



Friends of ACADIA Journal

Spring 2019
Volume 24 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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

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Corner of Main and Cottage streets, Bar Harbor 288-5103



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SHUTDOWN EFFECTS, LIKE LONG WINTER, MAY LINGER

In recent weeks, a number of friends, neighbors, and Friends of Acadia community members have been thanking me for the role that FOA played during the prolonged government shutdown back in January.

It's gratifying that this organization was able to provide an outlet for those wanting to help during a very stressful time for our colleagues at the National Park Service. But in all honesty, there were many days during the shutdown when I felt totally inadequate as a partner. Indeed, we continued to be "Friends," but it was just not the same without regular interaction with the nearly 100 employees that make up a big part of Acadia.

All of us at FOA felt a sense of relief when Acadia's furloughed staff returned to their jobs, and again when a second shut-down was narrowly averted in February.

Some of the ways that FOA pitched in during the shutdown allowed people to remain connected to their park and turn concerns into action. We posted updates frequently on our website and social media pages and shared stewardship messages, encouraging visitors to follow "Leave No Trace" principles in order to lighten their impact on the park and avoid any added burden for the handful of rangers tasked with running the park during the shutdown.

We networked with banks, restaurants, and business owners, encouraging creative ways to support park families going weeks without paychecks. We communicated regularly with members of Congress, sharing examples of how Acadia was being affected by the shutdown and advocating for an end to the impasse. We organized and supported volunteers willing to groom Acadia's carriage roads for skiing and snowshoeing. We served as a conduit for generous donors wanting to provide extra support for Acadia in a time of need. And, importantly, FOA continued key projects in the park through private contracted personnel. Despite the shutdown, they were able to work on efforts such as the restoration of a forested wetland at Sieur de



FOA

Monts that had been degraded by a former septic system serving the visitor center there; as well as the analysis and planning needed to consider expanded Island Explorer bus service in the future to meet growing demand and potential implementation of the park's proposed new Transportation Plan.

Not only was this recent shutdown the longest in U.S. history, it was also unlike others in that administration officials in Washington required national parks to remain open to the public – even while they remained largely unstaffed. As numerous stories in the national press highlighted, this was not a successful management strategy, as several parks in the south and west suffered overuse and resource damage during the shutdown.

Here at Acadia, we were fortunate that the shutdown occurred at a quiet time of year and visitors who did come were extremely respectful and well-prepared.

Acadia will not, however, be able to avoid the ongoing effects of losing one-tenth of a year of productivity in vital aspects of its operations. That work includes planning, maintenance, research, monitoring, and – of great importance to the coming summer season – hiring of the seasonal park staff (nearly 150 of them) that help maintain the park and the visitor experience for the 3.5 million who come annually to experience Acadia. The calendar simply does not have enough days left to recruit and bring on all

of the interpretive rangers, maintenance workers, lifeguards, and resource management crews, given a federal hiring process that was complex and protracted before the shutdown, and is now further bottle-necked because five valuable weeks were lost at the start of the year.

All of this will likely mean fewer ranger-led field trips to Acadia for Maine's schoolchildren this year and fewer camp-sites available at Blackwoods come spring, as hamstrung crews scramble to get utilities up and running. It also means a smaller exotic plant management team that has served as such an effective deterrent to the impact of invasive species on Acadia's natural communities. Also worrisome is the delay to the federal approval and local on-the-ground implementation of the long-awaited Transportation Plan intended to bring new approaches to managing Acadia's growing visitation and vehicular congestion.

As the days of spring in Maine slowly become longer and brighter, and the sound of Acadia's brooks and streams reach our ears as a thrilling roar long before we can see them, it becomes slightly easier to consider the government shutdown a thing of the past. Friends of Acadia will certainly be doing all that we can to reduce the lingering effects with the benefit of your support for our park. I look forward with optimism to all that summer brings.

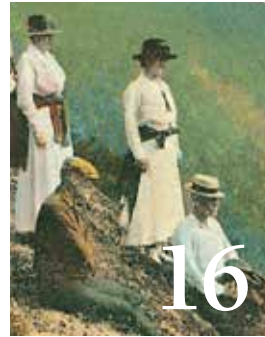
Perhaps just as important, may we all retain a heightened appreciation for the commitment of each Acadia employee to the mission of the Park Service: to preserve and protect this place unimpaired for future generations – a responsibility that goes well beyond simply being "open" for public visitation.

Thanks to each of you who help to make Acadia more resilient to the challenges of this past January and those that lie ahead.

—David MacDonald

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DIGITAL OPTIONS OFFERED TO EXPLORE ACADIA

By Julia Walker Thomas

These days almost everyone has a smartphone with access to the internet, social media, and the world of apps. Here are a few ways the latest technology is being offered to augment your experience in, and understanding of, Acadia National Park via smartphone, tablets or PCs.

Digital Dream Team

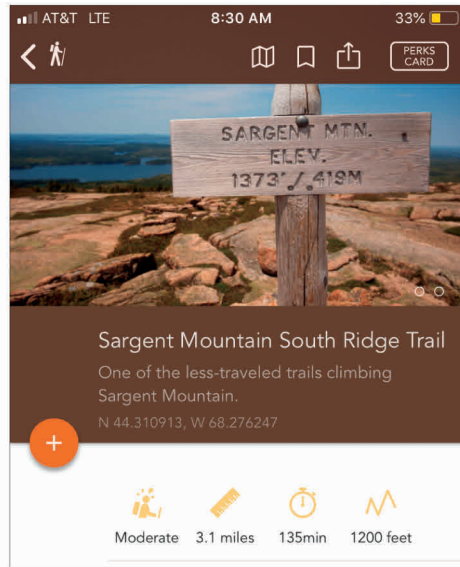
This year the Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) has a new name—Acadia Digital Media Team, or ADMT.

The AYTT program was started in 2011 as a way for high school students to explore how people might use technology to engage with the park and with nature. In 2016 the team took a new approach by focusing solely on producing visual content for the park and for Friends of Acadia. In 2018 the team was comprised of college-age interns and a coordinator who produced high-quality digital content for the park's website and social media channels. This year, FOA and Acadia National Park changed the name of the team to ADMT to better reflect its new role. This summer the team will produce high-quality photos, videos, and other digital content to help visitor experience both in the park and online. The team will work June through August and the results will be accessible via the park and FOA websites and social media channels.

Go On a Quest in Acadia

Acadia National Park's experiential scavenger hunt is celebrating its eleventh year with the Acadia Quest: Pathmakers Edition. The 2019 Acadia Quest will have a digital component!

On June 1, in celebration of National Trails Day, Friends of Acadia will launch the first ever Acadia Quest accessible through its very own mobile app. Participants will be guided on their quest by members of the Acadia National Park Trail Crew who will share their wisdom through a series of videos. The quest features wonderful portraits of



Acadia's trails staff, taken by photographer Dan Grenier while participating in Acadia's Artist-in-Residence program.

"Acadia Pathmakers" will highlight the people of the park and all of their amazing work. The activities this year will be chosen by the featured park staff.

Don't have a smartphone? Don't worry, a paper version will also be available!

Chimani Perks App Features Acadia Guide

Friends of Acadia's members, volunteers and staff have been offered special discounts to get full access to a leading smart-phone

app offering detailed information about all national parks, including Acadia.

Yarmouth, Maine-based Chimani, the makers of a free mobile app guide to all 418 units of the national park system, has partnered with FOA to offer discounts on its top upgraded service "Chimani Perks." That gives users unlimited access to 64 super-detailed national park guides, including Acadia, detailed offline maps, and more than \$2,500 in discounts from national park-related businesses.

New FOA members will receive a special discount code for a free, one-year subscription to Chimani Perks—a \$29 retail value. Volunteers will also be eligible for a free subscription.

Current FOA members will have access to a special discount code for 50 percent off the Chimani Perks upgrade. To obtain the code email chimani@friendsofacadia.org.

And, as part of its corporate philanthropic efforts, 50 percent of the proceeds from all new Chimani Perks subscriptions that are received from web links via area businesses, from FOA's website, or from small download cards distributed at area businesses, will be donated directly to FOA.

Find out more at www.chimani.com. ✨

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is Friends of Acadia's Digital Media Manager.



A member of Friends of Acadia's Digital Media Team takes aerial photos during a flight last summer.

FOA/ADMT

Where in Acadia?

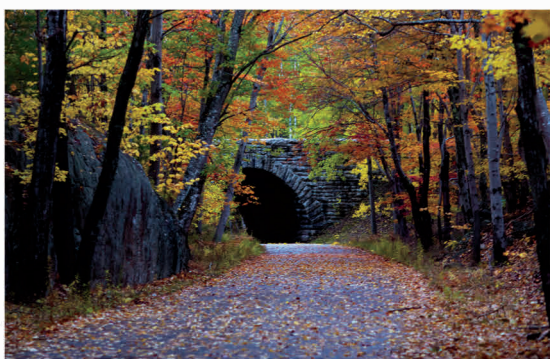


Where in Acadia? This image of an intimidating winter landscape is a study in contrast to how the exact same spot will look in just a few months. In January, few dare visit this place, where the only long-term visitors are snowy owls from the arctic who come south each winter in search of more bountiful hunting grounds.

If you think you can identify this scene, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and feel free to include a personal story or memory about your answer. We'll print our favorite responses in the next issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writers.

Winter 2018 Where in Acadia?

FOAMJULIA WALKER THOMAS



It's on Duck Brook Road along one of my favorite walks in autumn. It is so beautiful that birds want to live under the bridge. I spotted a nest near there in October.

—Karol Foss, Bar Harbor, Maine

Although this picture looks like a long-ago view of the Bubble Pond bridge, I believe it is the bridge under the Park Loop Road on the closed off north end

of Duck Brook Road. This past fall while exploring Duck Brook and looking for the Old Reservoir Tank near it, my wife and I had the pleasure of climbing to the summit of Great Hill and taking in great views of Frenchman Bay and Bar Harbor.

—PC Haynes, Boylston, MA

I think that is Duck Brook Road. I have frequently used this beautiful access to the carriage roads for my bike rides. Our family also used to take Duck Brook Road by car between West Street and Eagle Lake Road for a little more beauty. There is an awesome beaver lodge on Duck Brook. Unfortunately, the collapsed shoulder on the road has not been repaired precluding vehicle use due to a lack of funding.

—David Dowd, Needham, MA

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A Magazine about Acadia National Park
and Surrounding Communities

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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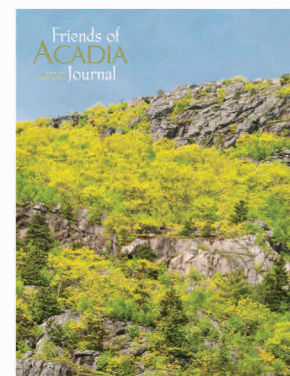
Z Studio

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Penmor Lithographers

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David R. MacDonald



Spring's green fire comes to the east flank of Dorr Mountain in Acadia National Park
Cover photo by Thomas Blagden



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Printed with soy-based ink.

QUILT FROM 'FRIENDS' HONORS SERVICE

By Earl Brechlin

It is often considered something of an understatement to say that one benefit of volunteering regularly in Acadia National Park is making good friends for life. For proof, people need look no further than a special Friends of Acadia memory quilt and pillows made especially for long-time volunteer crew leaders Al and Marilyn Wiberley.

The Wiberleys, who spend summers in Bass Harbor, recently moved into a retirement village in Maryville, TN, after decades of service both in Acadia and in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At a pot-luck dinner among Friends of Acadia's volunteer crew leaders at Julia Schloss's house last fall, discussion turned to ways to honor the Wiberleys' service. "I had recently talked with Al who told me they would not be able to continue to volunteer," fellow volunteer crew leader Mike Hays of Tremont recalls. Wiberley presented Hays with a large bag of FOA volunteer t-shirts and hats the couple had collected over the years and asked they be share among their colleagues. "I told him how sad that made me," Hays adds.

According to Hays, fellow crew leader Jean

Bell, who volunteers along with her husband Don, mentioned how a family member had taken many of the t-shirts she and Don collected from running marathons and had them made into a memory quilt.

"At that dinner we asked ourselves, 'Why don't we do that for Al and Marilyn?'"

Using funds chipped in by fellow volunteers, Hays contacted Blue Hill quilt maker Kathy Burgess. Starting with an Acadia Centennial shirt in the center, she created a quilt with nine panels. Among the specific events it commemorates are Take Pride in Acadia Day, the annual Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, and FOA's Imprecision Drill Team. A note sewn into the quilt dedicates it to the Wiberleys, "From your friends and fellow volunteers with love and appreciation."

In acknowledgement of the Wiberleys' more than two decades of service in the Smokies, volunteer shirts from there were crafted into a pair of pillows.

The entire package was mailed from Maine in time for arrival before Christmas.

"When we opened it, we both said 'Oh my

God,'" explains Al. "It was so touching to get such a thoughtful gift from our friends."

Marilyn agrees. "I was just blown away. It was absolutely wonderful," she says.

The couple's spiritual connection with Acadia remains strong, after more than 35 years of helping care for the park. "In fact, we began working on trails with George Feltus before there even was a Friends of Acadia," Al recalls.

Both Al and Marilyn emphasized the depth of their connections to, and love for the people they worked with in Maine over the years. And, as Hays notes, that affection runs both ways.

"I got a call after Al and Marilyn received and opened their gift," Hays recalls. "They were overwhelmed. As many people predicted, Al was pretty emotional and so was I."

The Wiberleys hope to take a trip to Acadia and see all their friends during a visit this August. ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director



Al and Marilyn Wiberley, above, of Bass Harbor, Maine and Maryville, TN have been among the most stalwart Friends of Acadia Volunteer Crew Leaders. When the couple decided to retire from trail work last fall, they gave a collection of volunteer shirts gathered over nearly 30 years working in Acadia, to their friends. The friends decided to have those items made into a quilt, at left. Several items from the couple's volunteering in Great Smoky Mountains National Park were fashioned into pillows.



30TH ANNUAL BENEFIT PAYS HOMAGE TO PAST

By Shawn Keeley

This past winter Friends of Acadia has been busy planning the 30th Annual Benefit, set for Saturday, Aug. 10 at the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor.

We are incredibly grateful that Lydia Kimball has taken the leadership role of Benefit Chair this year. Lydia helped organize the first Benefit in 1990 and has played a crucial role on the committee ever since. She is supported by a Host Committee (Please see list below) that brings a wonderful mix of Benefit planning experience as well as new ideas to the process.

As we plan a fun and memorable evening celebrating conservation and philanthropy in Acadia, we are also looking back with affection at some of initiatives Benefit donors have helped make possible. In its first 29 years, the Benefit has raised over

\$13.5 million for Acadia. While the majority of the funds raised are unrestricted and support a wide variety of FOA programs in the park, for the past 10 years the Live Auction has culminated in a Paddle Raise for specific projects.

Thanks to all FOA donors and attendees who have raised their paddles in years past to make these initiatives possible. We look forward to sharing details of the 2019 Paddle Raise project in the summer issue of the "FOA Journal" as well as in the Benefit invitation and catalog later this year. For more information about the 30th Annual Benefit or if you would like to contribute an item to the silent or live auctions, contact Shawn Keeley at shawn@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340. ✱

Benefit Chair, Lydia Kimball

Benefit Host Committee

Gail Clark
Malinda Crain
Kate Davis
Donna Eacho
Betsy Mills

Laura Pierce
Maureen Stewart
Lynne Wheat
Anna Woodward

Christie's Auctioneer, Lydia Fenet



Celebrating

10 YEARS

**Friends
of Acadia's**

Annual Benefit Paddle Raise - helping make possible the following projects:



2009

No Child Left Inside Program

2010

Eagle Lake Carriage Road Loop Restoration

2011

2012

Acadia Digital Media Team, formerly Acadia Youth Technology Team

Lower Hadlock Pond Land Acquisition

2013

Acadia Teacher Fellows, formerly Teacher Ranger Teacher Program



2015

Historic Vista Restoration of Carriage Roads

2014

Cadillac Mountain Restoration



2016

Restoration of the Seaside Path connecting Seal Harbor Beach to Jordan Pond House

2017

Restoration of Historic Structures of Acadia including the Jordan Pond and Brown Mountain Gatehouses, Gilley House and Keeper's House on Baker Island

2018

Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse



MONUMENTS MEMORIALIZE ACADIA'S FOUNDERS

The Tragic Death of Waldron Bates

By Don Lenahan

Editor's Note: Over more than a decade Friends of Acadia member and volunteer Don Lenahan compiled detailed information about the plaques and memorial tablets scattered throughout Acadia National Park. Below is an excerpt about Waldron Bates from Lenahan's online compendium, which can be accessed at acadiamemorials.blogspot.com

On the south side of Gorham Mountain, at the intersection of the Gorham Mountain Trail and the Cadillac Cliffs Path, is a bronze plaque attached to a granite wall. It is a memorial to Waldron Bates. Shielded by an overhanging ledge, the plaque was designed by New York sculptor and Bar Harbor summer resident William Ordway Partridge. After being exhibited in Bar Harbor, it was placed there in September 1910.

Bates was born on November 24, 1856 in Boston, Massachusetts. He was the nephew of Charles T. How, an early land donor to Acadia and developer of Bar Harbor. Bates graduated from Harvard in 1879



This bronze plaque honoring "Waldron Bates, Pathfinder" can be found along the trail on Gorham Mountain.

and received his law degree from Boston University in 1882. He never married.

Bates first visited Mount Desert Island about 1880 and joined the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association in 1892, later becoming the organization's Path

Committee chairman and president. In 1896 he established himself as a mapmaker with the publication of the "Map of Mount Desert Island" and the "Path Map of the Eastern Part of Mount Desert Island" with co-cartographers Edward Rand and Herbert Jacques. Bates was also one of the original members of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, the organization founded in 1901 for the purpose of "acquiring, owning and holding lands and other property in Hancock County for free public use." That land later became Acadia National Park.

Bates planned and engineered trails to geologically interesting rock formations and exhilarating sites along rock ledges, wrote instructions about how to construct safe and durable trails, instituted a signage protocol to direct hikers along trail routes and designed a simple cairn to mark the paths and provide directional guidance to hikers. Termed "Bates Cairns" today, they were

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Waldron Bates



Waldron Bates pioneered the use of this distinctive style of cairn to mark hiking trails in what is today Acadia National Park.

FOUNDED BY BRECHLIN

WETLAND RESTORATION FUNDED BY WILD ACADIA

By Earl Brechlin

Despite its overall untouched appearance, many parts of Acadia National Park have been altered by human activity over the past 100 years or so. Cellar holes of abandoned estates that burned in the Great Fire of 1947 remain in the hills surrounding Bar Harbor. Foundations of the radio towers erected by Enrico Fabbri near Otter Cliffs can still be stumbled upon in the woods.

Perhaps as much as any other, the area surrounding Sieur de Monts Spring, which was included in the first parcels of land contributed to the federal government in 1916, has experienced major disruption.

But now, as part of the project to connect

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe.” —John Muir

the comfort stations and facilities there to Bar Harbor’s municipal sewer system, scientists, park managers and landscapers are looking to set things right and return at least a small part of that area to a more natural condition.

Work began last fall, and is slated to be completed this spring, to restore the site of the former mounded septic system to a

forested wetland. The work is being funded by a grant from Friends of Acadia as part of the organization’s Wild Acadia initiative. Wild Acadia includes 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.

According to Wild Acadia Project Coordinator Brian Henkel, the approach to such projects has changed since the septic system was originally installed in the 1980s. “It’s not the right thing to have in that kind of ecological system,” he explains.

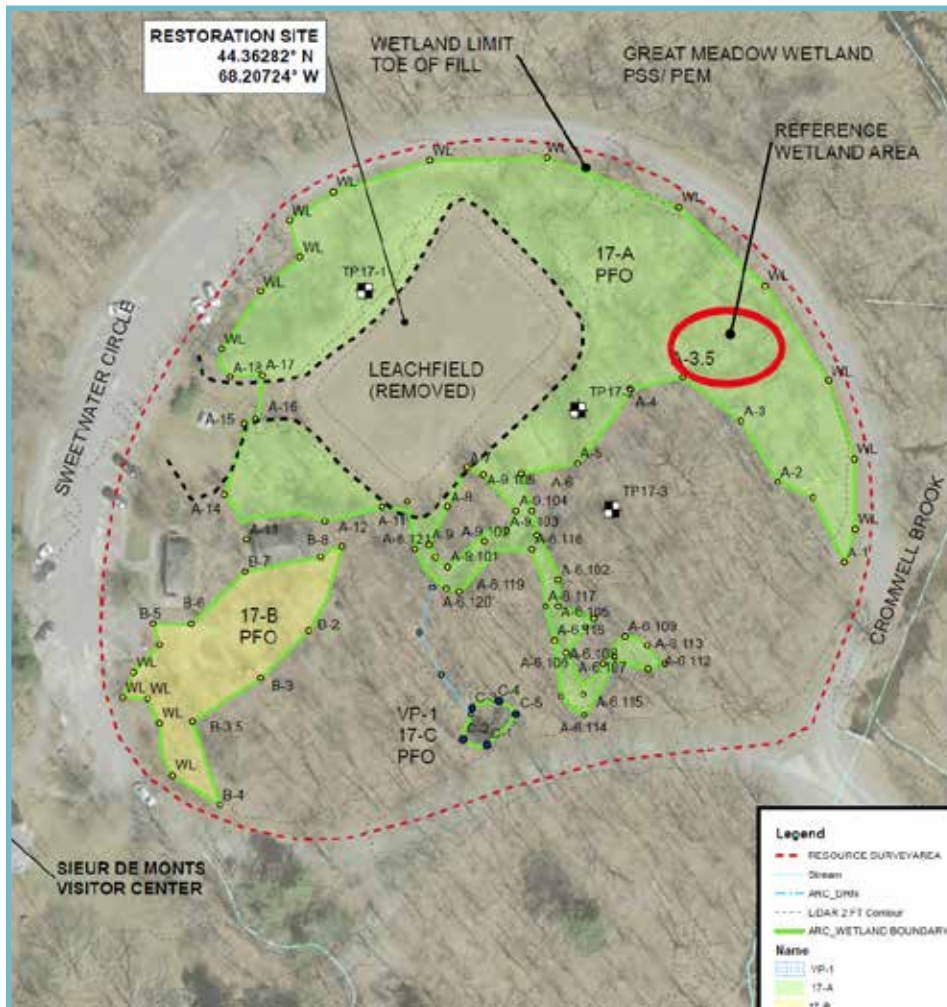
It was built in response to the increased visitation to that area which, in addition to the spring, includes a nature center, the Trailside Abbe Museum, and the Wild Gardens of Acadia. It is also a major point of departure for hikers. “That area is visited by bus, after bus, after bus,” Henkel says.

Park resource managers were tipped off to a problem when algae blooms were detected in the spring pools. Those were caused by increased levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the ground water. The source of those chemicals turned out not to be natural. Tests showed another “marker” substance in the aquifer — caffeine. It does not occur in nature and could only come from leachate from the raised bed septic field.

The solution to abating the pollution was to install equipment to pump all septic waste to Bar Harbor’s treatment plan, nearly a mile away. That \$900,000 project was done in 2015.

FOA’s Wild Acadia initiative next provided \$104,000 for the wetland restoration. Work began on removing several feet of soil and gravel from the old septic field last fall. “All of the mound was removed and taken down to a level of original natural material as near as we can tell,” Henkel explains. Later this spring, crews for Atlantic Landscaping Construction, using plans developed

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COURTESY OF BRIAN HENKEL

The site of a former septic system leach field, shown in gray in the center of the photo, is being restored to a natural ecosystem thanks for Friends of Acadia’s Wild Acadia initiative.

WHEN YOU'RE DOWN, YOU REALIZE PRETTY QUICKLY WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE

The 35-day government shutdown this year proved that for Acadia National Park and our employees. During the shutdown, Friends of Acadia played an essential role for the park and the community. FOA remained in touch on a daily basis with the park's staff who continued to work during the shutdown. With the park being unable to communicate with visitors, or even update our webpage or Facebook page, FOA served as the communications channel for Acadia—reminding visitors to Leave No Trace and providing updates on road closures. Many members of FOA played an important role by reaching out to FOA for ways they could help.

Thankfully, we were able to sign an agreement with FOA that allowed for volunteers to groom the carriage roads for cross-country skiing. Unfortunately, we only had about three days with adequate snow to actually groom them! But the work of the grooming crew was very much appreciated by the community. I saw plenty of other skiers out on the carriage roads with a smile on their face, enjoying the first real snow of the season, even if short lived.

The towns on Mount Desert Island and the neighboring communities came together in a show of support for the entire federal family: namely, the park and U.S. Coast Guard employees affected by the shutdown. Numerous businesses, organizations, and private individuals showed their support for park employees through small acts of generosity. Restaurants offered free lunches, food pantries opened their doors to employees in need, a local service club and banks made low interest loans available, and private individuals donated gift cards that employees could use at the grocery store or gas station.

The outpouring of support from the community was heartwarming for our employees, and I certainly felt extraordinarily grateful to live and work in a place and



FOA /AMTT/ASHLEY CONTI

for an organization that is so valued by its community.

Maine has a great tradition of helping neighbors when they need it and we certainly felt it. During a difficult time, these expressions of generosity helped our folks and the work they do feel valued.

During the shutdown, we had to remain mindful of the ethics rules that apply to all federal employees. This was sort of ironic, given the circumstance of having missed a month of pay, and yet our employees' concern about ethics showed how seriously we take the public trust that goes with our positions.

As I write this, only 10 days after coming back to work, we are continuing to dig out from the shutdown. The 35-day period represents 10 percent of the year. It is impossible not to feel this loss in productivity. For example, we could not collect data from our air quality monitoring station—the longest data gap in its 40-year history. Also, we could not do our regular measurements of ice conditions at Jordan Pond that help us understand changes in water quality, or vital monitoring work for peregrine falcons and bats.

While one might assume the park isn't bustling in January, the truth is our year-round workforce remains extremely busy. Our supervisors are hiring seasonal employees—a process that takes three to four months, assuming everything goes well, due to interviews, reference checks, background investigations, and required processing time. Winter is also the time when we are writing detailed scopes of work to allow for contracting major jobs in the park, that must then be completed, and contracts awarded prior to the end of our fiscal year on September 30.

This year a few of the items on that list include replacing the roof on the Islesford Historical Museum, the Frazer Point dock at Schoodic, and the electric power lines and poles serving the entire Schoodic peninsula. This is also part of a short window of the year when we can do work in environmentally sensitive areas, such as wetlands, as they remain frozen and less susceptible to damage.

Since I was furloughed, Acadia's Chief Ranger, Stuart West, assumed the role of "incident commander" during the shutdown. He coordinated all aspects of the park's operations. A little more than a dozen park staff continued working during the shutdown, including our law enforcement rangers, dispatchers, and a handful of maintenance staff. We owe these folks who continued to work, despite not getting paid on time, a huge thank you. There is no doubt in my mind they made sure that a bad situation didn't become worse.

We are happy to be back at work again, and we sure hope that we don't have to go through this again! If we do, I will take comfort knowing that our "Friends" and communities will be with us again.

—Kevin Schneider

PARK ON ROLL TO CURTAIL ROCK ‘ART’

By Maude Kusserow

Rock and roll has a whole different meaning in Acadia National Park. Illegal rock “art” installations and vandalism to cairns that guide hikers along trails have plagued Acadia for decades. The prevalence and scale with which they are being done in recent years however, holds serious long-term ramifications for the environment in addition to inconveniencing visitors or putting them at risk of being lost or injured.

Charles Jacobi, who last year retired after more than 30 years with the National Park Service, has dedicated much of his career trying to fathom why people tamper with the cairns or feel a need to leave behind their own stacks of rocks. Multiple installations are increasingly being seen on cobblestone beaches and in stream beds as well as along trails. What one visitor may think is creative art, another sees as graffiti and an eyesore.

“It’s a messy business that has been around since I came to the park,” says Jacobi. “About a dozen years into my time here, the park did a historic resource study of the trail system,” he continues. “We learned that years ago on the east side

of the island the hiking trails were marked with a unique style of cairn pioneered by Waldron Bates.” Bates was an early summer resident who helped design and lay out trails for the Village Improvement Association. A large plaque honoring his “Pathfinder” skills can be found along the Gorham Mountain Trail. (See related story on monuments and memorials in Acadia.)

“It’s been an ongoing battle over the past twenty-five years to use the Park’s educational capabilities to teach hikers to leave the rocks right where they are. Leave them until the next glacier comes along and decides to pick them up and move them somewhere else.

—Charlie Jacobi

Bates cairns consist of two base stones spaced a foot or two apart, bridged by a flat lintel, with an elongated “pointer” rock on top.

This particular, some say more-discreet style of cairn, believed to be inspired by trail markers used by the Inuit peoples in the far north, was adopted in Bar Harbor before the park was created. Eventually crews switched to building the conical piles of rocks seen in the White Mountains and elsewhere. “My guess is that the park staff abandoned the Bates cairn to be consistent with the other cairns found around the Northeast,” says Jacobi. “Maybe they were getting a little too abstract with what they considered to be cairn.”

As a result, when Jacobi arrived in 1984, Acadia’s cairns were “a bit of a mish-mash.” The lack of a uniform style and consistency contributed to visitors often building their own cairns, leading to confusion for hikers who may have lacked advanced route-finding skills. If enough people take a wrong turn, and then backtrack, the ground wears down to where it appears to be the correct route.

Illegal cairns also can result in people wandering off-trail, trampling fragile alpine vegetation and other plants. The damage can take years to heal.



Several illegal stacks of rocks were photographed along the South Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park.



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Visitors expressing remorse for having illegally taken rocks from beaches in Acadia sometimes mail them back to the park, or Friends of Acadia, and ask that they be returned. A fun video of a rock release can be found online at www.friendsofacadia.org/rock-release/.

ACADIA'S STOLEN ROCKS ARE SOMETIMES RETURNED



COURTESY OF ANP

In addition to visitors to Acadia National Park damaging cairns on the hiking trails, or leaving behind stacked stone “graffiti,” there have also been other problems involving rocks including outright theft.

Every summer rangers issue several tickets to visitors for Removal of Natural Materials, which can range from vegetation and tide pool life, to rocks from roadsides or cobblestone beaches.

While some instances involve someone taking a smooth, attractive beach stone for a paperweight, others are orders of magnitude larger. Occasionally, rangers discover an entire trunk full of rocks destined for a stone wall or herb garden back home.

With 3.5 million visitors per year, it only takes a small percentage of violators to cause a major headache.

While not a major problem, yet, visitors decorate rocks with paint, and then leave them in the park a practice that can lead to a littering charge.

In some popular tourist destinations, legends of a curse on those who take natural materials appear to help. Hawaii, for instance, shares the story of Pelee’s Curse which holds that taking vegetation, rocks, etc., will bestow bad luck on the thief. At Haleakala National Park in Hawaii visitors return about 100 pieces of lava rock each month. Often, they are accompanied by notes expressing guilt or noting an extended stretch of bad luck.

Acadia gets several packages of rocks each year as well.

And, several times in the past year, Acadia National Park visitors have mailed boxes of rocks to the Friends of Acadia office with notes asking they be returned to nature. In one case, they had been collected over two decades, one at a time.

Under Leave No Trace principles, visitors should leave all natural and cultural materials behind.

A video of Friends of Acadia staff returning rocks taken from the park can be viewed at online at www.friendsofacadia.org/rock-release/.

After the trail study park managers decided to try restoring Bates cairns on a number of trails. “We considered it a pilot project at first, and found there were a number of reasons to keep doing it,” says Jacobi.

When building a Bates cairn, fewer rocks are used, which means less maintenance for park staff and volunteers and less damage to fragile mountain soils that can easily erode or degrade if disturbed when rocks are removed. One challenge is that rather than just piles of any-shaped rocks, Bates cairns require specific sizes.

With the help of Friends of Acadia Ridge-Runners and volunteers, over the course of 15 years, the park transitioned all of its cairns to the Bates design.

Although this provides consistency, it continues to be a challenge to keep visitors from destroying them. People frequently add to and subtract from the

cairns, vandalize them, and sometimes kick them over entirely. There is also the issue of illegal duplicate cairns leading hikers astray. “In the wintertime if you follow a cairn the wrong way, it can be very dangerous,” says Jacobi.

“It’s been an ongoing battle over the past 25 years to use the park’s educational capabilities to teach hikers to leave the rocks right where they are. Leave them until the next glacier comes along and decides to pick them up and move them somewhere else. It’s very tempting to want to move the rocks around and build things, I understand that. I think this is the hardest of the seven ‘Leave No Trace’ principles for people to understand because it requires a high degree of restraint.”

Approximately five years ago, Jacobi got approval to put out 35 signs to educate visitors about cairn etiquette. “We put

those signs up on the approaches to most of the mountaintops. I think they’re relatively unobtrusive. How effective are they? It’s hard to know. But I know that if they weren’t there, there would be a lot more maintenance of cairns that would need to be done.”

The signs can be seen at tree line on most trails and in some cases near summits. On trails such as The Beehive and at Great Head, where most of the damage is experienced, signs have helped. “When we were putting the signs up, we also built new cairns and documented how they held up. We realized pretty quickly that the cairns without accompanying signs were ten times more likely to be destroyed,” says Jacobi.

Friends of Acadia’s Summit Stewards help out rebuilding cairns and removing illegal ones for eight weeks each summer.

continued on page 12



Pictured above are, from left, Ed Samek, member of the FOA advocacy committee, FOA President David MacDonald, FOA Board Chair Anne Green, Senator King, and FOA Advocacy Committee Chair Hannah Clark.

CAPITOL HILL VISIT... Friends of Acadia representatives spent time on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C., earlier this month calling at the offices of members of Maine's Congressional Delegation, including Senator Angus King, second from right. Earlier that week, President Donald Trump signed the *John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation and Management and Recreation Act*, which included the affirmation of the addition of the Schoodic Woods Campground and Trails, along with hundreds of acres of land on Schoodic Peninsula, to Acadia National Park, language allowing the traditional harvesting of clams and worms on the park's intertidal flats, and the permanent reauthorization of the Acadia Advisory Commission. Pictured are, from left, Ed Samek, member of the FOA advocacy committee, FOA President David MacDonald, FOA Board Chair Anne Green, Senator King, and FOA Advocacy Committee Chair Hannah Clark.

Rocks, *continued from page 11*

Last summer they repaired 840 cairns during their hikes and dismantled 997 visitor-built cairns and rock-art installations. They also take time to speak with visitors about resources issues and Leave No Trace principles.

A special volunteer program called Waldron's Warriors, involving mostly area residents, swings into action each spring and fall to help rebuild and maintain the distinctive cairns. "I'd like to be more optimistic about it," says Jacobi, "It would be nice to know that you can build a cairn and have it be there for 50 years, but it's life cycle is much shorter than that.

"We're holding our own at this point by keeping them up year to year and maybe that's the best we're going to do."

Jacobi says people are divided on whether or not the cairn regulations restrict their ability to enjoy and be creative in nature, and those who understand that by destroying a cairn, they are vandalizing a part of Acadia's natural and cultural environment. "Ultimately, it's an aesthetic issue, a resource issue, and a safety issue on the mountaintops. Leave what you find and leave the park just the way you found it. If visitors follow those principles, everything will run a lot more smoothly." ❄️

Wetland Restoration, *continued from page 8*

by wetland scientist Roger St.Amand of Atlantic Resources Company, will bring in new soil mixed to mimic that of the forested wetlands nearby. Acadia maintenance crews are also assisting.

The one-quarter-acre site will then be graded and seeded with indigenous species. Shrubs and trees will be planted. Planners considered the changing climate of Acadia in selecting which species to plant. While plants expected to make inroads under a warming climate were not included in anticipation of changing conditions, neither were varieties scientists expect will have a harder time surviving. Tree species selected include red maple, gray birch, yellow birch, oak, white pine, and balsam fir.

As a follow-up, exotic plant removal crews from the park will make periodic checks to make sure non-native species don't gain a toehold in the area.

According to Henkel, research conducted as part of the project showed that over the years Sieur de Monts was privately owned, and numerous alterations had been made. An intermittent stream in the area had been rechanneled, and ditches dug to drain the nearby Great Meadow marsh which, 100 years ago, was viewed as worthless swamp land. "The CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] also did a lot of work in that area," Henkel adds.

Nearby Cromwell Harbor Brook, downstream from the Great Meadow, appears to have been deliberately rerouted in the past as well.

As researchers continue to monitor and study the Great Meadow/Cromwell Harbor Brook area, future projects will examine ways to potentially return the ecosystem to its "desired condition."

One of the next steps may include a new culvert or bridge under the Park Loop Road to ease the flooding experienced at Sieur de Monts during the winter of 2018. Future work, of course, would involve the entire watershed so that any alterations do not create larger problems downstream. Toward that end, Henkel, park managers, and officials from the town of Bar Harbor and Kebo Valley Golf Course are staying in touch.

"We are looking forward to having continued conversations with the greater community," Henkel says. ❄️



An excavating crew from Atlantic Landscaping Construction works to transform a former septic field at Sieur de Monts Springs into a forested wetland.

LYDIA KIMBALL

By Shawn Keeley

Reflecting on all of the volunteers who have made the Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit a success, few figure as prominently in its history, evolution, and current operations as Lydia Kimball. So, it is no surprise that Lydia has stepped up to chair the 30th Annual Benefit.

In 2016, when I mentioned to Lydia that the Benefit's Paddle Raise would be dedicated to raising money to restore the historic Seaside Path connecting Seal Harbor to Jordan Pond, her eyes lit up. She told me that some of her fondest childhood memories were of walking that trail.

Honoring Lydia in this issue of the Journal turned out to be the perfect opportunity to pick her brain about her history with Acadia and her work with FOA.

Lydia's mother grew up spending summers on Mount Desert Island and brought Lydia here when she was only seven months old. Those early years growing up were spent exploring Seal Harbor Beach, walking the Seaside Path, and enjoying tea and popovers at the old Jordan Pond House. They nurtured a life-long bond with Acadia.

As she grew up, hiking the mountains of Acadia became one of her favorite ways to enjoy the park. These days she loves spending as much time as possible on the water exploring the islands in and around MDI. You may also find her walking the carriage roads or exploring the roads by carriage.

"Mr. Rockefeller originally designed the roads so the views would be seen from the height of a carriage, and I love seeing the vistas in the way he originally intended," she shares.

Lydia's first involvement with FOA came in 1989 when the organization was merely three years old. A friend of Lydia's who chaired the first Annual Benefit asked for her help finding someone to conduct the auction. Lydia was early in her career at Christie's at the time and managed to recruit a professional auctioneer for the event. Fortunately, that auctioneer's



Lydia Kimball of Northeast Harbor is the Chair of this year's 30th Anniversary Friends of Acadia Benefit. She has been involved with the event since 1989.

father was one of the founders of the MDI Biological Laboratory, so he had his own sense of commitment to the park.

In the early years, Lydia didn't have as much time to volunteer in the planning process but always played a key role in the live auction. Particularly memorable was 1994. Lydia stood on the stage of the Neighborhood House serving as a spotter as John Hays conducted the auction. She was pregnant with her twin sons Andrew and William at the time, and the audience thought she was about to go into labor. "I knew it seemed like the sale went fast—little did I know people were paying anything to get me off the stage," she recalls.

When the Benefit shifted to the Asticou Inn her involvement increased as her husband Dan was on the Asticou's board. She was the perfect liaison between the committee and the Inn. Since then, not only has Lydia been a key Benefit volunteer, but she has joined FOA's Development Committee and is always ready to help in any way.

"The Park is arguably the heart of the island, and anything that can be done to help preserve the legacy is so important to the entire MDI community," Lydia says.

Friends of Acadia's role in helping protect that "heart" has always been important to

Lydia. "I value the organization's perseverance. Over the years, no matter the political climate in Washington or in the State of Maine, no matter adverse circumstances such as a prolonged Park closure, and no matter changes taking place within the organization itself, the staff of FOA has been able to stick to the original mission of preserve and protect," she explains.

"I also value the new friends I've made through volunteering, and the enhancement of old friendships. Volunteering with friends adds a new, different dimension to relationships, which is something I truly appreciate."

When thinking of recruiting those who might like to volunteer for FOA, Lydia encourages people to get involved where they have passion—whether it's Take Pride in Acadia Day, the Wild Gardens of Acadia, the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup or the Annual Benefit—but not worry about immediately making a mark. She served 30 years as a Benefit Committee member before circumstances allowed her to take on the responsibilities as Chair. The only requirement, she likes to remind people, is "a love of the Park."

FOA Board Chair Anne Green said it has been an honor and a pleasure to work with Lydia over the years. "Lydia is a cherished friend with admirable enthusiasm for all things FOA and Acadia," Green says. "She has seen the Benefit successfully grow from its inception to chairing this year's event. The best part was, I did not even ask her to chair the 30th, she volunteered!"

Lydia's support of MDI organizations extends beyond FOA. She serves as President of the Harbor Club in Seal Harbor and is on the board of the Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor. Thank you, Lydia, for all you do for Friends of Acadia and this community. ❁

SHAWN KEELEY is Senior Development Officer for Friends of Acadia

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Monuments, *continued from page 7*

easy to build and required few stones, thus lessening soil damage and erosion. Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell said of him, "To him, more than any other, is owing the great system of some one hundred and fifty miles of paths, which are so complete as to make difficult at present any additions of value." Prominent among them are the Cadillac Cliffs, Canon Brook, Giant Slide and Gorham Mountain trails.

On Tuesday, February 9, 1909, while en route from Boston to Aiken, South Carolina, on the Southern Railroad, Bates disembarked briefly at the railway station in Monroe, Virginia. Trying to reenter the train, as it pulled away from the station, he slipped and fell under the wheels and was killed.

News of the tragic death prompted the Bar Harbor community to establish additional memorials.

The Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association changed the name of the Chasm Path on the north side of Sargent Mountain to the Waldron Bates Memorial Path. Upon its completion in 1910, the Waldron Bates Memorial Path became the first of Acadia National Park's famed memorial paths. The path is no longer maintained by the Park and is mostly untraceable.

The Kebo Valley Club, of which Bates had been a director and a designer of its golf course, installed a bronze plaque on a granite boulder at the 18th green.

The existence of another Bates memorial plaque was reported in an intriguing article written by a former curator of the Bar Harbor Historical Society in 1981. The author wrote, "The Bar Harbor Association also paid tribute to Bates by putting another tablet on a large



Pathfinder Waldron Bates was among a group of early hiking enthusiasts that published a map of the trails on Mount Desert Island's eastern side.

slab of granite overhanging the Chasm Brook Trail on Sargent Mountain and renaming it the Bates Memorial Trail." Despite the efforts of individuals to locate and research this plaque, no corroborating evidence of its existence has ever surfaced.

Given Bates's many contributions to the magnificent trails system that we enjoy so much today, perhaps the reader will pause for a silent moment while hiking on the Gorham Mountain Trail or the Cadillac Cliffs Path to remember Waldron Bates, Pathmaker. ✱

A complete set of Don Lenahan's blog posts on the Memorials of Acadia is available online as an Apple E-Book.

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MODERN HIKERS FOLLOW CLARA BARNES MARTIN'S FOOTSTEPS

By Lynn Fantom



FOA FILE

After a comfortable night at the top of Cadillac Mountain, in what is today Acadia National Park, the young woman, likely in her late twenties, was up at 4 a.m. to see the sunrise. But instead of the golden hues of rays of the rising sun, she gazed out into a wall of grey. Rain began to fall.

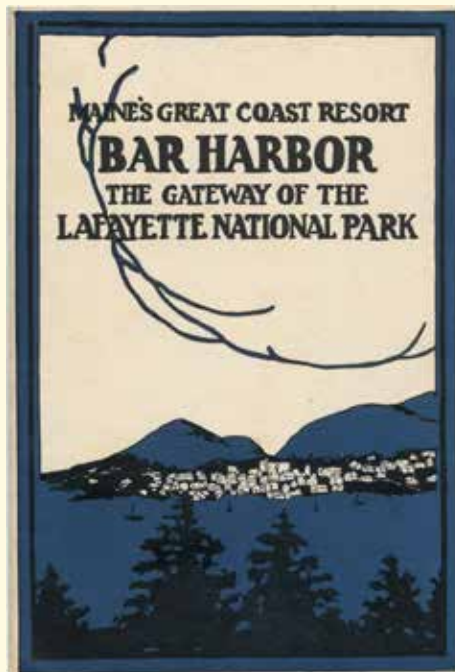
Nervous about a big storm, she and a companion decided to leave right away and walk back to Bar Harbor. The expedition wasn't a total bust, though, because the shower stopped and the scolding chirps of red squirrels and sweet bird songs "went to one's very heart."

The summit Clara Barnes Martin climbed in 1866 was, of course, then called Green Mountain, not Cadillac. And the rustic hotel where she slept, along with the ability to spend the night on the summit, are things of the past.

What hasn't changed, though, is the enthusiasm about "the only neighborhood of mountain and sea on all our Atlantic coast."

Portland-bred Martin encapsulated her

zeal in a series of articles, then a book titled "Mount Desert on the Coast of Maine." It was the first travel guide for the



FOA FILE

An early tourist guide, published before Lafayette National Park was renamed Acadia in 1929.

island, published in six editions between 1867 and 1885.

It offers a view of the time between the mid-century visits of Hudson River School artists such as Thomas Cole and Frederic Edwin Church, which built awareness of Mount Desert Island, and the formation of the village improvement associations, which took on the responsibilities of building, maintaining, and mapping trails. As Catherine Schmitt says in "Historic Acadia National Park," the island at this time "was still for adventurers primarily in search of natural scenery and wonder."

Visitors "tramped" along dry stream beds, "scrambled" through "impenetrable" forests, climbed "rough paths" to mountain tops, and went "rocking" along the coastline. As Samuel Adams Drake said in his own guidebook almost a decade after Martin first visited, navigation became "practicable" with "a well-adjusted pocket compass and stout staff."

Martin, who contributed to the literary columns of the New York Post and "The



Before it was protected land, the top of Cadillac Mountain sported a hotel, left, called the Green Mountain House, and, at right, a cog railway that carried passengers from Eagle Lake to the summit.

“WHEN WE TRY TO PICK OUT ANYTHING BY ITSELF, WE FIND IT HITCHED TO EVERYTHING ELSE IN THE UNIVERSE.”

—JOHN MUIR

Nation,” boldly explored the island and encouraged her readers to follow suit. She eschewed taking the carriage road the road up Cadillac; after all, it was only four miles and “good walkers call it less.”

To descend Cadillac either through The Gorge, the ravine that separates it from Dorr, or along the south ridge, she noted with spunk “...there are fine opportunities for being lost on either walk,” adding that “no one need be lost at Mount Desert anywhere for more than an hour or two.”

For many walks, “one must have not only stout boots but well-trained feet.”

Martin’s “first” was all the more impressive because she was scrambling and rocking in the era of corsets and bustles. To go out without gloves was seen as vulgar. Yet, women had an open invitation to the outdoors. The Appalachian Mountain Club, founded in Boston in 1876, extended membership to women at its second meeting.

Women’s walking boots featuring commonsense heels and lace-ups with metal eyelets (patented in the 1890s).

“Bugs, weather, trail conditions, what to eat—that really didn’t seem to bother them, says AMC archivist, Becky Fullerton. “What did was: Will my skirt get torn?” After a walk, women needed to be presentable to enter a hotel or railroad car.

So, they helped each other out. In 1889, Mrs. Lucia Pychowska offered tips in the AMC’s journal: boots slightly longer than the ordinary shoe, woolen stockings, gray flannel trousers secured below the knee, and two skirts with a strong clasp pin to fasten up the outer one (“washwoman fashion”) “in case of a climb of unusual steepness or a rapid transit through hobble bush.”

Although Martin was an adventurer, it was likely her subtlety that inspired readers to pick up her guidebook “at home in wintry days,” which was her goal. She reminded them of the warm tint to the rocks, the lone trumpet of the loon, the pebbly beach on the north side of Bar Island.

First and foremost, though, hers was “a very practical guide,” says Tim Garrity, Executive Director of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society. The guide offered advice on excursions from different villages and must-see spots on a short trip. “The island was moving to a tourist economy,” notes Garrity.

Visitors depended on residents for more than housing and food. They were transported in horse-drawn buckboards.

continued on page 18



TIMMONS' HIKING STICKS PART OF ACADIA'S HIKING LEGACY

By Earl Brechlin



Today, lightweight aluminum trekking poles are popular balance aid for hikers. But many still believe that nothing surpasses a good old-fashioned hiking stick.

For many years hiking sticks crafted by hand by Friends of Acadia volunteer crew leader and avid hiker Russell "Mel" Timmons were considered the epitome of hiking accoutrement on the trails of Acadia National Park. Timmons, who also helped develop a special rock carrying cradle for park trail crews, was an avid

woodworker. The sticks were given as gifts to top FOA donors and volunteers.

Using dead and down wood he found in the vicinity of Ship's Harbor, Timmons would remove any bark, sand the stick smooth, and then engrave words and images with woodburning tools. A leather lace fastened through a grommeted hole in the stick completed each individual work of folk art.

Owners marvel at the how little the sturdy hiking sticks weigh and how easily they fit the hand.

A man who sought true balance, both on and off the trail, Timmons also helped out in the shoulder seasons crafting trail and summit signs.

In 2015 Mel and his wife Rita, who divided their time between homes in Parkville, MD, and Bass Harbor, received FOA's Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award for their devotion to the organization and Acadia. Rita passed away in 2017. Mel passed away this past January. ✱

Footsteps, *continued from page 17*

Sometimes rowboats carried them across lakes or ponds to access a mountain more easily. Says Martin, they enjoyed "gypsy teas."

"Mt. Desert in 1873, Portrayed in Crayon and Quill," an illustrated monography by J.M. Osgood and

Company, presented a verse lampoon of summer life at Bar Harbor, in which fishermen had become monied landlords and clamoring boarders passed chowder round. Two bachelors, fleeing Boston's heat, explored Newport (Champlain)

Mountain, Schooner Head, the Ovens, Duck Brook (all on Martin's itinerary). But the protagonist, Reginald, more interested in flirting than scrambles, "found foreign boots were bad for rocky walking."

Even more than a century ago, people were worried about what additional publicity and the insults of more visitors on the environment meant for Mount Desert Island. Martin herself began to worry about tourism. In 1874, she inveighed against the "selfishness" of visitors who robbed anemones, moss, and ferns.

Still, the allure of MDI and the lands, lakes, and shores that are now Acadia National Park has hardly changed in the nearly 150 years since Martin wrote her guide. After all, as she said back then, "every step is interesting." And still is today. ✱

Lynn Fantom, freelance writer, and Chair Emerita of the advertising agency ID Media in Manhattan, is a resident of Somesville.



Tourists rocking from "Mt. Desert in 1873, Portrayed in Crayon and Quill."

IN NOMINEE

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CATHERINE AND JOHN SALVATO

It Started With The Honeymoon

By Lisa Horsch Clark

Can you imagine driving to Bar Harbor for your honeymoon without reservations? In the height of fall foliage season no less?

That is exactly what Catherine and John Salvato did in October of 1986 after a friend at work recommended picturesque Mount Desert Island and beautiful Acadia National Park as the perfect destination. They loved it so much they have been back every year since—33 years in all! Some years it is just the two of them but other times they bring their children and grandchildren.

They come to relax. They hike. They explore and, in the earlier years, they climbed mountains and I mean all the mountains.

When John turned 70, he celebrated with a climb up the ladder rungs of the Precipice. When he turned 75, he climbed the equally-steep Beehive. They are flatlanders now but still love exploring the park and local communities.

Over the years, the couple has gotten to know the island and park well. On an early trip, they celebrated the end of their day in the park at a popular restaurant. While they waited for their table, they mentioned to the host that they really enjoyed a new hiking guide they picked up but had one complaint.

The author, they said, had made a mistake in one of the trail descriptions in “A Walk in the Park.” Little did they know the person waiting to seat them was the author, Tom St. Germain. Indeed, the Salvatos had found an error and in the next edition, Tom made the correction and thanked his “Delaware Friends.”

When you talk with the Salvatos, you can feel their love of this place. It is that love that drives them to support Friends of Acadia and our mission to preserve and protect the park.

They first joined Friends of Acadia in 2001 and made many annual membership gifts to FOA. In 2002, they stopped by the



COURTESY OF SALVATO FAMILY

Alex and Landon Salvato enjoy climbing the mountains of Acadia National Park with their grandparents, Kate and John Salvato.

FOA offices and spoke the development staff about including FOA in their will. In 2015, they joined the Trailblazers, the monthly giving society at FOA. They have supported our operational needs, made tribute gifts, responded to challenges, supported special projects in the park, and much more.

I recently asked Kate what continues to motivate their giving to Friends of Acadia. She said they do it because they want to preserve Acadia for their children and grandchildren, and even those people who haven't visited the park yet—a true gift for future generations.

And that tradition of love for Acadia will endure. They have definitely passed it on to the next generation in their family. When they asked their grandson what he wanted for his high school graduation present this year, he said, “A trip to Acadia!” ✨

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Director of Development for Friends of Acadia.



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PROGRESS BEING MADE IN WASHINGTON D.C.

By Stephanie Clement

Friends of Acadia (FOA) is a non-partisan organization working to advance the interests of Acadia National Park and its visitors before federal, state, and local decision-makers.

As part of our recent strategic planning process, FOA placed increased emphasis on advocacy and communications as important means for inviting our members and the public to learn about issues in Acadia and get involved. Over the next few months, we will work to step up research and materials documenting how issues such as lagging federal appropriations, climate change, and air pollution affect Acadia. We'll also look to increase our outreach to members who live in Congressional districts or the states of important decision-makers in hopes of encouraging support for Acadia and all national parks.

The political landscape in Washington changed after the mid-term elections last November with Democrats winning control of the House of Representatives but losing seats in the Senate. Senator Angus King advanced to become Ranking Member of the Senate Subcommittee on National Parks, which has jurisdiction over policy and legislation that affect national parks—topics such as fees, boundary adjustments, or commercial use.

Congresswoman Chellie Pingree remains well-positioned on the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, and Senator Susan Collins remains Chair of the Senate Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee, which will be important as Acadia prepares to implement its transportation plan.

Representative Jared Golden's initial committee assignments may not be strategically important to Acadia, but his office has already been in touch with FOA about national park issues of interest.

In late February, Congress passed important legislation affecting Acadia.

Senate leadership combined many public lands bills that had passed through committee in the 115th Congress, but never made it to the floor, into S. 47, the Natural Resources Management Act. Among the many provisions of the combined legislation were the Acadia National Park Boundary Clarification Act, the Every Kid Outdoors Act, and permanent reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). The bill was brought directly to the floor of the Senate and passed with an overwhelming majority (92-8). It then proceeded to the House where it passed by a similarly large margin (363-62).

Friends of Acadia is grateful for the team that makes our advocacy initiatives work.

Passage of the Natural Resources Management Act was important to Acadia for several reasons. The section pertaining directly to Acadia was valuable because it affirmed the addition of the Schoodic Woods campground, land, and trails to the park. It also established that traditional harvesting of clams and worms is allowed within Acadia's intertidal zone, and it permanently reauthorized the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, the advisory group comprised of citizen representatives from towns bordering the park. Reauthorization of LWCF was also critically important to Acadia because it is a valuable funding source used by the National Park Service to acquire the remaining privately held lands inside Acadia's boundaries as they are offered by willing sellers. And the Every Kid Outdoors portion of S. 47 was valuable because it made available free entrance passes to national parks and public lands to all 4th grade students and their families. Acadia is a natural laboratory for creating

the next generation of park advocates.

Friends of Acadia was thrilled to see the Natural Resources Management Act pass Congress with such extensive support.

We are also pleased that there appears to be momentum toward passing legislation to direct funding to the backlog of deferred maintenance projects in national parks and other public lands. Despite receiving extensive bipartisan support in the 115th Congress, the Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act was not enacted. This bill (H.R. 1225) has been reintroduced by Rep. Rob Bishop (R-UT-1) and more than 100 co-sponsors, including Rep. Chellie Pingree. A similar Senate version may be brought directly to the Senate floor. Senator Angus King was one of the lead players in shaping and introducing this important legislation. National coalitions in which Friends of Acadia participates are also working to ensure that the infrastructure needs of national parks are included in any broader initiatives to rehabilitate or reconstruct the nation's roads, bridges, and ports.

Friends of Acadia is grateful for the team that makes our advocacy initiatives work. We value the Acadia National Park staff who provide detailed statistics and thorough answers to our questions about park budgets, park facilities, contracting processes, and more. We greatly appreciate the responsiveness of the staff of the Maine Congressional delegation who make themselves available by phone or e-mail on topics such as the effects of the partial government shut-down and the deferred maintenance backlog. And most importantly, we thank you, our members, who give of their time and resources to ensure that national parks are prominent at federal, state, and local discussions. ✨

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's conservation director.



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Philanthropic Leadership



Friends of Acadia's George B. Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 and has grown to more than 80 member families.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate or some other deferred gift vehicle, or would like information about becoming a member of the Society, as part of FOA's Planned Giving Program, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

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GENEROUS BUSINESSES SHARE PROCEEDS

Community-minded businesses frequently donate a portion of sales proceeds to Friends of Acadia from a variety of products and services. Shoppers appreciate knowing that their purchase will benefit a worthy cause, and as a result, the business may see an increase in sales. In many cases the business can provide greater support to Friends of Acadia from the proceeds program than it would otherwise be able to give.

Earlier this year, Friends of Acadia received a substantial gift from the Acadia Corporation, representing its “2% for the Park” program. Since spring 2016, the company has contributed to Friends of Acadia 2 percent of all gross sales at one of its newest stores, Acadia Park Company on Main Street in Bar Harbor.



“Acadia Park Company was conceived to highlight all the natural elements of Acadia that make it such a special place,” said Acadia Corporation CEO David Woodside. “When we were no longer operating in the park, we sought to design a shop in downtown Bar Harbor with the space and character that would stimulate visitors to visit the park in an environmentally responsible fashion.”

“In keeping with this approach, giving 2 percent of our gross sales to Friends of Acadia was a natural extension of this effort to give a portion of the proceeds back to the park.”

Two businesses relatively new to Friends of Acadia also have recently begun contributing proceeds or donations-per-guest.

Chimani, a Maine-based company, produces app guides to national parks in the U.S. and Canada. Its Chimani Perks program offers annual or lifetime subscriptions giving unlimited access to 64 apps. In a new agreement with Friends of Acadia, the company will give a free one-year subscription to new members and volunteers and a half-price one-year subscription to



COURTESY OF VBT

A visitor on a Vermont Biking Tours excursion enjoys a section of carriage road near Eagle Lake in Acadia National Park.

existing members. In addition, for each new subscriber who uses the Friends of Acadia coupon code, the company will donate 50 percent of the proceeds to Friends of Acadia.



Look for further information on the FOA website, in the E-News, and on Facebook, or please feel free to contact chimani@friendsofacadia.org for a coupon code.

In another variation, VBT (Vermont Biking Tours) and Country Walkers, which brings an average of 370 guests to Acadia each year, has contributed a generous gift based on the number of clients taking Acadia tours in 2018. The company will continue the program this year. “We are always looking for opportunities to give back to the places where



we travel by supporting local initiatives and organizations that our guests experience on tour,” said Country Walkers product director Joe Flynn. “When we discovered Friends of

Acadia, we felt it was an excellent way to help preserve the natural beauty of Acadia as well as maintain its quality trails and carriage roads—paths that our guests both love and rely on.”

Other examples of businesses that have donated proceeds from sales are Atlantic Brewing, Fiore Artisan Olive Oils & Vinegars, Cadillac Mountain Sports, Custom Ink, the Gallery at Somes Sound, Camden artist Donald Rainville, and the online company Picaboo through Greeting Cards for a Cause.

Photographer Bob Thayer has donated proceeds from the sales of his annual calendar and has given copies of his Acadia wall calendar for Friends of Acadia to use in whatever way they are most helpful. Friends of Acadia mailed the calendars as thank-you gifts to donors who contributed to the Giving Tuesday campaign last November.

Friends of Acadia is grateful to the business community for all its support, in every form. Whether the gifts come as business memberships, sponsorships, sales proceeds, grants, use of meeting spaces, or nonprofit discounts, each contribution gives a boost to our work to preserve Acadia.

For more information email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or call 207-288-3340. ✱

Acadia Transportation Plan

The final version of the Acadia National Park Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was released by National Park Service officials in March. The purposes of the plan are to provide safe and efficient transportation and access while preserving high-quality visitor experiences and ensuring protection of park resources and values.

The result of a three-year effort, the plan outlines ways to address traffic, parking and vehicle congestion in the park, in particular along Ocean Drive, around the Jordan Pond House, and on the summit of Cadillac Mountain. On a typical day as many as 450 cars attempt to park at once on Cadillac Mountain. The lot there has just 150 spaces.

“With Acadia’s visitation up nearly 60 percent over the last decade, we need forward-looking approaches that build on the great success of the Island Explorer bus service, Village Connector Trails, and other means to provide alternatives to the traditional dependence on private vehicles for touring the park,” said Friends of Acadia President and CEO David MacDonald.

The draft plan was released last spring and a series of meetings about its contents held around Mount Desert Island and the region. A 60-day public comment period followed. Park officials then analyzed those comments and took them into consideration

in finalizing the document. Friends of Acadia submitted comments encouraging adoption of the park’s proposal.

The complete plan was released on March 25.

Park officials have indicated that implementation of the changes recommended in the plan, including seasonal reservation requirements for access to high congestion areas, vehicle size restrictions, and a new parking plan for access to carriage roads at Eagle Lake, could not begin until 2020 at the earliest.

To find out more about the contents of the final plan please visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

Wild Gardens Card Available

A financial contribution from the Bar Harbor Garden Club (BHGC) enabled the Wild Gardens of Acadia committee to print a new postcard available to visitors by donation at the Gardens’ entrances.

The postcard displays cinnamon ferns (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) from the Wild Gardens in fall. Charlotte Stetson, a Wild Gardens volunteer and member of the Executive Committee, donated the photograph. BHGC President Dianne McMullen stated, “The issues of winter storm damage in the Wild Gardens and the need of financial support for a fall postcard were brought to the Club’s attention by the Chair of the BHGC’s Wild Gardens Committee, Betty

Massie. The club then voted to increase our annual donation for 2018 to \$1,000 for these two endeavors.”

Friends of Acadia thanks the BHGC and Charlotte Stetson for this beautiful addition to the suite of publications at the Gardens. FOA would also like to thank the many donors who contributed funds to help the Wild Gardens recover from the flooding and freezing events experienced during the winter of 2018.



FOA/REBECCA STANLEY

A cross country skier along the Witch Hole Loop Carriage Road in Acadia National Park.

Winter Use Study Is Underway at Acadia

For the past three years, Becca Stanley has served as Friends of Acadia’s Recreation Technician, helping the National Park Service count and survey recreational users of Acadia. This past year, with the retirement of the park’s visitor use specialist, Charlie Jacobi, Becca took on enhanced data collection and reporting duties, as well as oversight of the work of Devon Brock-Montgomery, a second Recreation Technician hired by Friends of Acadia to help fulfill the park’s recreation monitoring objectives.

Last fall, Becca identified a need for winter usage data. After good snowstorms, the parking along the roadside at carriage

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COURTESY CHARLOTTE STETSON

This photograph of a cinnamon fern (*Osmundastrum cinnamomeum*) at the Wild Gardens of Acadia has been made into a postcard.

SIGN SHOP VOLUNTEERS

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Updates

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road entrances at Eagle Lake can be just as crowded as on a warm summer day. Visitors have also been drawn to see the snowy owls on Sargent Mountain, and many hikers enjoy a day trip up Cadillac Mountain on sunny winter days. But these observations are anecdotal, and the park lacks comprehensive counts of recreational users.

To acquire better information, Becca obtained a research permit and deployed game cameras to track numbers and types of usage at seven locations on the carriage roads, trails, and motor roads of the park. She also has been counting vehicles in the parking areas and noting their states of origin when she downloads data from the cameras. The study will continue in 2019 until winter conditions have diminished.

Becca's work in this arena is important for several reasons. She has established a monitoring protocol that can be repeated and improved each year. When combined with weather data, her work will help the park note trends in usage and avoid potential resource damage and conflicts. For instance, if commercial skiing or ice climbing tours were ever to be offered, the park could direct these tours to locations or times of day where fewer individual park users would be affected. If it was determined that the usage of Sargent Mountain trails in winter was negatively affecting the survival of the snowy owls, the park could issue limited permits or conduct



Lisa Williams has joined Friends of Acadia's Communications Department as a Web and Design Associate.

FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

MORE POWER... Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) volunteer groomer Mark Fernald operates a brand-new Bearcat grooming snowmobile on a carriage road in Acadia National Park in March. The sled, purchased by Friends of Acadia from a Harry's Motorsports in Presque Isle, Maine, is designed for rugged trail work and will help care for the carriage road cross-country ski paths around Eagle Lake and Witch Hole Pond for years to come. The \$18,000 purchase was funded by a gift from Jim Church in memory of his late wife, FOA's communications director Aimee Beal Church, along with funds from the AWTA endowment established in memory of Elizabeth R. (Lelia) Bright by her family.

more resource education at the Parkman Mountain and Brown Mountain parking lots.

The results of Becca's study will be published in the National Park Service's searchable data store that can be accessed through IRMA, the Integrated Resource Management Applications portal (<https://irma.nps.gov>). Her work may also influence the park's formulas for counting visitors during the winter months by getting a better idea of numbers of visitor groups and group sizes. Park visitation topped 3.5 million again in 2019, and the congestion of summer and fall may drive more visitors to winter. Becca's winter use study will establish a baseline to help the park see patterns and trends moving forward.

New Face at FOA

Lisa Williams of Ellsworth has joined the Friends of Acadia Communications team as a Design and Web Associate.

Born and raised in Texas, Lisa eventually returned to reconnect with family roots in Maine. As part of FOA's Communications team, she contributes her skills in digital and print design as well as maintenance and expansion of the FOA website.

The holder of graduate degrees from the University of Virginia and Vermont College

of Fine Arts, Lisa has more than a decade of experience in design and website work, both in the private sector and for non-profits.

An avid hiker, kayaker and occasional runner, she enjoys all forms of outdoor pursuits including spending time in Acadia National Park with her wife and their three dogs. They have two grown daughters with whom Lisa sleepily (but gladly) joins for sunrise on top of Cadillac Mountain every time they visit.

Acadia Winter Trails Association

Although groom-able snow was rare this season, the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) volunteers made the most of their limited opportunities. The Kubota has been out and around the Brown Mountain Station pulling the six-foot Ginzu Groomer. AWTA continues to update its fleet with the recent purchase of an Arctic Cat Bearcat Snowmobile, which will be based out of the Eagle Lake station. Thanks to a combination of efforts between Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park rangers, AWTA groomers received special permission to groom the carriage roads during the government shutdown.


continued on page 28

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Details about the hiking challenge in celebration of the 100th anniversary of Acadia's establishment as a national park can be found at:
www.wadsworth.com/foa/links

Updates

continued from page 27

Thanks to these efforts and the dedication of our volunteer groomers, park visitors were able to ski and snowshoe on the carriage roads after the mid-January snowfall. Active volunteer groomers this year include Gordon Beck, Brett Binns, Sean Ducker, Dave Edson, Mark Fernald, Rob Gaynor, Matt Gerrish, Phil Lichtenstein, Stephen Linscott, Leroy Muise, Vivian Phillips, Ed Pontbriand, Craig Roebuck, Jeff Roseberry, Zach Soares, Zach Steele, Mia Thompson, and Adam Wales. Emeritus Groomers include David Kief, Christiaan van Heerden, and Charlie Wray.

Community Gear Sale

Friends of Acadia will be hold its first-ever Community Gear Sale and Swap on Saturday, May 18, at Mount Desert Island High School in Bar Harbor from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The event is designed for those who want to thin out their stash of outdoor equipment and sporting goods as well as those looking for bargains or upgrades their own gear.

There is no charge for a booth space and no charge for admission. "With the arrival of warmer weather, we thought this would be a great way to celebrate the area's outdoor heritage, encourage folks to get themselves and their children outside, and help people save money and recycle unused items," explains FOA Communications Director Earl Brechlin.

Among the types of items that can be included in the event are new or used camping and outdoor adventure goods, tents, sleeping bags, backpacks, skis, snowshoes, optics, fishing and boating items, bicycles and accessories, electronics, clothing, organized sports (team or individual) items such as baseball, football, basketball and soccer equipment and clothing. There will be an area for larger items such as canoes and kayaks.

No firearms, liquid fuels, common household items, collectables, or street clothing is allowed.

Friends of Acadia will also have information about memberships and a table where attendees can learn more about opportunities to volunteer in Acadia National Park.

Ten by ten-foot indoor booth spaces and double spaces are available in the gym. Those wishing to sell larger items such as boats on

trailers, snowmobiles, ATVs etc., can reserve a parking space outside. Setup will be from 8 a.m. until 10 a.m.

All those wishing to sell must register in advance by signing up online at www.friendsofacadia.org/gearsale, or emailing gear@friendsofacadia.org. For more information call 288-3340. Those interested in volunteering at the sale please use the same email address and phone number.

Lighthouse Acquisition Process Continues

The transfer of the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to Acadia National Park continues as the necessary paperwork remains in progress. The Coast Guard is currently preparing the transfer documents to submit to the General Services Administration.

Built in 1858 and listed on the National

Register of Historic Places, the light station receives an estimated 180,000 visitors annually making it the fifth most-visited place in Acadia.

The USCG is also exploring the possibility of installing a solar array to power the beacon to preclude the need to have separate power meter circuits on the property once Acadia takes possession.

Once the actual transfer is completed, park service experts will prepare a facility condition assessment as well as a historic structures report. The park service continues to investigate options to reuse the light house station property through a partnership that can generate income to support maintenance, preservation, and increased visitation and educational activities.

At last summer's Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit, a Paddle Raise brought in \$389,000 to assist the park in the acquisition, preservation, and repurposing efforts. ✱



EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEANUP

2019 marks the 20th anniversary of this annual, island-wide event. Local community members and visitors from around the state gather to pick up a winter's worth of trash from the roadsides of Mount Desert Island. Always the last Saturday in April, this year's Earth Day Roadside Cleanup on Saturday, April 27 will be a great way to take pride in your community and get outside to kick off the summer season. After a morning of island beautification, volunteers can participate in the Earth Day festivities at College of the Atlantic, which promises to be fun-filled and educational.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:


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William Clack	Richard A. Morris
Barbara Cleaves Cole	My parents
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THOMAS BLAGDON

RANGER REPORTS SIMILAR TO TODAY

By Earl Brechlin

Some of the challenges faced by Rangers in Acadia National Park more than 55 years ago were unique to that time. But several continue to vex those who protect and preserve Acadia to this day.

During the early 1950s, rangers filed regular monthly reports on their activities. Some observations, including remarks on the weather, meetings with officials in area towns, and wildlife sightings, appear to be routine, even mundane. Others, however, reveal a park that is growing in popularity, looking for ways to adapt to changing use patterns, dealing with invasive species, and a lack of respect for its boundaries on the part of a small minority of people that viewed its trees ripe for cutting and its deer easy pickings.

In January of 1953, Eastern District Ranger Clifford W. Senne, worked on clearing brush from boundary lines, overseeing some road



“Ocean Drive parking areas are rapidly becoming unsightly from accumulations of visitor litter and trash.”

— Ranger Report from 1953

work, and undergoing training with other area firefighters — the memory of the Great Fire of 1947 still vivid in their minds.

Ranger Senne reports he had to speak with tree cutting crews multiple times due to the “wanton burning,” and their “disregard” for orders to cease. He also noted that 25 apple trees in an orchard at headquarters on McFarland Hill had their bark removed “as part of the exotic species elimination program.”

In February, rangers had to speak to several property owners in Salisbury and Hulls coves about dumping trash on park land. They also dealt with two Bar Harbor men caught target practicing with guns on Sand Beach. “The men were made to clean up all broken glass and tin cans...” and were requested to appear in federal court for a preliminary hearing.

By April, crowds were beginning once again to flock to the Park Loop Road. “Ocean Drive parking areas are rapidly becoming unsightly from accumulations of visitor litter and trash,” Ranger Senne reports.



Along with patrolling to deter poaching, help collect trash, and maintain trails and boundary lines, rangers in the early years at Acadia National Park also conducted interpretive programs. Above, an unidentified ranger entertains visitors on a sailing trip, complete with musical accompaniment.

COURTESY: ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



An undated photograph of the Acadia National Park staff in front of their headquarters on Park Street in Bar Harbor. The building was moved and is now part of the Dorr Museum of Natural History at College of the Atlantic.



Ranger Clifford W. Senne

COURTESY ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

COURTESY OPEN PARKS NETWORK

By May, rangers were issuing citations to visitors on charges of speeding, flower and vegetation picking, building campfires in unauthorized places, commercial use of park roads, and taking dogs onto Sand Beach.

On the evening of May 28, rangers were assisted by Bar Harbor Police in breaking up “a free-for-all brawl between two parties of military men from Bangor and civilian hoodlums” on top of Cadillac Mountain. All involved were taken to the jail in Bar Harbor. Three men remained in custody unable to post the \$100 bail each.

In June, a special International Order of Odd Fellows memorial service was held atop Cadillac which rangers noted “has been teeming with people.” An estimated 800 people attended. They counted 210 cars in the parking lot.

By July, rangers were fielding regular complaints about a lack of camping places and picnic tables, with Blackwoods Campground in Otter Creek “bursting at the seams.”

Environmental regulations at the time were nowhere near as strict as today. Ranger Senne also noted a need to extend the sewer line from the campground “to the low water line,” to prevent a “most unhealthy and odoriferous situation.”

Also in July, a woman who fell into Thunder Hole was rescued by another park visitor. “Our life ring at Thunder Hole paid for itself that day,” Ranger Senne notes.

In August, Ranger Senne reported that more than 9,000 people had registered at hiking trail heads on Mount Desert Island’s East Side and at Schoodic. There were more than 16,000 camper days at Blackwoods.

They also dealt with two Bar Harbor men caught target practicing with guns on Sand Beach. “The men were made to clean up all broken glass and tin cans...”

—Ranger Report from 1953

In a very casual note at the end of his September report, Ranger Senne remarked about “the extreme danger of the dynamite cache at the old CCC camp at McFarland Hill.” He explained the dynamite, which had not been used for two decades was “greatly deteriorated and soupy.” He estimated the amount at two tons. “This should be disposed of before it blows McFarland Hill away,” he wrote.

By fall, as visitation dropped off, rangers ramped up their patrols to catch deer poachers. Throughout the year, reports of dead deer, gunshots at night, and vandalism attributable to illegal hunting filled patrol files.

In October, two men from MDI were arrested and convicted of poaching. Remains

of dead deer were found in Schoodic. At one point in November, barbed wire was strung near the Jordan Pond House to deter night hunting. Several deer carcasses were found on Cadillac Mountain.

In one four day stretch in late November, night patrols by rangers and Maine game wardens resulted in five arrests. Rangers complained that a Federal Magistrate released one man with a fine of only \$1 for having a firearm in his vehicle. The next night, three men were taken to the Bar Harbor Jail. In court the next day they were each fined \$200 plus costs of \$5.70.

Another incident involved a “hair-raising,” car chase on the Lower Mountain Road at speeds in excess of 75 miles per hour, reports note. A ranger was assaulted. That suspect faced multiple federal and state charges and bail was set at \$1,000.

Along with routine observations, monthly reports also often contained the names of visiting dignitaries. Among those who stopped by to see the foliage during the fall of 1953 were Senator Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, Senator Theodore Green of Rhode Island, Hugues LeGallais, Foreign Minister of Luxembourg, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Congressman John Pellion of Buffalo, NY. ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia’s Communications Director.

SHARING SOME PARK PERSPECTIVE

Last October I was fortunate to spend a week at Glacier National Park in Montana. It was a first-time visit to attend the Friend's Alliance conference on behalf of Friends of Acadia.

My husband and I spent a few days before the meetings hiking, sightseeing on the iconic Red Bus Tours, and getting to know a landscape where visitors must be armed with bear spray. Glacier is a glorious area of the Rocky Mountains, with glistening glacier-carved peaks and valleys running up to the Canadian border. We were struck by the massive scale of destruction from recent fires that forced visitors in Glacier to evacuate in August — peak time during that park's short, two-month season. Even some historic structures were lost.

Dazzling fall foliage formed a patchwork with burned-over areas. The interplay of the living forest, and the blackened ground, yielded a panoramic reminder of the forces of nature at work in our parks.

As we trekked around, we enjoyed hiking part of the trail up Many Glacier. Two feet of fresh snow added to the sense of adventure. Quite a few of the trail heads were closed because of recent black and grizzly bear activity and snowfall.

Today, just 30 glaciers remain of the 150 that existed in 1910 when the park was established. Glaciers are among the park's most popular natural wonders and, as well as wildlife sightings, are a major draw for park visitors. Warming climate conditions are the most likely cause of the loss of ice.

At the Friend's Alliance Conference FOA had a strong showing with our executive director, board chair, and Acadia's superintendent in attendance. Attendees were buzzing about the good work and progress going on at Acadia. That led one National Park Service staff member to ask Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider "What is in the water in Acadia? What is it you are drinking?"

In listening to the featured speakers from other parks and friends groups, the



FOA

crisis situations many parks are managing and describing seemed enormous. Yes, Acadia's visitation is escalating, and traffic congestion is a major concern. But parks such as Hawai'i Volcanoes face challenges that include inaccessibility due to active volcanoes and lava flows. Twin hurricanes in St. John- Virgin Islands wreaked havoc with widespread destruction. Both those parks face a long road to resumption of normal activities.

Hearing those stories made me realize how truly blessed we have been for decades in Acadia where natural disaster recovery remains an uncommon topic of discussion. Acadia's luck held during the partial government shutdown. The park was relatively quiet due to the time of year. Acadia did not encounter the problems western parks experienced with overflowing trash, unkept restrooms, resource degradation, and more that overwhelmed the system and put visitor safety and the environment at risk.

I realized while in Glacier that venturing out in other national parks delivers a healthy dose of perspective. In 2019 I hope to further broaden my perspective with trips to the Grand Tetons and Yellowstone.

Closer to home, it appears as if there are two seasons when it comes to time spent in Acadia. One for being in the park, and

the other when we are pining and planning our time back in there.

FOA's off season is anything but idle for the board and staff. A busy calendar of behind-the-scenes meetings and activities occurs during the winter and spring. Plans or meetings are taking place up and down the East Coast preparing for the 30th Annual Benefit and Auction. Smaller events are being held by board members in their communities to gather area friends with Kevin Schneider and David MacDonald.

Thinking about the upcoming warmer weather includes pondering about how to keep my approach to summer fresh. While much of my personal energy is spent connecting with many FOA friends and seasoned users of Acadia, I like to think of new ways to convey my passion for the park to new friends and entice them to visit for their first time.

It is important for us all to cultivate new friends by sharing our love for Acadia and all the natural wonders it has to offer. Invite them to visit off season to see the Acadia night sky or come in June for National Trails Day. If they are up for an adventure, suggest they hike up Sargent Mountain in winter in hopes of spotting an elusive snowy owl before they return to the north.

Shortly our family will be back in Acadia, living the good life of summer days of hiking on Parkman Mountain, boating to Baker's Island for a picnic, and biking on the carriage roads. It may be part of our usual family routine, but it never gets old.

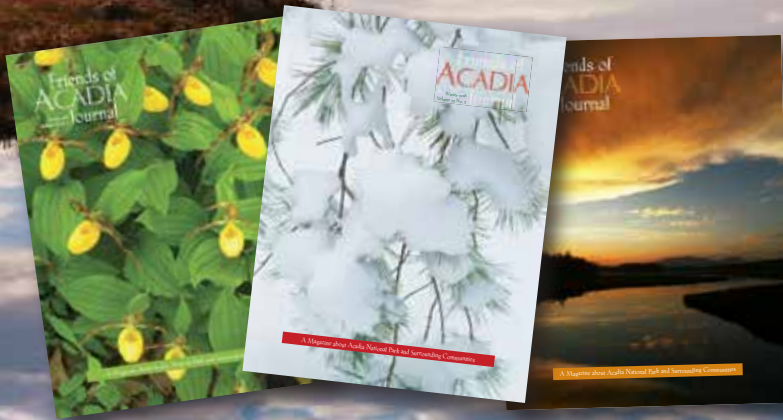
I look forward to meeting you, and some of your new FOA friends, out in the park this summer. Happy Trails!

With Gratitude,

Anne B. Green

—Anne B. Green

Reflect on the Magic of Acadia



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THOMAS BLAGDEN

A bullfrog enjoys the warmth of the early summer sun in a pool near Eagle Lake in Acadia National Park.

Mission

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

