on Maui for watching the sunrise. Those reservations can be obtained up to 60 days in advance.

Parking reservations, large vehicle restrictions, and additional shuttle bus services are



The coffee table book *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration*, featuring photographs by Tom Blagden Jr., won first place in the Publication of the Year division of the Public Lands Alliance Partnership Awards. The award was announced at the PLA annual conference in Palm Springs, CA, on Feb. 28. "Each page communicates the beauty of Acadia – its places, hours, and seasons. It is simply majestic," the judges wrote.

Writers who contributed essays included Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald, former President of the National Park Foundation David Rockefeller Jr., filmmaker Dayton Duncan, former FOA President W. Kent Olson, former park superintendent Sheridan Steele, and authors Christopher Camuto and Christopher Crossman. *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration* is available at area shops including Sherman's Bookstore and Acadia Shops in Bar Harbor. It can also be purchased online.




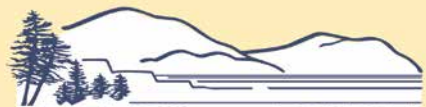
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FRIENDS OF ACADIA

Updates

under review at Arches and Zion National Parks in Utah.

All those programs operate during peak season.

The most important take away, according to officials, is that the current National Park Service approach is to tailor transportation plans to individual parks—which acknowledges their unique nature and relationship with the surrounding communities.

Park officials will be announcing a schedule of public meetings about the plan. Friends of Acadia will make some additional communications efforts to keep members and the public apprised of the plan details, opportunities to comment, and the organization's position on them.

Route 3 Work Resumes

Phase Two of the reconstruction of Route 3 in Bar Harbor will kickoff in earnest as soon as weather conditions allow. Work will include the reconstruction of Route 3 below Crooked Road into Bar Harbor to the end point at the

intersection of Route 3 and Route 233.

Outbound traffic seeking to access Route 3 from Bar Harbor will be detoured to Eagle Lake Road and Route 102, or to the Paradise Hill Road section of the Acadia Park Loop Road, from the Eagle Lake Road entrance to the main entrance near the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. A temporary traffic light will be installed in Hulls Cove.

Two-way traffic will remain in effect on the Park Loop Road. Park maintenance officials said there may be occasional reductions to one lane prior to Memorial Day due to ongoing masonry work on the Duck Brook Bridge.

Officials said the detour through the park is tentatively set to begin on April 12. All commercial vehicles and trucks are banned from the Park Loop Road. Those vehicles traveling outbound when the park detour is in effect will be required to use the Eagle Lake Road.

Acadia Quest App

In the process to professionally digitize Acadia Quest, Friends of Acadia has selected

OnCell, a software development company to develop a digital app for Acadia Quest. By making Acadia Quest available to a wider audience through technology, we hope to create a new pathway for youth and adults to explore Acadia together.

Design of the app begins in spring of 2018. It will produce a downloadable app that uses place-based content and is functional without cell service. The app will be developed for both iOS and Android platforms and will operate on smartphones. FOA would like to thank Chimani for piloting a digital version of Acadia Quest.



Acadia Teacher Fellows

The National Park Service is finalizing the Acadia Teacher Fellows, a team of seven teachers who will spend the summer learning about Acadia National Park's diverse natural and cultural resources and ways to protect them.

Four teachers will be selected to work on Mount Desert Island, and two teachers will be stationed at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) in Winter Harbor. In addition, the NPS will select one teacher to work at Saint Croix Island International Historic Site in Calais. The Acadia Teacher Fellowship program strives to connect teachers and students to national parks. The program is open to full-time, K-12 public school teachers and priority is given to teachers from schools with students who are under-represented, economically disadvantaged, or have limited access to parks. Preference is also given to Maine schools.

Friends of Acadia raised funds through our Second Century Campaign to make this program possible.

Acadia Winter Trails

The 2018 winter weather was very unpredictable, but volunteers made the most of the snow that fell. The grooming began very early this year, even before Christmas. Volunteers logged more than 100 hours for the season. A new groomer was deployed this



Blue Duck Restoration

The historic Blue Duck building on the waterfront on Little Cranberry Island will be leased by Acadia National Park to Islesford Boatworks, a community-based group dedicated to preserving the Islesford community's maritime legacy and teaching nautical skills. In addition to renovating the structure over the next several years, Islesford Boatworks will use the Blue Duck as a space for demonstrations, teaching, and showcasing traditional boatbuilding techniques. See more about this exciting development in Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider's column on page 9.



FOA/Earl Brechtlin

Returned Rocks On a Roll

Sensitive visitors to Acadia understand the important of not taking natural materials from the park. Park officials constantly struggle with people damaging rock cairns, creating rock graffiti, and taking rocks home for keepsakes of landscaping projects (See related story on page 16.). In December, a long-time visitor mailed a box of beach cobbles to Friends of Acadia and asked that they be returned to the park. A video of the “rock release” can be found online at www.friendsofacadia.org/rock-release/.

winter and several snowmobiles are being retired this year due to wear and tear.

The program is researching best options for replacing the sleds with units designed for cross-country ski grooming. Thanks to all the volunteer groomers for their hard work!

Wetland Restoration Planning at Sieur de Monts

The Wild Acadia initiative is a series of programs and projects designed to restore ecological integrity and help Acadia’s natural resources become more resilient to climate change and other environmental stressors.

As part of this initiative, the National Park Service removed the septic system at Sieur de Monts in 2016 and connected the restrooms to the Bar Harbor sewer system. Studies had shown that the septic field was contributing nutrients to groundwater, leading to algal growth at the Spring House and local streams. Removing this source of pollution will help improve water quality, thereby enhancing habitat for aquatic species.

Friends of Acadia (FOA) is helping the park take this restoration project one step further. With support from Canon USA, Friends of Acadia hired environmental consultant, Roger St. Amand of Atlantic Resource Co., LLC, to prepare a wetland restoration plan for the former septic mound site at Sieur de Monts. St. Amand met with a group of stake-

holders including park representatives, Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers, and Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Coordinator, to set the goals of the project. Surveys of the area have been completed, and information on vernal pools, wetland areas, and hydrology has been collected. This will serve as the basis for the proposed restoration plan with details on wetland soils, hydrology, and vegetation to be planted.

Because vernal pools were documented in the area, the timeframe for completing the plan was extended so that they could be studied further in spring 2018. Once the plan has been approved by the National Park Service, permitting for the restoration work will commence.

Friends of Acadia will further fund the res-

toration work beginning in the fall of 2018. Visitors to Sieur de Monts may notice flagging and construction work over the next year. The result will be a naturally functioning wetland that approximates what would have been on-site had the septic system never existed. This will be a significant improvement in the Cromwell Brook watershed, the pilot watershed selected for Wild Acadia.

Restore America’s Parks Campaign

Towns bordering Acadia National Park have expressed their support for addressing the backlog of maintenance projects in the park. Years of chronic underfunding of the national parks, plus cumulative wear and tear on park infrastructure created by burgeoning visitation, has created the deferred maintenance backlog, estimated at \$11.6 billion nationally and \$71 million at Acadia. The Town Council in Bar Harbor and the Ellsworth City Council recently passed resolutions recognizing the importance of national parks as “America’s Best Idea,” as a record of our natural and cultural history, as economic generators, and as part of our legacy for future generations. The resolutions also encouraged Congress to create a reliable source of funding to address the maintenance backlog.

The overall campaign to raise awareness about the deferred maintenance backlog is called the “Restore America’s Parks” campaign and is being spearheaded by the Pew Charitable Trusts. Friends of Acadia (FOA) has been a local supporter in this initiative, providing information and making connections wherever needed.

Last fall, the campaign organized a discussion and tour for federal, state, and local

OPEN GARDEN DAY

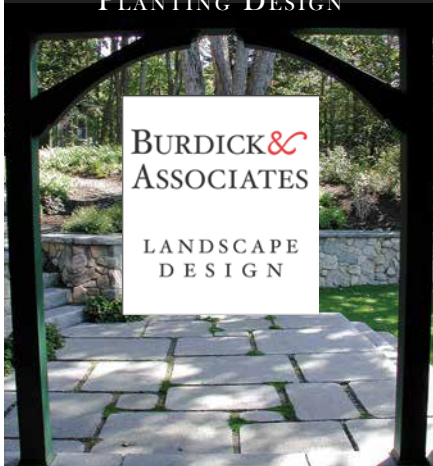
The Garden Club of Mount Desert, a steadfast supporter of FOA, will hold its Open Garden Day for 2018 on Saturday, July 28, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., rain or shine. Six private gardens on MDI will be open for tours. Tickets cost \$40 in advance or \$45 the day of the event.

After July 1, tickets will be available at McGrath’s and the Northeast Harbor Library in Northeast Harbor, the Southwest Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and Sherman’s Books in Bar Harbor.

All proceeds benefit Maine horticultural and environmental organizations.

www.gardenclubofmountdesert.org

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Updates

officials of Acadia's deferred maintenance projects at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and Park Headquarters facilities.

The advocacy on behalf of the deferred maintenance backlog has generated some interest at the federal level. In his FY 2019 budget, President Trump recommended a \$17 million or 13 percent increase in the National Park Service line-item construction program, which supplies one-year funds for maintenance and construction projects. Maine Senators Susan Collins and Angus King have also co-sponsored a bill, S. 751, the National Park Service Legacy Act, that would direct unallocated offshore mineral revenues to a fund dedicated to addressing high priority deferred maintenance projects in national parks.

Neither the Senate bill nor the House companion bill (H.R. 2584) has received a hearing yet.

Despite all these efforts, additional resources are needed. The President's budget cut National Park Service operational funding for repairs and rehabilitation by 20 percent and cyclic maintenance by 13 percent.

The partners in the Restore America's Parks campaign will continue to advocate for additional capital and operating funds to address the maintenance backlog.

Proposed Fee Increase Fate Unknown

In October of last year, the National Park Service proposed significant fee increases at Acadia and 16 other highly visited national parks. During peak season (defined as June 1 – Oct. 31), Acadia's 7-day entrance pass would rise from \$25 to \$70, the annual pass from \$50 to \$75, the 7-day motorcycle pass from \$20 to \$50, and the 7-day non-motorized per-person pass from \$12 to \$30. Fees for commercial road-based tours were also proposed to increase significantly. The National Park Service's objective in raising fees was to generate additional funds to address the deferred maintenance backlog in national parks.

The public comment period for both proposals ran through December 22. The more than 109,000 comments generated are currently being analyzed at the Department of the Interior.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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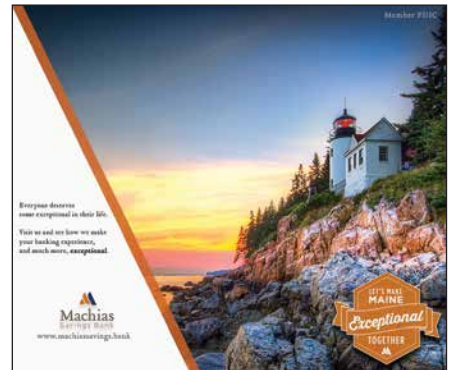
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TAX CHANGES

Friends of Acadia's development team has been fielding questions and participating in discussions about the impact new tax laws may have on the nonprofit community. Some changes will likely affect FOA donors' charitable giving decisions – from doubling of the standard deduction, to doubling the estate tax exemption, to income tax breaks that may result in more discretionary income for some tax brackets.

We always encourage donors to consult financial or tax advisors about their individual situations. We are incredibly grateful to consistently hear from donors that they are motivated by giving back to Acadia and helping preserve and protect our park. There are many great ways to support Friends of Acadia, including:

Appreciated Stock or Bonds

Donating appreciated stocks, bonds, or other types of assets allows donors to avoid paying capital gains on the appreciation – whether or not the donor itemizes.

IRA Distributions

Donors age 70 ½ or older can donate directly from their IRA accounts. This type of qualified charitable distribution (QCD) is tax free and has advantages because the income is excluded from the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI), and the gift counts toward their required minimum distribution (RMD).

Donor Advised Funds

Donors can set up a donor-advised fund (DAF) by contributing cash, securities or other assets. The donor receives an immediate tax deduction for the contribution and can contribute at any time during the year. The donor advised fund becomes like a charitable savings account from which the donor can grant funds to FOA or any other public charity. Funds that are not donated can be invested and grow tax free.

Cash

Those who itemize will still receive a deduction for contributions, whether by check or credit card. Contributions are deductible up to 60 percent of adjusted gross income, an increase from the previous 50 percent.

Contact Lisa Horsch Clark or Shawn Keeley at 207-288-3340.

Updates

Friends of Acadia's comments recognized the importance of addressing the maintenance backlog but recommended a more balanced approach to addressing the issue through innovative legislation, better federal appropriations, National Park Service policy changes, partnership contributions, volunteer support, and smaller fee increases.

Originally, the fee increases were supposed to take effect in the summer of 2018, but it is unclear whether the Department of the Interior will meet this deadline. For more information visit <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=75576>

Marshall Brook, Watersheds Explored

The Wild Acadia initiative is a series of programs and projects intended to restore the park's ecological integrity and help the park's natural resources become more resilient to climate change and other rapid environmental changes caused by wildfire, insect infestations, or other events. The initiative uses a watershed-based approach to comprehensive resource management, and the park

and partners have been working for the last several years on projects to improve the pilot watershed, Cromwell Brook.

Having achieved significant improvements in the Cromwell Brook watershed through removal of invasive plant species, wetland restoration, water quality monitoring, and more, it was time to begin exploration of the second highest priority watershed, Marshall Brook and associated drainages. The watershed system is large, covering about 5,500 acres from Western Mountain south to the Bass Harbor Marsh. Friends of Acadia hired field biologist, Kelly O'Neil, and former Acadia Youth Technology Team member, David Anderson, to explore the watershed, to document resource conditions and problem areas, and to map their findings.

The Marshall Brook watershed system contains both public and private lands and has a variety of forest types and land uses. O'Neil and Anderson's work identified several concerns in the watershed system, including culverts that block passage of aquatic organisms, invasive plant populations, illegal recreational use of park lands, increasing development, and the potential

continued on page 29



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Earth Day Volunteers

Join friends, family, neighbors, and coworkers for the 19th annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup set for Saturday, April 28. Volunteers will help collect a year's worth of trash from roadsides on Mount Desert Island and Trenton. As these volunteers above from last year demonstrate, it's a great day to take pride in your community, get outside, protect the environment, and celebrate spring, FOA-style. To register a group, visit www.friendsof-acadia.com or call Paige Steele at 288-3340.

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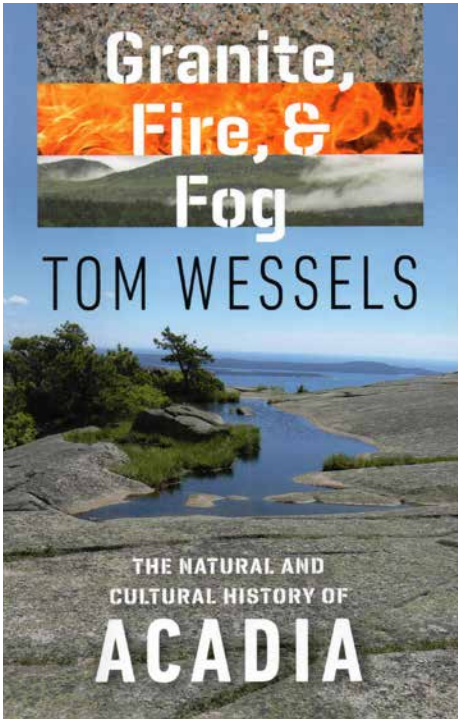
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The Acadia canon added a welcome new book by naturalist and educator Tom Wessels, **Granite, Fire & Fog: The Natural and Cultural History of Acadia**. Not a field guide per se, it is a guide nonetheless – for those who love to walk vicariously in the company of a master interpreter.

To Wessels, Acadia is a cornucopia of delights that engross the five senses. He appreciates as well the human influences that affected the landscape and still do. His writerly objective is to help us engage deeply with the intimate surrounds that distinguish this 50,000-acre reserve from its multimillion-acre western cousins – Yosemite and Yellowstone, for example. Acadia, he notes, comprises “an abundance of small places.” Its squat, rugged mountains juxtaposed to the spacious prairie-like

Atlantic make the area peerless. Though Yosemite’s and Acadia’s granites are similar in both chemical composition and their domed, sheeted configurations, the white bedrocks of the highest-elevation Sierra Nevada – John Muir’s “Range of Light” – support few lichen to tint them. By contrast, Acadia’s frequent fogs deposit nutrients that nourish algal-fungal growth, i.e., lichen, whose patient species undergo succession from crustose forms (dark and flat) to foliose (light and textured), to fruticose (high relief). The book’s color photos well illustrate this and other biotic and abiotic phenomena.

Reading **Granite, Fire & Fog**, I imagined the fun of learning from Wessels in the field. He tells (and shows) instances of: “bark photosynthesis,” in which chlorophyll in birch twigs produces food, as leaves do; damage on Norumbega Mountain from an insect that sucks sap from red pine, denuding and turning them brown; aspen foliage quaking to shed heat; lag times in climate warming, in which effects of noxious gases emitted two decades earlier show up only now; lenticels on paper birch, which allow water to move in one direction only, making the bark perfect for canoe-building; heat-producing capacity of skunk cabbage, which melts snow, enabling it to bloom earlier than most other New England plants; and fire behaviors of pitch- and jack pine, whose northern and southern ranges overlap at Acadia.

The author’s scope includes history and culture, making for a well-rounded text. The book operates as a series of companionable narratives running through geologic time; the advent of Wabanaki summer populations; European exploration (serving Spain, the Portuguese seaman Estavao Gomes sailed the coast in 1525, seventy-nine years ahead of Champlain); white arrival and upheaval (Fernald Point was site of the first New England settlement and the first New World conflict be-

tween the British and French); rusticators; the conservation/preservation impulse of the park’s founders; the 1947 fire’s extensive ecological and social effects; and Wessels’ hope for the future of a recreationally besieged island, particularly in respect to traffic and to the need to introduce young and poor populations to Acadia’s restorative wonders. He dedicates *Granite, Fire & Fog* to Friends of Acadia and its volunteer corps, which address such challenges.

A couple of quibbles. In expository writing, even a few exclamation points are too many, especially when the physical world exclaims itself by being innately spectacular. (Which it is!) Also, some assertions seem a touch enthusiastic, including one that Yellowstone and Yosemite “were the only protected wild lands in the United States” when Sieur de Monts National Monument was being formed. (The Act of 1891 established the federal Forest Reserves, precursor to national forests.) Perhaps it’s a matter of interpretation. These points, however, do not detract from a splendid, eminently readable book.

Granite, Fire & Fog is helpfully indexed and has a glossary. Both are consistent with the author’s pleasing avoidance of deep jargon. A terrestrial ecologist and professor at Antioch University New England, Wessels has aimed well at a general audience, and I will seek his other work, especially **The Granite Landscape: A Natural History of America’s Mountain Domes, From Acadia to Yosemite** and **Reading the Forested Landscape: A Natural History of New England**.

Meanwhile, let **Granite, Fire & Fog** open your eyes and mind anew to the natural and cultural bounty of an American treasure owned – in gratitude – by everyone and no one at the same time. ✱

W. KENT OLSON is a former president of Friends of Acadia.

Updates

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for point-source contamination. Non-point sources of pollution and atmospheric deposition of contaminants were not included in this study.

The final report will help Friends of Acadia, the park, and partners prioritize research, monitoring, and on-the-ground projects to improve the health of the watershed complex.

Former Acadia Supt. passes

John "Jack" Hauptman, who was Superintendent of Acadia National Park from 1987 to 1991 died earlier this month in Gainesville, Florida. It was during Hauptman's tenure that the major restoration of the park's carriage roads was undertaken in partnership with Friends of Acadia.

Both before and after serving in Acadia, Hauptman was Superintendent of Fire Island National Seashore on Long Island.

After retiring from the National Park Service, Hauptman moved to Florida where he was active in the local Rotary Club, his church, and on the board of the Alachua County Land Conservation Board where he served as chairman for 10 years.

Hauptman, who was 82, is survived by his wife Marjorie, three children, and three grandchildren.



His full obituary can be found at: www.legacy.com.



John "Jack" Hauptman

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LIGHTHOUSE PROGRESS



FOA/Earl Brechlin

The original 1891 Blake Bell Company bell on display at the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse.

Acadia National Park is still proceeding with the planned acquisition of the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse property from the U.S. Coast Guard. The actual transfer of the property is still months away, officials said. Acadia officials are still in the process of doing a detailed inspection of the property, which includes the light tower, keeper's house, generator building, radio tower, and associated sheds. Coast Guard officials are still in the process of finalizing the transfer paperwork. Visitors to the property will likely not see any difference from the past. Trails to the rocks where there are scenic vistas of the lighthouse, along with one leading to the station's historic bell, will remain open.



FOA/Earl Brechlin

Acadia officials are still working with the U.S.C.G. to transfer the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse to the park.

Jack Russell, *continued from page 15*

reserved for more than 100 of ANP's "Green and Gray." Before the curtain rose, MC Bill Horner asked the 700 Acadia lovers on the main floor to rise as one, turn, and deliver a standing ovation to those good folks who steward our park every day.

Your board respects the communities surrounding Acadia. By mission, Friends "preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of . . . the distinctive cultural resources of . . . the surrounding communities." We know that Acadia has been conserved for a century from the land, labor, and love of the people of these communities. Celebration of the Acadia Centennial in 2016 affirmed the bond between park and place. More than 450 partners honored their park, each in their distinctive way. I was privileged to witness many signature moments during that year.

The apogee for me was August 27th, when hundreds from our communities gathered on the lawn before Jordan Pond on a perfect late summer morning graced by Wabanaki drumming and Copeland chorals. Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds gave FOA their 2016 Directors Partnership Award. At the perfect moment, 101-year-old David Rockefeller honored us all with a surprise appearance.

Your board thinks decades and generations ahead. The FOA Wild Acadia initiative is now planning Acadian resilience to climate change, watershed by watershed, with scientific discipline that will extend through decades. The FOA Tomorrow's Stewards Initiative works with families, kids, and schools to assure that young peo-

ple discover their park and rise to service as the gift passes to their hands. Want a moment that will last? Witness sixty kids from a hard-scrabble rural Maine grade school step out of their yellow school bus at the Sand Beach parking area and walk down the granite steps to see, hear, smell, and feel the ocean – most for the first time.

I'll indulge another memorable moment from this board achievement. The second half of our centennial tag line was "inspire our future." We did our best to give closure to the centennial year though creation and dedication, on Feb. 3rd 2017, of the Acadia Bicentennial Time Capsule. It contains hundreds of artifacts from the 2016 centennial, a complete digital record of our four-year centennial effort, and thousands of pages from the hands of hundreds of partners. The stainless steel capsule, beautifully encased, with our framed message to the community of 2116, rests at the Bar Harbor Banking & Trust home office, where it will inspire stewards for the next 98 years.

I am grateful for these nine years of good company. When my light flickers and my atoms are poised for new purpose within our park as moss, ferns, and pines, I will embrace the grace conserved as Acadia and salute, at my last, the good people who were stewards of the gift in our time. Onward! ✨

JACK RUSSELL is a political activist, historian, and former co-chair of the Acadia National Park Centennial Committee. He and his wife Sandy Wilcox reside in Mount Desert.



FOA

Jack Russell, right, and fellow FOA Board member Lili Pew, at dawn on January 1, 2016 as they welcome Acadia's Centennial year at Otter Cliffs.

GOAL SETTING IN ACADIA

Greetings, Friends,

What are your personal goals for 2018 related to Acadia National Park?

Is it simply to spend more time in the park? Is there a hiking trail within the nearly 150-mile network you have never experienced and are yearning to explore?

Have you always wanted to bike around the Schoodic Peninsula or visit the Bass Harbor Lighthouse?

Have you heard about the Artist in Residence program and yearn to tap your creative side? Do you want to volunteer to help take care of the carriage roads? Has a friend passed along a copy of this Journal and inspired you to join our membership of more than 5,000 people?

Were you an Acadia Centennial Partner? Are you now interested in joining the business membership program?

Are you dealing with estate planning? Perhaps you are considering joining Friends of Acadia's planned giving program, the George B. Dorr Society, which now totals 80 members strong?

Was skating in the park this winter a goal? It was for me, and I lucked out in January with the extremely rare conditions that made for perfect skating on the Great Meadow and through the birch trees of the Jesup Path. It was an epic recreational experience in Acadia—a skater's paradise with hard ice smooth as glass.

I am frequently asked, what are my goals as Board Chair? I have many thoughts on desired results in the broader scope



FOA

of the FOA mission and supporting the strategic pillars that are the heart of our work. FOA's goals are benefiting from further clarification and fine tuning for an ever-changing landscape as we work on updating a Strategic Plan—one the entire board can take ownership of to help solidify our evolving vision.

With input from the board, FOA staff, and the Acadia National Park management team, we all are striving for a similar success story for today and the future. Prioritizing advocacy efforts and better targeting of communications are a couple of key areas of focus that emerged and must be integrated into our overall program work.

The FOA board is a unique group of

passionate voices with a strong sense of place and pride in Acadia. Articulating and framing all our ideas and inputs into the planning process and then mapping out the way ahead is no easy undertaking, but it is exciting work. I am so proud of the board and our progress to date.

My personal goals for discovery and new learning in Acadia are many. Loving all form of rocks, I want to learn more about the geologic processes and history of the varied features in and around the park, all right beneath our feet. I marvel at the unique types of bedrock, the textures, colors and scales. It varies from mountain to mountain, and shore to shore. What visitor is not fascinated by the glacial erratic boulder on South Bubble Mountain?

It's as if the rocks on Mount Desert speak a secret language, secrets locked in stone that is 500 million years old.

I also have a goal to run the MDI marathon through the hilly, six village course. Another goal is to deepen my relationships with the FOA board and the park staff, particularly those out in the field, on the front lines.

Acadia is a gift of nature that keeps on giving. Why not change it up this season? Try something different. Visit somewhere new in the park. And, whatever it is, do it with enthusiasm, vigor, and a sense of wonder. ✨

With Gratitude,

—Anne B. Green



FOA

Spring returns to the hills of Acadia National Park, including, from left, Champlain Mountain, Huguenot Head, Dorr Mountain, and Cadillac Mountain, as seen over the top of the Shore Path in Bar Harbor.

NPS 'LIFERS' STILL WORKING TO HELP ACADIA

By Paige Steele



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Ed and Kelly Pontbriand with their faithful companions Tyco and Drift, at Schoodic Point with Mount Desert Island in the background.

How did Ed and Kelly Pontbriand become such invaluable volunteers to Acadia National Park? They traveled a long and winding road through the National Park Service that began in Downeast Maine. It all started in their home state at the University of Maine, Machias, where Kelly chose Environmental Studies and Ed focused on Parks and Recreation.

Inspired by a classmate's presentation, Ed spent a summer in Glacier National Park in Montana while Kelly was a ranger in Baxter State Park in Maine. By the time they graduated, Ed signed on as a river ranger at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming with his twin brother, Danny, who recently retired as a chief ranger. When Kelly and Ed married in spring of 1980, they knew the exciting and nomadic life of park rangers was part of the bargain.

Throughout the next decade, the Pontbriand's explored the country through seasonal law enforcement and interpretive positions while working at New England ski areas in winter. In 1981, Kelly and Ed completed 400 hours of law enforcement training, leading them to become forces in the field. Early in Ed's career in Wyoming he wore

no special badges and didn't carry a gun. Still, he caught bank robbers headed for the park.

Moving east in 1983, Kelly and Ed settled in Shenandoah National Park delivering programs and patrolling the back country along the Appalachian Trail. Their next assignment was a year in Philadelphia at Independence Park, their first "front country" experience where they held the pen and ink stand used to sign the Declaration of Independence.

Shedding the city for the desert, the Pontbriand's spent a year at Lake Mead National Recreation Area, and then headed home to Maine and Acadia. During this time, Kelly began training her first search and rescue (SAR) dog because she saw a need in parks. She loved being in the field and helping visitors, but had no interest in "hanging off cliffs and dangling from helicopters like Ed." When Kelly began training her first border collie, Sweep, it was very rare to see SAR dogs in the field.

Kicking off a second decade in the park service they headed to Wind Cave National Park in South Dakota, and then Dinosaur National Monument in Utah, where Kelly

switched her focus to administration to assist Ed's career. Kelly continued to hone her SAR dog handling skills by helping Ed track illegal caches of antlers hidden by elk and big horn sheep poachers.

Kelly's team earned a national reputation as sites recruited them to search in caves, glaciers, canyons, and to patrol forests around a presidential fly fishing trip. Over 30 years, Kelly became a mentor for new SAR dog teams throughout the national parks and trained five dogs: 1) Sweep 2) Trace 3) Dessa 4) Tycho, who just retired last month, and 5) Drift. What makes Kelly's contributions to search and rescue extra amazing is that 100 percent of her time is donated as a volunteer.

The Pontbriand family, which now included their young daughter, continued their adventure in North Cascades National Park in Washington where Ed was the district ranger. In 2002, it was time to make one final move back home to Acadia National Park. Ed retired in 2014, but he remains busy as a volunteer with Acadia Winter Trails Association, MDI SAR, and the Stewardship Trails and Carriage Roads program. At smaller parks, he helped care for trails while on patrol, so he really enjoys trail maintenance. Ed loves Acadia's trail system now and says, "The trails were horrible during my first season in the late eighties. Coming back was like day and night. They were absolutely spectacular. I realized how much of an impact the trails crew and Friends of Acadia had on the park."

As Kelly nears retirement, she looks forward to more volunteer missions with Drift in Acadia and other parks. The Pontbriand's affirm that eastern Maine is their home, their comfort zone. It is the place where they know everyone, know every trail – everything that they love is in one place. We are highly honored to count such passionate caretakers of Acadia and the national park system as our friends. ✨

PAIGE STEELE is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Projects Manager.

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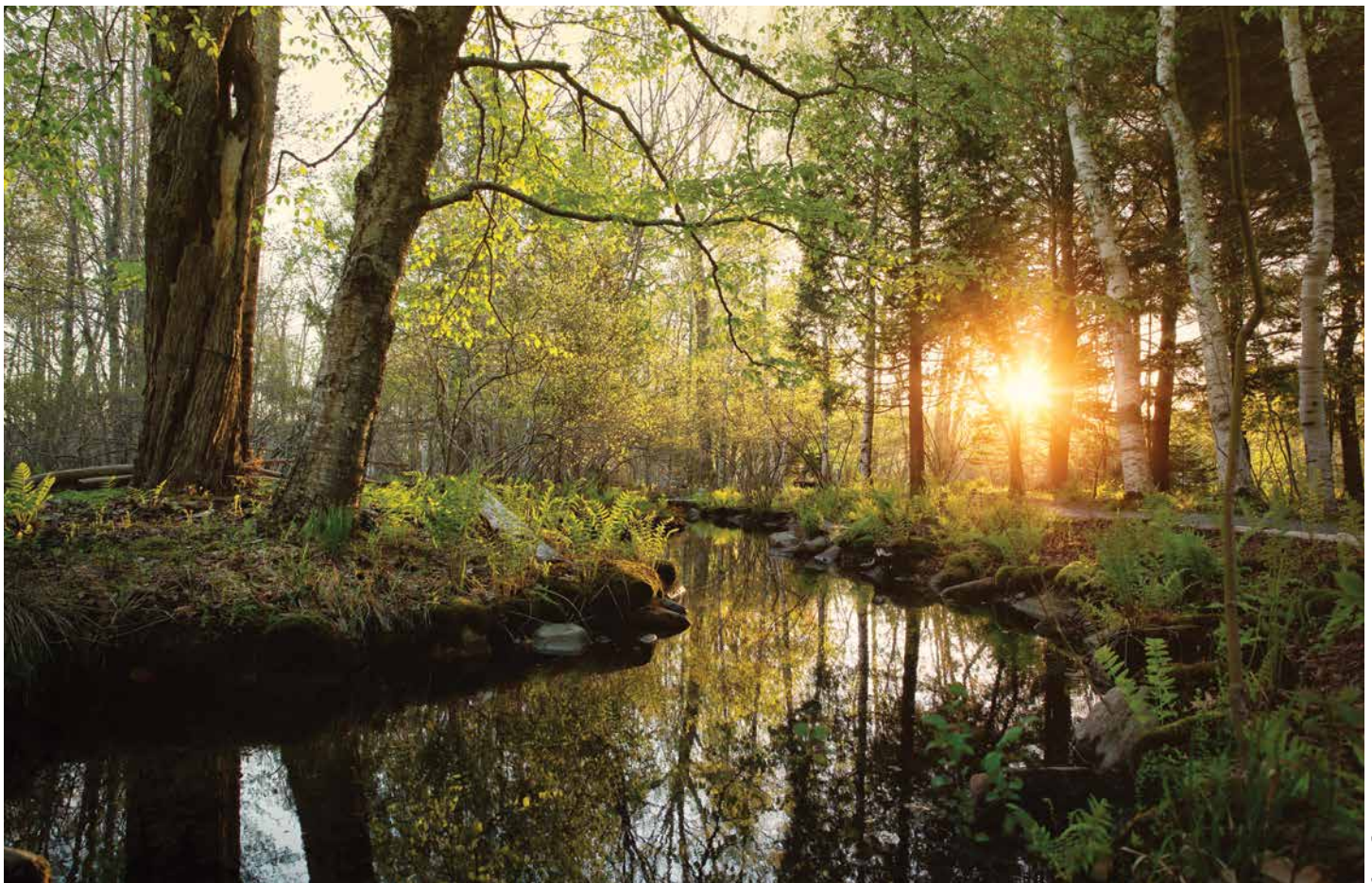
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Susan Garver

Sunrise over still waters at Sieur de Monts Springs in Acadia National Park.

Mission

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