



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Winter 2019
Volume 24 No. 3

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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HELPING ACADIA PREPARE FOR CHANGE

When a small group of committed volunteers joined forces to form Friends of Acadia in 1986, they showed tremendous foresight regarding the challenges that Acadia National Park would face in the ensuing years. Documents from those earliest days show an emphasis on understanding the pressures created by growing visitation, the perils of an increasing backlog of deferred maintenance on trails and carriage roads, and how to better engage community members and youth in the park. Today, these very issues remain among the most important priorities for FOA's work in helping our park thrive in its second century.

One challenge that our founders could not have fully anticipated, however, is how a changing climate would bring new stresses and threats to Acadia. Still, today, we are struggling to understand what the future might hold. But the ability of a beloved place like Acadia to inspire research, creativity, discussion, and commitment in the face of challenges like these means that FOA and partners can provide leadership even as we navigate uncharted waters.

How will Acadia fare as the climate changes? No one can say for sure. But what we are experiencing already is an Acadia that is warmer and wetter, with bigger storms, higher and more acidic seas, longer growing (and visitation) seasons, and changing species. These changes affect every aspect of the park, from natural and cultural resources to the visitor experience, from park infrastructure and staffing to public safety.

How can Acadia and its partners respond? First, we are doing our best to understand this new paradigm and to support a park management strategy that must be dynamic and adaptive. Even as we often wish that a favorite place like Acadia will always remain exactly as we have known it, we recognize that it will be impossible to prevent or resist some of the changes that are coming.



FOA/ASHLEY CONTI

Acadia and other national parks also have an important role to play in communicating climate change to the visiting public and bringing an issue that can feel overwhelmingly broad down to a place-based scale that is meaningful to the millions of visitors each year.

With science leading the way, a growing community of partners here at Acadia is collaborating on approaches that strive to do just that and make Acadia's natural values as healthy and resilient as possible in the face of unprecedented change.

For example, Maine Coast Heritage Trust is seeking to conserve lands that will allow salt marsh eco-systems vital to Acadia to migrate in the future as sea level rises. Schoodic Institute is experimenting with test plots of native plant species that would fare well on the inhospitable summits of Acadia's mountains as conditions there change. Municipal public works departments are replacing culverts to anticipate increased rain events and stream flow and to better accommodate fish and amphibian passage.

FOA is funding work to remove invasive plant species that are seeking a toehold here as conditions become more

favorable for them. Students from the University of Maine and College of the Atlantic are helping to monitor Acadia's lakes and streams, and citizen scientists everywhere are contributing observations of how wildlife behavior and migrations are being affected.

These examples illustrate that our responses to a changing climate will vary. In some instances, we will resist change—as with our work to remove invasive plants. In other situations, we will look to adapt—as with efforts to install larger culverts in the face of increased intensity of rainfall events. In still others, we will anticipate and get a head start on change—as with the test plots to evaluate certain species to determine the best possible successor plants as others are no longer able to thrive here in a warmer, wetter climate.

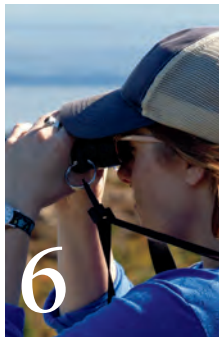
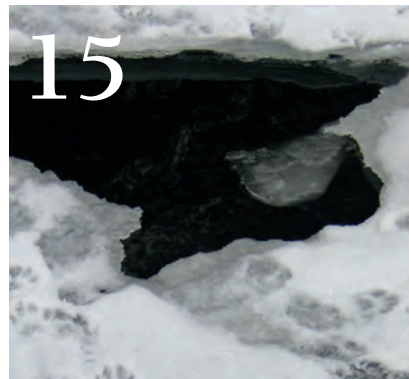
In addition to this work by institutions, it takes many individual actions to make a collective difference in addressing climate change. By focusing on individual choices, as well as supporting broader policy initiatives and projects, we can help Acadia and other natural areas adapt and prepare for changing environmental conditions.

When I was recently asked to be part of a panel speaking about conservation issues to a local fifth-grade class, climate change was clearly the topic weighing most heavily on these young students' minds. They were both proud of, and worried about, the national park in their back yard; their awareness of what was at stake and their determination to be involved in solutions was heartening. Theirs are among the voices that will shape the future of this organization and this park during its second century, as climate change has become one of Acadia's biggest challenges that we must all tackle together.

—David MacDonald

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FOA/PAIGE STEELE

Students from Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School explore the outdoors on a nature trail built with the help of Friends of Acadia. The trail connects to the school's outdoor classroom, also supported by FOA.

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM EXCITEMENT GROWS

By Paige Steele

Four years ago, education staff at Acadia National Park began thinking of ways to connect every Maine student to their national park. Knowing the constraints of time, distance, and shifting budgets would prevent some classes from visiting the park in person, they began to brainstorm solutions. An idea emerged to cultivate an outdoor classroom program, connecting students to Acadia on their school campus, while also instilling stewardship values of their shared lands and waters. Whether in Acadia or their hometown, youth can learn how to be the caretakers of their environment.

This concept fit perfectly into Friends of Acadia's vision to increase youth engagement with Acadia National Park, and we began providing outdoor classroom grants in 2015 to early learning centers and schools in Maine.

What is an outdoor classroom, you may ask?



FOA/PAIGE STEELE

A park ranger works with students as part of FOA's Collaboratory Workshop with the Mount Desert Island School System.

It's an outdoor educational space that brings learning to life by encouraging students to take their studies outside, where intriguing lessons can be presented in all seasons.

Components of an outdoor classroom can include trails, study and creative spaces, gardens, greenhouses, and fitness elements. Schools awarded an outdoor classroom grant commit to training staff to teach in the outdoors. Students are expected to learn outdoors 10 percent of school days, and educators will link three lessons per year to Acadia. Schools are also awarded transportation funds for a field trip to Acadia, or they may bring an Acadia education ranger to campus.

2019 was the grant program's most active year so far. The goal of awarding three grants in 2019 was met by mid-summer with applications steadily arriving. The schools are designing spaces to best suit their learning needs. Tremont Consolidated School students will have a brand-new outdoor learning space to study plant phenology, comparing native

and invasive plants. Oceanside High students in Rockland will also have a new outdoor classroom surrounded by a butterfly garden, serving multiple academic and social purposes.

After years in the making, Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary (DISES) completed a 1,000-foot bogwalk connecting the campus to their existing outdoor classroom that is already well used. On Oct. 18, the school officially opened the DISES Nature Trail. Students proudly marched in a celebratory parade through a beautiful red maple swamp filled with giant skunk cabbages, cinnamon ferns, sundew plants, and yellow birches.

In addition to outdoor classrooms being created or expanded on campuses across Maine, Friends of Acadia is piloting a more in-depth stewardship model with the Mount Desert Island Regional School System. Grant funds are used to support a teacher collaboratory comprising teachers, administrators, Acadia's education staff, community partners, and the Acadia Teacher Fellows. Early on, the collaboratory decided to focus on the special surroundings of each school as a theme for their outdoor classrooms: Trenton—forest, Bar Harbor—ocean, Northeast Harbor—lands, Southwest Harbor—migration, and Tremont—marsh, and to teach their students how to steward these communities. These stewardship zones have informed the design of the new learning spaces on the Trenton and Tremont campuses, along with lessons to be taught outside on phenology, bird migration, weather, and mapping throughout the school system.

The team achieves this work by meeting in small groups and participating in full-day workshops as a whole group, such as

continued on page 26

Outdoor Classrooms Make A Difference

The following is an excerpt from a note received in September:

"The first month of school is exciting... and this year it's even more exciting because of the generous grant from Friends of Acadia!

We are so incredibly grateful. We seriously cannot thank this program enough. You've made an extraordinary difference in the academic, social, and emotional development of students at Oceanside High School, especially students in the special education department. We'll look forward to sharing the developments with you!

With gratitude, Jessica."

Where in Acadia?



Where in Acadia? In this quintessential glacial mountain notch can be found the highest four-way, non-summit trail intersection in Acadia National Park. Paths radiate out in all the cardinal directions. For students of history, “Dry” and “Green” were names associated with this area in olden times.

If you think you can identify this scene email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and feel free to include a personal story or memory with 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 those selected.



Summer 2019 Where in Acadia?

View of Kief (not chief) Pond, from the Beehive trail. We've got plenty to be thankful for on this island, but a hike with your brother on Thanksgiving morning is sweeter than honey. —Sean Dwyer, Bar Harbor

The picture is from Beehive looking toward Gorham. We've climbed this trail—the first time with our four-year old and then with family and friends many times—every time someone visits; at least once a year if not more. A memorable time was when we caught up to a couple celebrating their first wedding anniversary. The woman was stopped on the trail midway where the ladders begin, unable to go up or down due to her fear of heights. When we reassured her, she was nearly at the top, and that there was an alternate trail heading back down, she was able to make it the rest of the way to the top to finish. —Bonnie Tai, Bar Harbor

The photo is from the Beehive Trail and the pond is Kief Pond with Gorham Mountain ridge in background. I first hiked Beehive in 1987 with my son and a friend who were both 8. I realized about halfway up I had made a mistake in thinking the trail was suitable for children but realized there was no turning around. The boys loved it and we all survived to tell the tale. After that, when I hiked Beehive, I hiked it alone, most recently at age 71 in the summer of 2018. The views are utterly stupendous, especially the brilliant blues and greens of the water at Sand Beach. —Megan Hack, Gordonsville, Virginia

This is a view southwest from The Beehive Ladder Trail. I last hiked it about four years ago with my cousin Sandy Andrews. I was 75 at the time and was very conscious of declining balance ability. I roundly cursed him for taking me (he was 64), but I loved it and it made for great stories over a beer or two. —Eliot Scull, Wenatchee, Washington

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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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Snowfall softens the view from the boat launch area at Eagle Lake in Acadia National Park.
Photo by Julia Walker Thomas.



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Printed with soy-based ink.

REFLECTIONS ON A GREAT YEAR

By Lisa Horsch Clark

After the hustle and bustle of the summer season ends, I have a chance to catch up with the friends and members I may have missed visiting with during the summer. I also have the time to reflect on and evaluate the many projects and events we managed during the year.

One significant project launched in early spring was the FOA Friend and Member survey that we conduct every 10 years. As I read through the survey responses and comments, I discovered the great majority of respondents are satisfied with their relationship with FOA and feel as though their investment, whether it be membership dues, charitable gifts, or volunteer time, is used effectively.

Most respondents are familiar with FOA's work with the Island Explorer, the Wild Gardens of Acadia, and the Acadia Winter Trails Association. But fewer are familiar with our important programs and events for young people. With nearly a dozen different programs for youth spanning in ages from four to twenty-four, much good work is being done to help engage the next generation of park stewards. To learn about these programs, please visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org

On the communications front, more than 90 percent of respondents are pleased with the Friends of Acadia Journal, but they also enjoy the monthly e-news and visit our website. Respondents want more feature stories and photos of the park on our website. We will work with the FOA Acadia Digital Media Team next year to develop more of this content.

Our volunteers were most pleased with the camaraderie and sense of accomplishment with their work. We are fortunate to have thousands of dedicated volunteers working to help preserve and protect the park. The value of last year's volunteer labor exceeded \$250,000, making FOA and park dollars go much farther. Respondents said that they would like more year-round volunteer opportunities.

More than half of respondents had heard of our key events including Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, Take Pride in Acadia Day, the Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit,

With nearly a dozen different programs for youth spanning in ages from four to twenty-four, much good work is being done to help engage the next generation of park stewards.

and our Annual Meeting. Far fewer respondents had heard of the George B. Dorr Society event.

This year's George B. Dorr event marked its 15th anniversary. It focused on the history of trail building in Acadia and featured long-time Acadia Trail Foreman Gary Stellpflug. Gary is always generous with his time and is one of the best story tellers I know. Our day with him in late July at the Asticou Inn included more than 70 guests. After a delicious lunch, some hiked with Gary on the Jordan Pond Asticou Trail to hear about bridge building, boundaries, and the history of the trail system.

The George B. Dorr Society event is a small way to thank those who have left a bequest or other planned gift to Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park.

Another related and unique event was held on August 5 at the Kedge, the lovely Bar Harbor home of Susan and Steven Raab. On a former site, the home served as the clubhouse for the Mount Desert Reading Room. In its halls walked Dorr, President Benjamin Harrison, J. P. Morgan, John Jacob Astor IV, Cornelius Vanderbilt, Joseph Pulitzer, and other luminaries. The occasion marked the 75th anniversary of Mr. Dorr's death. We were

treated to a visit by Mr. Dorr, featuring thoughts and reflections on modern-day park conditions. The reading was brought to us by some technological wizardry on the part of FOA Communications Director Earl Brechlin. It was a new and fun way to celebrate the words and work of the Father of Acadia.

As winter approaches, we will continue program evaluations and summaries to share with FOA members, park staff, and the leadership at Friends of Acadia. This work will serve as the foundation for our programs next summer, all in our quest to reach and inspire current and new friends who want to help us preserve and protect Acadia. ✨

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Friends of Acadia's director of development.



Society membership

According to the recent Friend and Member survey, 88 families have included Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. If you have made future provisions for FOA, we want to know so we can thank you in advance for all that will be accomplished with your gift and to include you on our roster of George B. Dorr Society members. Please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org to let us know or to learn more about leaving a bequest or future gift to FOA.

HAWK WATCH MARKS QUARTER CENTURY

By Seth Benz

Hawk watching in Acadia National Park formally came of age a quarter of a century ago.

Cadillac Mountain's geographical position, located north of latitude N44 in the northeast corner of the U.S., is considered the headwaters of a great southbound aerial river of migrating raptors. The birds come out of eastern Canada as well as Washington and Hancock counties here in Maine.

They will eventually join up with other geographical tributaries of hawks. Numbers swell into the tens of thousands as the airborne flow of raptors passes through both Pennsylvania's Hawk Mountain Sanctuary and Cape May, New Jersey.

Four weeks after passing Cadillac Mountain, the hawks reach Corpus Christi, Texas where tallies reach 100,000 or more. One week after that, numbers at Veracruz, Mexico can be in the millions!

Hawk Watch on Cadillac is a special, stationary form of bird watching — a point count designed to monitor the autumn's seasonal passage of migratory birds of prey. The actual spot is a small exposed outcrop of granite located just a couple hundred



FOUASHLEY CONTI

A Peregrine in flight.

yards west of the summit parking lot along Cadillac's North Ridge Trail.

The effort is a collaborative operation between park interpreters, a Friends of Acadia-sponsored raptor intern, and Schoodic Institute's Bird Ecology Programs which recruits and trains volunteer citizen-scientists and then collates data. Daily counts take place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. from mid-August through mid-October. Anyone can drop in at any time.

In Spring, when the hawks migrate northward, they tend to disperse across the continent by using different flyways than those taken in the fall. At Cadillac, for instance, we have detected no concentrated

flyway. Hence, no Spring count is conducted.

Observers use 8 or 10X binoculars to spot and identify hawks. Observations are recorded by the hour on a standardized data sheet and reports are sent to a national repository. Visitors are welcome and encouraged to participate by helping to spot migrants. They also can learn from the expertise and camaraderie of more experienced hawk watchers and the educational messaging imparted by the rangers.

Observers use the names of landscape features to point out where each hawk appears. "There's a bird half a glass over Bald Porcupine moving toward Bar Island, going fast," says one. "I can see pointed wings, looks like a falcon," reports another. "Yes, I got it. It's a Peregrine!" exalts a ranger.

Each hawk inspires passionate descriptors like that, called out to seize onlookers' attention on the subject bird of the moment.

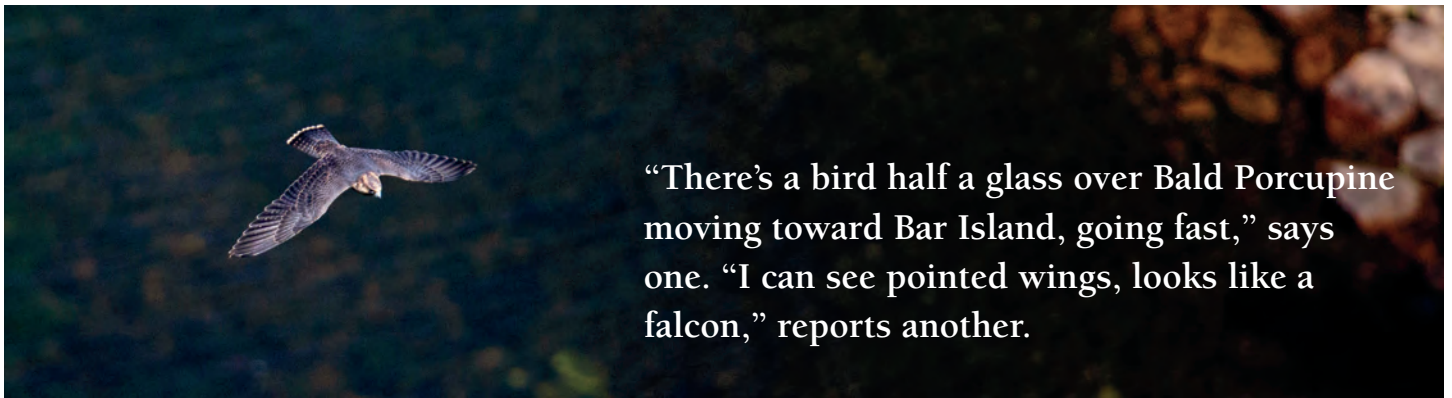
Each hawk is identified by looking at shape, size, flight style, and field marks. Making a positive identification sounds easy until someone actually tries it.

In addition to quickly locating the hawk,



FOU JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Volunteers watch for migrating raptors from a vantage along the North Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park.



“There’s a bird half a glass over Bald Porcupine moving toward Bar Island, going fast,” says one. “I can see pointed wings, looks like a falcon,” reports another.

FOA/ASHLEY CONNT

observers must factor in wind conditions, cloud cover (which impacts lighting), distance, and angle of proper focus to see plumage detail, if any. Lastly, the gestalt of the bird—how it carries itself, coupled with its flight behavior—must be considered. Even with careful scrutiny, not all can be identified. All, however, are counted. Some simply are listed as “unidentified raptor.”

Fourteen species have been spotted. Each is triggered to migrate separately as days shorten, temperatures cool, and winds blow from the north. Since Cadillac’s inaugural Hawk Watch day on August 28, 1995 through October 9, 2019, a grand total of 71,681 hawks have been tallied. A typical hour of observation produces 12 sightings.

Three species predominate: Sharp-shinned Hawk (36 percent), Broad-winged Hawk (23 percent), and American Kestrel (21 percent). The remaining 20 percent is

spread among the other 11 species.

Over time, population trends emerge. Watchers have documented a resurgence of the American Bald Eagle, once depleted by DDT. Statistics support evidence of a northward range expansion by Turkey Vultures.

And, despite the statistical likelihood of spotting a Sharp-shinned Hawk or American Kestrel, data suggest both species are in decline—likely due to a depletion of the songbirds and insects they respectively feed upon. Additionally, researchers are investigating potential shifts in timing of migration by different species.

In a very direct way, the initial proposal to establish a hawk watch site in Acadia National Park drew inspiration from Hawk Mountain Sanctuary in Pennsylvania. It was the very first hawk watch site in the world, established in 1934. The Cadillac Mountain

program is fashioned with a pedigree that exemplifies dedicated volunteerism, scientific inquiry, and conservation education.

We hope to continue to deliver the enjoyment, edification, and visitor engagement in the phenomenon of hawk migration long into the future.

On a morning this past October, a northwest wind and the sound and sight of familiar friends already arrived heightens the anticipation. Everyone wears layers of warm clothing, watch caps and gloves. Binoculars are up and scanning. ✱

SETH BENZ of Belfast heads up the Schoodic Institute Bird Ecology Program, where he combines research, education, and citizen science to study bird migration and the sequencing of nature’s events.



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

While on an autumn Hawk Watch atop Cadillac Mountain, a volunteer scans the sky to the north and east to try to identify passing raptors on their annual migration south.

RECREATION TECHNICIAN: WORKING TO STUDY HOW YOU PLAY

By Becca Stanley

Over just the last few seasons the rising tide of Acadia National Park visitation has surged. Acadia logged 2.5 million visits in 2010, 2.8 million in 2015 and 3.5 million in 2018. This increase has contributed to the park's reputation as one of the most intensely visited preserves in the country.

While protecting the park from more visitors can be a challenge, park managers consider each visit as an investment in our public lands and a vote for the importance of the internationally renowned landscape of Maine's rocky coastline.

In order to better understand visitation patterns, many dedicated volunteers, rangers, and affiliated groups are working to gather important data.

Friends of Acadia's contribution involves funding a nearly full-time Recreation Technician (Rec Tech).

As FOA's Rec Tech, I spend much of my time outdoors helping to collect data to generate statistics about what is going on behind the scenes.

On a recent morning afield, a moss-lined stream that burbles under the road to Echo Lake Beach is my destination. Beech and aspen trees abound, making the quintessential forest scene that is my outside office this morning. Most visitors using the road are eager to get to the beach on one of Acadia's beautiful inland lakes; few notice the black rubber traffic counter stretching across the pavement.

"Thump-thump" go the tires as the weight of vehicles compress the tubing, activating the nearby hidden counter with puffs of air.

I'm there to access the counter's data, like information contained in many others around the park, which I download onto a thumb drive. Back at park headquarters, software known as TRAXPRO will generate monthly statistics and reports for similar counters at Sieur de Monts Spring, Otter Cliffs, and the Cadillac Summit Road. The equipment atop the park's highest mountain counts not just cars, but bicycles

that ascend the three-mile road as well.

These volume counts are used to help develop best management practices for park resources, traffic management protocols, and strategies to cope with increased visitor use while attempting to maintain a positive visitor experience.

The role of the Recreation Technician has become even more vital as Acadia considers implementation of the Transportation Management Plan.

Because of the major changes proposed in this plan, there is a great need for baseline data and quality research.

As the Friends of Acadia Rec Tech, I will be working together with the park's social scientist, Dr. Adam Gibson. We will continue to study parking lot turnover rates, monitor the growth and frequency of Class 1 e-bike usage, and identify areas that remain vulnerable to congestion including bottlenecks beyond the implementation of the Transportation Management Plan that frustrate the average visitor.

Certainly, one of the more problematic areas historically has been on Cadillac. While assigned to the summit throughout the season, the Rec Tech has historically provided data which has helped managers understand how the rush to see the sunrise on Cadillac has influenced overall visitor use. At sunrise, hundreds of vehicles cram into an area with only 157 parking spaces.

Tardy visitors trying to make the sunrise tend to drive rapidly on the summit road despite the posted speed limits. Around 40 minutes after the sunrise there's a surge of traffic of a different type. A steady stream of bicyclists climb the 1,530 feet to the summit over the next several hours. These cyclists understand that the lower density of vehicles results in a higher quality recreational experience.

In addition to collecting and analyzing data during the summer months, our work also includes studying how visitors are making use of Acadia during the winter. The winter recreation use study will look at several sites along the groomed carriage

road corridors to best understand user groups, volume counts, and trends. In 2018, the first year of the winter use study, there was a large influx of visits to the Parkman Mountain Carriage Road and Brown Mountain Carriage Road entrances. These surges were in line with the presence of snowy owls seen atop Sargent and Cadillac Mountain as they migrate. Findings from this study will assist park management to make decisions about wildlife safety communication with local and out-of-state visitors as well as to understand the impact of off-leash canines.

Over the years, Acadia National Park has been a leader in addressing management of outdoor recreation. The park's significant cultural, natural, and recreational resources help set it apart as a leader within the national park system. Work done by the Rec Tech program now will gather critical baseline data that can help inform management strategies to improve access to Acadia's wonders and create opportunities for visitors to enjoy the park in many new ways. ✨



Friends of Acadia Recreation Technician Becca Stanley installs a sign urging visitors to not damage vegetation near Jordan Pond House.

RIISING TO MEET THE CHALLENGES OF 2020

With the trees bare, and December's first snows upon us, I start to think about the transition to a New Year at Acadia. The New Year is a time for reflection, a time to think about past accomplishments and to set goals for the New Year.

2019 began with difficulty, as Acadia National Park ushered in the New Year during the longest government shutdown in our nation's history. There is no doubt that this was a tough time for our staff, our visitors, and our communities. But it clearly showed the important role Friends of Acadia and our communities play in supporting the park.

This year was yet another busy year at Acadia National Park. Although summer visitation was slightly reduced in comparison with the previous season (and the year will certainly end as the second busiest in park history), we saw on July 5 the busiest single day in the park's history. On October 13, a beautiful fall day, 2,600 cars drove up Cadillac Mountain—including 524 in a one-hour time span!

Thankfully, we completed our Transportation Plan in May, providing a blueprint for managing congestion into the future. While the plan is completed, implementation of it will take some time and will be a significant priority for us in the coming years.

The park's priorities will remain unchanged. We will be working to preserve the Acadia experience and implement the transportation plan. This includes implementation of the timed entry reservation system for private autos. This is a complicated effort, and we want to make sure we get it right, so we are proceeding thoughtfully and carefully.

We expect to release in 2020 a prospectus for concession-operated bus tours in Acadia. This is a major part of the transportation plan and will allow us to transition to smaller-sized touring buses on the Park Loop Road, eliminating large motor coaches that cannot safely navigate Acadia's narrow roadways.

In 2020 we also expect to begin conceptual design for a new visitor center and expanded



FOA/ARTT/ASHLEY/CONTI

parking at Hulls Cove.

Hulls Cove plays a critical role in implementing the transportation plan, and conceptual designs will allow us to examine how we can redevelop the area's entire footprint. We will provide visitors with expanded parking to leave their cars behind and ride the Island Explorer. The visitor center—used by 71 percent of our visitors—could become one of the signature locations in Acadia, providing a place to learn about Acadia's unique ecology and its human history from the Wabanki to the Rusticators, to the local stone masons that built the carriage roads. Conceptual designs will also allow us to consider moving the access to the carriage roads to a better location within the Hulls Cove footprint and eliminate the steep hill that has contributed to several accidents and is a barrier for many visitors. They could allow us to consider building an accessible interpretive boardwalk trail on the site, complementing the indoor museum exhibits.

Nurturing and sustaining the NPS workforce will remain a major priority for us in 2020. One of the biggest expressions of this will be redesigning our maintenance and headquarters campus at McFarland Hill to ultimately provide our employees with

significantly improved workspaces. These areas are the backbone of our operations and include the trails shop, our carpentry shop, office space for our team, and more. A major success in 2019 was that we received construction funding to redesign these areas, and this effort will be a major emphasis for our staff in 2020.

We are also focusing on developing our workforce and providing them with learning opportunities that will better prepare them to meet tomorrow's challenges. This fall we launched the Acadia Leadership Academy, providing a six-month leadership development course through the upcoming winter season for 15 park employees. These employees will meet on a monthly basis and participate in instructor-led training, such as crucial conversations, public speaking, and mindful leadership. The academy provides a forum where park employees from all aspects of our operations can discuss with their colleagues the challenges they face, creating a peer-based group to support and learn from one another.

And last, but not least, we will continue to focus on understanding how a changing climate will affect Acadia's delicate ecosystem. Thanks to initiatives like FOA's Wild Acadia and Second Century Campaign, we will learn more about climate change and build resiliency to adapt in the face of profound ecosystem change.

No doubt 2020 will be a busy one for our team. But I am confident that with partners like Friends of Acadia we can rise to meet these challenges.

On behalf of all of us at Acadia National Park, best wishes to you and yours for a bright New Year, filled with time in Acadia!

—Kevin Schneider

COMPENDIUM CONTAINS FULL LIST OF ACADIA RULES

By Earl Brechlin

While signs and other indirect methods of behavior modification help visitors comply with the rules throughout Acadia National Park, a comprehensive list of what folks can and cannot do is contained in the official Superintendent's Compendium.

Residing on the park's website, the 50 pages of rules and regulations, along with supporting statements, are a sort of a Park Service Pinterest page of detailed dos and don'ts. While broad federal statutes govern major violations of law, superintendents throughout the National Park System need flexibility to formulate and adopt individual regulations in a timely, realistic, and responsive fashion.

"The Superintendent's Compendium allows for the creation of rules specifically for local conditions," Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider explains.

Along with road closure timing, fee schedules for entrance and camping, prohibitions on hunting and use of some motorboats, Acadia's compendium covers some other, less routine topics. For instance, visitors can pick up to half a gallon of blueberries per day each for personal consumption. And, as many as ten gallons of apples per person can be taken. Removing

mushrooms, fiddleheads, and cones from conifers such as pine, spruce and fir trees, however, is illegal.

All dogs must be on a leash no longer than six feet in length, and owners are required to clean up after their pets, regardless of location.

Drone use requires a special permit as does any commercial photography. And use of any submarines in waters under park jurisdiction requires special permission.

Closures to protect wildlife, such as nesting loons and peregrine falcons, are also spelled out in the compendium.

Except in emergency situations, there is a public notice requirement. That is most often satisfied by the park issuing a press release, Supt. Schneider added.

If a new rule is apt to be controversial, or a major departure from past practice, a more formal procedure must be followed. "Things of a more substantive nature have to go through a rule-making process," he says. "Actually, we don't change the rules all that frequently."

Earlier this fall, Interior Department higher-ups dictated that electric motorized bicycles were no longer classified as motor vehicles. They gave individual superintendents 30 days to draft rules allowing them wherever regular bicycles are permitted. Acadia's Compendium

was amended to implement that directive. It allows Class I (pedal assist) e-bikes only.

In general, park officials do an annual review and update the list each spring.

According to Schneider, park officials are reticent to rely on writing tickets for infractions, preferring to use a blend of signs, individual visitor contacts, traffic control devices and techniques, and other methods to encourage voluntary compliance.

Because of natural institutional pressure to erect more and more signs, Acadia has a special committee that must review every request and placement. Too many signs, according to Schneider, can erode the visitor experience and can be distracting to drivers. "Signing is only minimally effective," explains Schneider. "It's important when we do, to use positive messages such as 'Please stay on trail,'" compared to "Don't leave the trail."

When considering amendments to the compendium, park officials also must remain mindful that sometimes adopting a closure or new rule can backfire when it draws unwanted attention to sensitive areas.

"We want to be careful not to reveal the location of archeological sites or bird nests or bears' dens—things of that nature," Schneider explains.

In Acadia, a good example is a spot where fragile tide pool dwellers there can literally be trampled to death. But adopting a formal closure might also increase the visibility of the location.

In the end, park officials decades ago decided to simply remove mention of it from maps as a way of reducing visitation.

According to Schneider, most decisions involving the compendium generate a broad philosophical discussion and ultimately, need to include a good dose of common sense. Balancing the need to protect the park with making sure visitors have an enjoyable experience, is sometimes difficult to do, Schneider explains. "Personally, I don't like closing stuff unless we really have to." ✱



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Acadia National Park Law Enforcement Ranger Tim Rand uses a snowmobile to patrol on the windswept Cadillac Mountain Summit Road.



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Acadia National Park visitors consult large map displays that are part of the revamped visitor center in Hulls Cove that reopened in June.

VISITOR CENTER REDO SEEKS TO BRIDGE GAP

By Earl Brechlin

Acadia National Park's revamped Hulls Cove Visitor Center opened its doors in late June and so far, both the staff and the public are giving it high marks.

Constructed more than 50 years ago, as both visitor center and headquarters, the building's space and design limitations have become increasingly difficult to deal with over the years. Much as the surrounding forest, recovering from the Great Fire of 1947, has grown and obscured the once-panoramic view of Frenchman Bay from the center's lobby, Acadia's popularity has overtopped the facility as well.

"For visitation of 3.5 million it is neither the right size nor configuration," says Assistant Superintendent Michael Madell.

To begin with, he explains, the center was built on the side of a hill. The main access path includes 52 steps from the primary parking lot. That forces those with disabilities to use a rear door to be able to access the building's elevator. Parking is extremely limited near that entrance.

Design and planning for the renovations began more than two years ago. Work started right after the center closed last fall. The lead architectural firm for the project was VHB of South Portland, which worked with Fraser Associates Architects of

Bar Harbor. King Construction Services of Ellsworth was the general contractor.

The partial federal government shutdown last January and weather challenges contributed to a delay in the planned May reopening.

Work involved the gutting of the entire main floor including a small theater area. That is now the Eastern National gift shop. Restrooms were expanded and access to them created from the outside to allow their use by visitors when the main lobby isn't open.

In the previous configuration, visitors were required to form a single line to get park information or purchase a park pass. Often the line curled around the lobby, out the front door and across the draw bridge-like entrance porch.

The new layout separates the two processes resulting in shorter waits, especially for return visitors just looking to get a pass. "It seems to be working better," Madell says. "During peak times, the lines may still get long."

Other changes include filling stations for visitors' reusable water bottles, brochure racks, and interpretive displays. Additional insulation was installed and sound-deadening materials added. "The sound

used to just echo all over the place in there," Madell explains.

Gone is the large, 3-D model of Mount Desert Island that once occupied the middle of the center's lobby. "It's been in storage for around four years now. No decision has been made whether or not to possibly reuse it in the future," Madell adds.

Although the renovations are an improvement, the center still suffers from a major lack of space for exhibits or interactive displays. Officials are exploring the possibility of building an entirely new, ground-level visitor center on the site. That, however, could take several years to materialize, Madell notes.

As part of the park's transportation plan (see related story on page 14), other major changes also are contemplated for the visitor center area, including the construction of hundreds of additional parking spaces and expanded space for Island Explorer bus operations.

The recent renovations, while definitely an upgrade, are not intended to be a final solution, Madell explains. Rather, they are aimed at "bridging the gap between the old facility and when a new one can be built." He adds, "It isn't everything we need there, but something had to be done." ❄️

ACADIA'S COAT OF MANY COLORS

Photographs by Ashley L. Conti

In a place where autumn's splendor impresses with every turn of the head, the east face of Champlain Mountain in Acadia National Park seen from a marsh along the Schooner Head Road (bottom) is one of the island's quintessential scenes. But along with sweeping vistas, Acadia provides more intimate glimpses of nature's coat of many fall colors, including along the Hemlock Path near Sieur de Monts Spring (upper right) and near the Jesup Trail (upper left).





To see photo galleries and order reprints of scenic and event photos taken by Friends of Acadia's Digital Media Team, please visit www.friendsofacadia.SmugMug.com.

TRANSPORTATION PLAN INCHES AHEAD

By Earl Brechlin

After more than two years of hard work, a formal transportation plan aimed at easing congestion, traffic, and environmental damage from growing visitation was finally adopted for Acadia National Park last May. It features major changes in parking areas, mandates that concession operators use smaller buses, expands the Island Explorer shuttle bus system, and allows visitors to have reservations to visit the busiest areas of the park such as Ocean Drive, Jordan Pond, and the summit of Cadillac Mountain during peak times. It took two years of talking with numerous stakeholders, working with planners, and holding public hearings to get to the point where a final decision could be made.

Now comes the hard part.

According to John Kelly, management assistant at the park, officials are currently working on a broad number of initiatives to bring that plan to fruition. "People ask what has to happen first; well, everything has to happen first," Kelly says.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center completed a year-long study of the Island Explorer System that will help inform the process. Once reservations are required for the busiest areas, the demand to use buses to access those areas is projected to jump.

Down East Transportation, operators of the Explorer, have engaged Bar Harbor transportation consultant Tom Crikelair, who designed the original system, through a FOA-funded study to determine what form that expansion might take.

"There are already plans to expand the fleet of buses by five," explains Kelly.

Officials hope revenue from the reservation system will underwrite some capital expenses and pay for the expansion of the Explorer.

Earlier this year, park officials put out a "request for information," and met with potential vendors of reservation systems.

"It's a learning tool for us," says Kelly. "So far we haven't seen anything that can just

be lifted and put into Acadia," he adds.

Eventually the park will issue formal requests for proposals for the actual reservation system.

Acadia will issue a prospectus in 2020 for several concession operators to handle all buses within the park. Plans call for a reduction in the current maximum bus length of 50 feet, down to 38 feet.

Operators using 15-passenger vans and smaller vehicles will continue to be managed via the commercial operator's permit system.

Another ongoing initiative involves planning for better data connectivity in the park to allow the necessary "smart" systems used by equipment and mobile devices to be more reliable.

In order for the plan to work, major changes in infrastructure also will be needed.

"The first big piece is the Hulls Cove Visitor Center," Kelly explains. The parking area there will need to be enlarged. Right lane parking along Ocean Drive could then be prohibited. The park is also exploring the possibility of a new Visitors Center as well. (See related story on page 11).

Likewise, the Gateway Center in Trenton will need to be completed. "The state has really engaged us to build out the last phase," Kelly says. He continued that a finalized design for more parking and a visitor center is almost ready to go.

"The challenge now is funding," he continues. The total estimated cost is \$18-\$20 million. The Park Service has some in reserve, there is the possibility of \$5 million in bond funds from Maine, and other sources are being explored.

After the Eagle Lake carriage roads are rehabbed next year, an equipment and materials staging area at Liscomb Pit will be rebuilt as a parking lot for as many as 125 cars. Eventually a new lot would need to be sited and built near Acadia Mountain on Route 102. Roadside parking would be banned in both those areas.

continued on page 30

IN NOMINE

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ACADIA IS IDEAL WINTER CLASSROOM

By Lynn Fantom

Winter is College of the Atlantic (COA) Professor Steve Ressel's favorite season. But that hasn't always been the case.

He grew up in southeastern Pennsylvania where, he explains, the winters are, well, "wimpy," compared to Maine.

Now, as the holder of the Kim M. Wentworth Chair in Environmental Studies at COA in Bar Harbor, Dr. Ressel shares his favorite aspects of winter—surprising activity under the ice of a frozen pond, soft afternoon light creating lengthening shadows, and the absence of pesky insects—with his students in a winter ecology class. And, what better place to use as a living laboratory than Acadia National Park?

Nearly 85 percent of class time is spent outside. With its snow-laced spruce and fir woods, looking-glass lakes, and gusty barren mountaintops, Acadia offers an environment that "seals the deal for students," he explains.

The winter course has been part of the COA undergraduate curriculum since 1994,

but Dr. Ressel also shares his zeal for winter with "lifelong learners" who visit Mount Desert Island on the Road Scholar program, formerly known as Elderhostel.

After a presentation in October, Joan Fulrath of Scottsdale, Arizona, raved about "his passion, knowledge, intensity."

"Snow reveals the gossip of the night," says Dr. Ressel, sharing a sentiment of naturalist Edwin Way Teale.

The age of his students is irrelevant. All soon begin to share in Dr. Ressel's obvious enthusiasm for the subject.

In his office tucked under the eaves of COA's George B. Dorr Museum of Natural History, wearing jeans and hiking boots, Dr. Ressel seems almost wistful for the outdoors as he shares the best locales for winter studies in Acadia. He cites the Witch Hole Pond carriage road loop, because it

combines forests, wetlands, and freshwater lakes and streams. And because the state stocks ponds in the area with trout, you might see signs of river otters—if not the actual animals themselves.

To look for mink activity, he says, follow the Hadlock Brook Trail up to Sargent Mountain. The deep spruce-fir forest is the habitat of porcupines and small perching birds. At the summit, search the skies and wind-blown drifts for snowy owls while you think about how the elevation—more wind, less snow—represents a more challenging climate for many hardy organisms.

In art and in science, some of the greatest wonders cannot be heard or seen ... just imagined. And one of the greatest aspects of winter is that it allows those who ponder its challenges to imagine the unimaginable, Dr. Ressel says. How animals survive winter sometimes simply defies logic.

Take the golden-crowned kinglet, for example. Stripped of its feathers, it is about the size of a little finger. Not only does it lose heat faster than larger animals, but it



COA Professor Steve Ressel, center, talks with his Winter Ecology course students during a field trip in Acadia National Park.

Winter classroom, *continued*

eats insects, not seeds. Yet, it survives winter when insects disappear.

A winter adaptation of another nonmigratory bird, the black-capped chickadee, is similarly unimaginable. In the fall, its hippocampus, the area of the brain responsible for spatial recognition and short-term memory, increases in size—helping the chickadee to remember where it has hidden seeds. The same increase in brain size is true of some small mammals.

Mice, voles, and shrews also have specialized tissue on their backs that throws off metabolic heat. It also increases in the fall and diminishes in the spring, notes Dr. Ressel.

As a zoologist specializing in comparative animal physiology, Dr. Ressel is fascinated with such changes, as well as the behavioral adaptations animals make in colder weather.

For example, follow the tracks of white-tailed deer and then you might suddenly see a deep depression in the snow. The deer has made an executive decision that it costs more energy to continue looking for food than the energy it would get from that food. So, it “plops” down. But note where the deer chooses — not in areas of birch, but in stands of more protective spruce and fir trees, which offer sheltering boughs and thick trunks that radiate heat.

Once such facts enter your awareness, they change how you perceive winter.

So, how might you experience some of the magic of winter yourself?

Dr. Ressel starts by sharing some practical precautions. Take steps to ensure your comfort and safety (especially if venturing onto ice), and then brace yourself for a

profoundly fascinating world—even if you do not see an animal during each outing. As nature writer Margaret Renkl says, “What lies just in front of me is not all there is.”

A key step is to separate these ecology treks from recreational activities. Plan on taking more time. You miss things when “you’re whizzing by on cross-country skis or ice skating,” Dr. Ressel warns.

Instead, put on snowshoes and embark upon “careful, attentive observation.” Look for tracks. Beyond identifying them, follow the tracks to gain insight about the animal’s activities. Did it take a sudden turn? Do the tracks disappear and re-emerge?

Why?

Think about the subnivean zone between the bottom of the snowpack and the surface of the ground. It’s a valuable retreat for mice, voles, and shrews, fleeing both the cold and predators.

In addition to tracks, the surface of the snow might also reveal a story about last night’s dinner: the fish scales of a trout eaten by a ravenous river otter or the leftovers of a pinecone devoured like corn-on-the-cob by a red squirrel.

“Snow reveals the gossip of the night,” says Dr. Ressel, sharing a sentiment of naturalist Edwin Way Teale. *

LYNN FANTOM is a retired advertising agency owner and freelance writer. She divides her time between homes in Somesville and New York City.

ACADIA’S WINTER CLASSROOM



Acadia Winter Track QUIZ



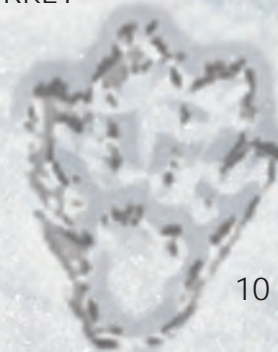


Along with other locations in Maine, students in Professor Steve Ressel's Winter Ecology class at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor spend hours each week in the living laboratory that is Acadia National Park. Among the images collected during the classes are, counter clockwise from top left, a single snowflake on a seed, bear cubs being studied during their mother's winter torpor, otter tracks around an opening in the ice, student shadows on a late afternoon, and the winter landscape atop Acadia's Sargent Mountain.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE RESSEL

___ BOBCAT, ___ COYOTE, ___ DOG, ___ GREY SQUIRREL, ___ OTTER, ___ RACCOON,
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Answers found elsewhere in this issue.

FOA GRAPHIC BY LISA WILLIAMS



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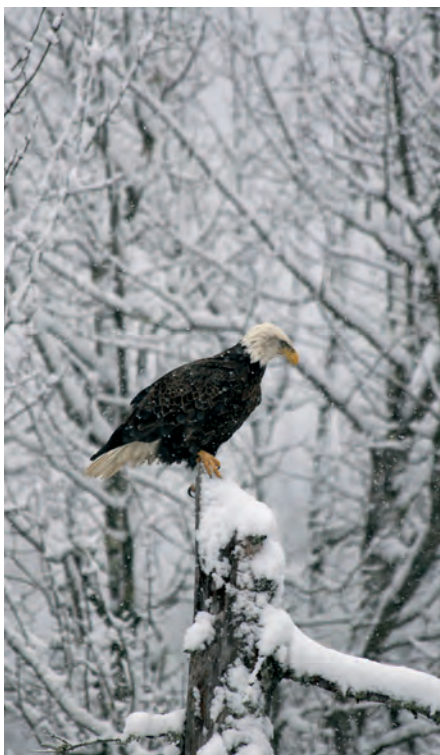


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TAKING PRIDE ... More than 425 volunteers turned out for the 29th Annual Take Pride In Acadia Day on Saturday, Nov. 2. They helped clear leaves and debris from more than 10 miles of carriage road ditches, which will help prevent damage in winter and spring. To see a photo gallery and order reprints, please visit www.friendsofacadia.SmugMug.com.

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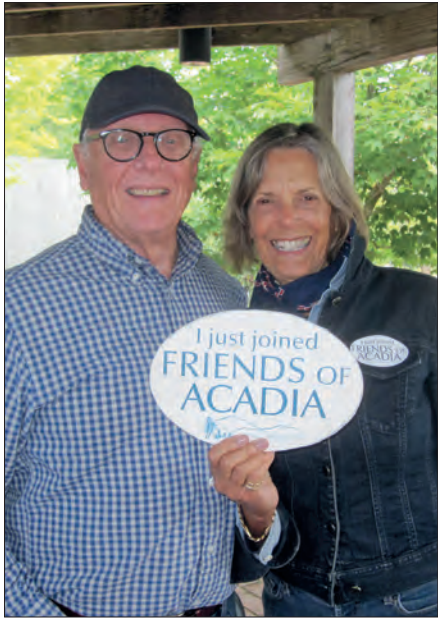
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FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Ranger Michael Marion talks about the history of Baker Island in Acadia National Park while leading a tour. Friends of Acadia has provided funds to help preserve the island's historic structures.

Historic Rehab

In 2017, patrons at the Friends of Acadia Benefit collectively donated more than \$240,000 to renovate Acadia's historic structures, including the park's buildings on Baker Island. The Baker Island Light served as a beacon marking the southern entrance to Frenchman Bay. The historic structures on the island date mostly from the mid- to late-1800's and have been closed to the public due to hazardous materials and conditions.

Great strides were made this year by the park service toward protecting the historical integrity of these structures and making them safer for the public to enjoy. Friends of Acadia's funding was used to assess the presence of hazardous materials, including lead paint, asbestos, and universal waste such as petroleum products and mercury switches.

Licensed contractors removed asbestos roof shingles from the oil shed, enabling the park service to repair the leaking roof with cedar shingles and prevent further degradation. Asbestos was also found in the keeper's house in floor tiles, pipe insulation, and the stove thimble. A treatment or removal plan has not yet been decided.

Friends of Acadia has also contributed \$34,242 toward detailed drawings and

a conditions assessment report of the lighthouse tower, the keeper's house, the oil shed, and the fuel house. This funding leveraged \$28,000 in federal contributions from Acadia's entrance fees. The National Park Service's Historic Preservation Training Center will be working through February 2020 to document the conditions of the facilities and prepare recommendations for treatment and future uses for each building. The report will serve as the roadmap for future stabilization and restoration.

Advocacy Efforts Bolstered

Friends of Acadia's 2018-2023 strategic plan includes emphasis on advocacy and communication as tools to help FOA reach a broader audience and achieve the organization's objectives. Those include protecting natural resources, improving the visitor experience, raising awareness about park funding needs, and engaging young people.

In 2019, FOA launched a new seasonal position, the Advocacy Assistant, to research and write a variety of briefing statements on topics such as climate change at Acadia, invasive plants, air quality, deferred maintenance, and contracting and expenditure of fee money.

Maya Sosland, a graduate of Oberlin College with degrees in Environmental Studies and Politics, joined the staff in June as the



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Maya Sosland

Advocacy Assistant. After a brief orientation, Sosland combed the literature and met with park staff on assigned topics. She developed a general format for issue briefings that includes a summary, documentation of what is known

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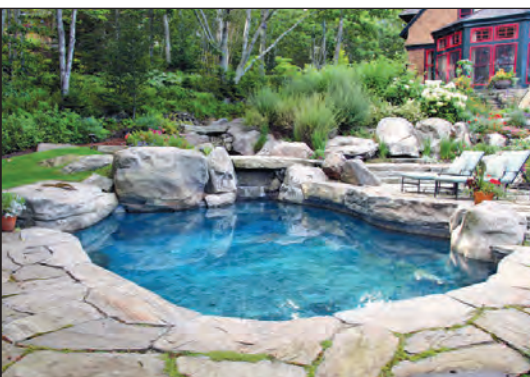
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Outdoor Classroom

continued from page 3

the training held in August where teachers practiced their new curricula in the field. As this model is refined, the group plans to share their work with other school systems looking to coordinate efforts.

Looking ahead, the collaboratory will continue its innovative work. Grant reports will be gathered and shared, staff will continue supporting Maine schools within the network, and new grants will be awarded. As outdoor classroom projects take shape, participants are continuously sharing their appreciation.

Friends of Acadia is pleased to assist this critical youth work, supported by our considerate members and donors who care so deeply for Acadia and its future. ✨

PAIGE STEELE is Friends of Acadia's conservation projects manager.

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about the topic in Acadia, and information on how citizens or decision-makers can help.

Sosland's work on deferred maintenance at Acadia was shared with Congressman Roger Marshall (KS-01) on his July visit to the park. Her research on barriers to efficient contracting and expenditure of fee revenues in national parks was also shared by FOA President David MacDonald at the fall 2019 Friends Alliance meeting, eliciting a positive response from colleagues across the country.

"Maya's documents will be available for FOA to use and update as conditions change," said Stephanie Clement, FOA Conservation Director. "She took special care in ensuring that all statements were backed by citations, which is very important when discussing topics such as the effects of climate change at Acadia." Sosland also participated with federal, state, and local officials in several press events, such as the celebration of the Island Explorer's 20th anniversary and a deferred maintenance information session with Congressman Jared Golden (ME-02). She monitored Congressional hearings on national park issues, witnessed how local planning boards deal with controversial subjects, attended meetings of the FOA Advocacy Committee and Board of Directors, and participated by phone in meetings of the National Parks 2nd Century Action Coalition.

AWTA Gears Up

Get your skis ready!

The Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer groomers are gearing up for the 2020 winter season. The new snowmobile will be trail-ready when the snow base allows grooming. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park staff will continue volunteer training and program improvements in the upcoming season, such as improved communications and preservation of grooming efforts through suggested travel lanes for skiers, walkers, and snowshoers.

Seasonal Openings

Looking for a meaningful paid internship in Acadia National Park?

Friends of Acadia will be posting our seasonal positions for 2020 in late December.

Openings may be available on the Acadia Digital Media Team, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Stewardship Crew, and Summit Stewards, and for a Recreation Technician and a Wild Gardens Intern. These teams work in the park and are supervised by park staff.

Check the employment opportunities section of the FOA website.

Zoellick Honored

Friends of Acadia Board Member and Schoodic Institute Director of Education Research Emeritus Bill Zoellick received the 2019 Acadia Partners Award in September.

The staff of Acadia National Park selected Zoellick for his vision and dedication in the development of Schoodic Institute, the nonprofit science and education organization that works with the National Park Service to lead the Research Learning Center on the Schoodic Peninsula.

"Bill has been involved with Schoodic Institute since its inception," said Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "Through that time, he has filled numerous roles, most notably building an education research program that has

continued on page 28



Friends of Acadia Board Member and Schoodic Institute Director of Education Research Emeritus Bill Zoellick received the 2019 Acadia Partners Award in September.

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FOV/EARL BRECHLIN

Updates

benefited local and statewide communities and is also nationally known.”

Schneider cited Zoellick’s work with the Dragonfly Mercury Project, a citizen-science program that has now run in more than 100 national parks, and Community Shellfish Investigations with students at Sumner High School, local clambers and shellfish managers, to test methods to reduce predation of clams by invasive green crabs.

As a member of the FOA Board, Zoellick has been instrumental in development of the Wild Acadia initiative. “Thanks to Bill’s dedication and vision, Acadia National Park and Schoodic Institute have become a hub for community-based science—science that engages learners of all ages and addresses critical environmental challenges,” said Schoodic Institute Interim President and CEO Nicholas Fisichelli.

“Being recognized by the team at Acadia National Park is deeply meaningful to me,” said Zoellick. “Being able to return to working with educators and young people after 30 years of doing other things has been really special.”

The Acadia Partners Award is presented

to any partner (group, organization or individual) who shows exceptional dedication and support to the park’s mission, making a significant contribution to Acadia, its resources, or for its visitors, employees, researchers or volunteers.

Honorary FOA Trustee dies at 85

Long-time Friends of Acadia Honorary Trustee and retired NBC newsman Jack Perkins passed away at his home on Casey Key in Florida on Aug. 19 at the age of 85.

After retiring from corporate journalism in 1984, Perkins and his wife MaryJo moved to Bar Harbor, eventually building an off-grid house “Moosewood” on Bar Island on property surrounded by Acadia National Park.

In 2003 the couple sold “Moosewood” to the park. The house and small outbuildings were later torn down to allow the island to return to its natural state.

While in Maine, Perkins, who worked in retirement for the History Channel and Jeff Dobbs Productions, also expanded his artistic repertoire. He published the softcover “Parasols of Fern, A Book about Wonder” and later a coffee-table book of his large-format, black and white photographs of Acadia coupled with original poetry. “Acadia Visions and Verse” remains in print.

Perkins’ embrace of literary pursuits also



PERKINS FAMILY

Jack Perkins

extended to Friends of Acadia when he made a generous grant to help subsidize the publication of photographer Tom Blagden’s coffee-table book “First Light, Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island.”

The cause of death was complications from Parkinson’s Disease. ✱



FOASTEPHANIE CLEMENT

SUMMER SESSION AT SCHOODIC...Friends of Acadia’s Board, along with staff members, took a ferry across the bay in August for a meeting at the Schoodic Institute. The excursion included a tour of Acadia National Park’s new campground at Schoodic, as well as a joint lunch with members of the Institute’s Board of Directors. Discussions centered on areas of possible collaboration and on ways for FOA to partner with SI on implementing key elements of the park’s priorities. Above, FOA board members and staff, fresh off the Island Explorer shuttle bus, pose near the Institute’s main entrance.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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CLEAN AND GREEN...Two long-time Friends of Acadia Membership Table volunteers, Barbara Loveland and Pam Bowie, noticed last spring that the medians in the parking lot at Acadia National Park's Hulls Cove Visitor Center had a lot of patches of weeds and dead vegetation. An ad hoc group of people came to be known as the "wacky weeders." Participants included some who volunteer for FOA and members of the Bar Harbor Garden Club. Volunteers noted that several park visitors thanked them for doing the cleanup and that "our work doesn't go unnoticed."



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New Directors



Julie Banzhaf Stone

Julie Banzhaf Stone first came to Mount Desert Island in 1989 while dating her husband, Steve. She holds a B.A. in German and History from Macalester College, an M.A.L.D. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, and a Certificate of Nonprofit Management from Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy. She was a Fulbright Scholar at the University of Hamburg in Germany.

As director of programs for The Hitachi Foundation, she was responsible for the development and implementation of all foundation strategies and programs. In more recent years, Julie has engaged in intensive pro bono strategic advisory activities with a wide variety of organizations in Washington, DC, and with Friends of Acadia and the Jackson Lab in Maine.

Banzhaf Stone divides her time between Washington, DC and Hulls Cove on MDI. Her husband and children, Emily and Sam, are all graduates of Bates.



David Katona

David Katona grew up in Bar Harbor on Mount Desert Island, enjoying Acadia National Park as his expansive backyard for many years. A graduate of Bates College, he lives in Manhattan with his wife Laura (Clark) and daughter Allie.

Katona is currently at Jefferies LLC and a member of the firm's Capital Intelligence team where he advises alternative investment managers on their industry positioning and capital raising strategies.

Prior to Jefferies, Katona was a Partner at Abundance Partners and co-founder of Spruce Point Capital Management, both New York City-based investment firms.

A talented musician and avid tennis player, Katona is also a co-founder of biotechnology firm Nanocare Technologies. He is also involved with several other non-profits including The River Fund in New York and Sedona Sheperd in New Jersey.

Transportation Plan, *continued from page 14*

And finally, the park is also stepping up its outreach efforts to educate the public on what to expect as reservations begin to go live in 2021.

According to Kelly, park visitors shouldn't see too much change next year. "We won't be implementing full programs in 2020," Kelly explains. "Maybe there will be some test runs."

"It's a fluid process," says Kelly, referring to the adaptive management approach the park is taking. "It's a learning process for sure." ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's communications director.

CHALLENGES AND UNANTICIPATED JOYS

Just like that, 2019 is drawing to a close. Reflecting over another terrific year for Friends of Acadia, some special events and milestones—and even some challenges—are worth highlighting.

The partial government shutdown provided a rocky start to the beginning of the year, yet the park staff ultimately managed to get Acadia up and running smoothly for the season. Thanks to the widespread support from the local communities, along with the professionalism of the skeleton crew of park staff, operations continued during the difficult 35 days of Acadia being closed.

Thanks also goes to the communication efforts by FOA—our regular updates during that difficult time had an estimated reach of 1.1 million people.

The much-anticipated summer season started with headlines about park congestion. On July 5, the park hit an all-time record for visitation. Numerous road and facility closures were needed, multiple rescues occurred, and dispatchers were swamped with calls.

FOA's Summit Stewards helped manage three closures to vehicles on the summit on Cadillac and assisted in three simultaneous rescues. We were just one among many local and state partners assisting the park during the unprecedented weekend.

A better visitor experience is a key pillar of FOA. As the much-anticipated Acadia Transportation Plan is implemented, it is projected that scenarios like this should occur less frequently.

One extremely successful and exciting event that took place in August was the 30th Benefit Auction, where more than 500 friends gathered. Some 87 individuals raised their paddles to collectively contribute \$318,800 to restore Acadia's historic carriage road bridges. Acadia has been several years behind in its effort to restore these bridges and did not have a dedicated funding source.

The work that FOA donors made possible includes re-pointing, re-bedding, and replacing granite where stones and masonry have been dislodged, repairing concrete and mortar, and removal of efflorescence.



We are all thankful for the tremendous generosity of those who raised their paddles and those who supported us in so many ways that evening.

In September came an order from the Secretary of the Interior about a new policy allowing e-bikes on federal lands.

FOA received both pro and con comments from our membership and the general public. We had many concerns about allowing e-bikes on the carriage roads such as increased user conflicts and worries that a precedent might be set for allowing other motorized uses on the carriage roads. The potential for negative resource protection impacts is real.

The new e-bike policy, which allows only class 1 (pedal assist only) bikes in Acadia, has prompted FOA and park staff to renew conversations about reinstating the monitoring of the carriage road usage, as well as implementing an expanded carriage road etiquette campaign. Being courteous and respectful of all park visitors looking to enjoy the solitude and beauty of this natural and cultural treasure is essential.

At the end of summer, I attended the Friends Alliance conference in Jackson, Wyoming, hosted by our park partner friends at Grand Teton. Our own FOA President, David MacDonald has recently taken on the important role as President of the Friends Alliance Steering Committee.

The Alliance brings together groups from throughout the country. I got to see both

Grand Teton and Yellowstone national parks for the first time. I remain in awe of the abundant, up-close wildlife sightings, the massive scale of the landscape, and the biological and geographical diversity including geysers, geothermal features, cascading waterfalls, jagged peaks, subalpine forest, and megafauna such as elk and bison.

Three park rangers I spoke with mentioned that they were applying to Acadia next summer. They explained that “everyone” wants to work in Acadia!

Their questions about staff accommodations here reminded me of the critical issue of housing on Mount Desert Island and creative ways FOA could be of assistance.

Also attending were National Park Service Acting Deputy Director of Operations David Vela and National Park Foundation CEO Will Shafroth. Their informative remarks focused on educating the friends community about how best to modernize facilities and accommodate park visitors.

While I loved visiting Grand Teton and Yellowstone, it is always great to be back in Acadia.

I look forward to working with the FOA Board and partners at Acadia in the coming year. Some long-term goals include broadening relationships with corporations, growing our planned giving program, and aiding in the implementation of the transportation plan. Always at the core of our work is continuing to build trust and support with our members, donors, volunteers, and park partners.

Much like a robust hike in Acadia, or a trip to another park, there will always be challenges along with unanticipated joys.

Thank you for being a friend to Acadia and my deepest appreciation to those dedicated volunteers who committed more than 14,000 hours in 2019.

In Gratitude,

—Anne B. Green

SHARON BROOM, DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

By Earl Brechlin

Friends of Acadia will be bidding adieu to a much-loved staff member as of January 1.

Development Officer Sharon Broom, who coordinates FOA's Annual Fund, membership, and Business Member programs, announced her retirement earlier this fall after 13 years of service.

"My time with FOA has been an incredible opportunity. I can't begin to explain what it is like to work with a staff of such high-caliber people," she says. "I'm looking forward to exploring the possibilities of complete idleness," she adds with a laugh.

Anyone who knows or who has worked with Sharon understands that humor. She has worked tirelessly strengthening the FOA Annual Fund and expanding membership. Since she joined the staff in 2006, membership has grown from around 3,000 people to nearly 5,000.

Much of this growth has come from the membership table program created by Sharon in 2007. Volunteers greet park visitors at the Jordan Pond House throughout the summer and talk to them about FOA's mission, programs, and events. It draws between 500 and 600 new members each year.

She also developed the office volunteer program, coordinated the silent auction volunteers for the annual Benefit, and wrote grant proposals.

A native of Tennessee, Sharon and her husband Dick, a widely respected reporter for the *Mount Desert Islander*, came to Mount Desert Island in 1999 from North Carolina when she was hired by the Abbe Museum. "It just felt like it was meant to be," she explains.

After seven years, she joined FOA. There were eight full-time, year-round people in the office. When she leaves at the end of December, there will be a total of 16.

"I will miss my co-workers, but most of all, I will miss the volunteers," says Sharon.

"We have a fabulous core group of volunteers who are deeply committed to helping Acadia and FOA," she explains.



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Sharon Broom

"They love Acadia and many of them have been volunteering for decades. They see it as a great way to give back to a place that means so much to them. They have really become like family."

Sharon's affection for her co-workers and volunteers has been returned in spades. "It's been such a pleasure working with you," wrote membership table volunteer Georgia Munsell in a recent note. "Whether offering encouragement, suggestions for improvement or just generally being a cheerful booster, you have inspired us all."

Those sentiments are echoed by FOA's Director of Development, Lisa Horsch Clark. "Sharon revolutionized the way we recruit, inspire, and employ volunteers in our workplace," she says.

"The greatest example is when she established the Friends of Acadia membership table program," Horsch Clark says. "She is well organized and beloved by the volunteers. All the volunteers and the staff of Friends of Acadia will miss Sharon greatly."

According to Sharon, FOA's positive impact on the park and surrounding communities has grown over the years. "Friends of Acadia is much more well-known now," she says, citing community outreach, a strong internet presence, and popular social media activities.

Sharon says Friends of Acadia has made progress in demonstrating that development efforts are not just about wealthy donors, but about building relationships with people in every walk of life. "Over the years, FOA has placed an increased emphasis on engaging people of all backgrounds with events, programs, and volunteer opportunities," she says. "We really are a more integral part of the community now. Our supporters include a nice mix of residents, folks who have retired here, regular visitors, and public and private groups."

According to FOA President David MacDonald, Sharon's impact on the organization transcends merely doing an exemplary job.

"Sharon's gracious approach to her work has earned her many fans and brought FOA many supporters over the years," he says.

"Her love for the park and her concern for each individual with whom she comes in contact, whether a member, volunteer, or co-worker, has truly helped to define FOA as an organization.

"We all will miss her. But we know that no one is more deserving of a happy retirement to pursue her many other talents and interests."

In retirement, Sharon will continue to pursue her cottage industry making artisan jewelry and is contemplating doing some volunteering of her own.

She also wants to discover more about Maine. "I'd like to take more time to explore craft sale venues up and down the coast," she explains.

Ultimately, any conversation about her career at FOA or its encore comes back around to Sharon's appreciation for volunteers. "I have been honored to work with them," she says. "They have truly been inspirational." ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's communications director.

*Happy
Holidays*



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It's never too soon to start taking pride in Acadia as this young volunteer at this year's Take Pride in Acadia Day on November 2 demonstrates. To see a photo gallery and order reprints please visit www.friendsfacadia.SmugMug.com.

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.