

# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal SUMMER 2020



**BUILT TO LAST**  
ACADIA'S CARRIAGE ROADS  
CARVE ROUTE THROUGH HISTORY

**THE BEEHIVE**  
ICONIC MOUNTAIN  
IN ART AND HISTORY

**MEET THE  
WHEELERS**  
A LIFE-LONG CONNECTION

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**The Friends of Acadia Journal**  
SUMMER 2020  
Volume 25 No. 2

*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.

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Early morning sun illuminates The Beehive in Acadia National Park in a view from a hiking trail on Great Head.  
COVER PHOTO BY EMMA FORTHOFER/FOA



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# WHERE IN ACADIA?

Considering the notoriety of higher nearby summits such as Cadillac Mountain or Sargent Mountain, the peak of this popular alliterative prominence does not get nearly as much attention. You can approach from the north, south, and west, and after a strenuous hike up and over it is easy to make a return loop connection via carriage road. Its name, which means “Range of Mountains,” stems from what the Wabanaki called all of Mount Desert Island long before the arrive of European settlers. Extra credit for correctly identifying the large body of water in the upper right of the frame.

*If you think you can identify this scene email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto: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 Acadia, and we’ll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writers.*

## SPRING 2020 WHERE IN ACADIA?

Two readers correctly identified the image in the last issue as the East Face of Champlain Mountain, home to the infamous Precipice Trail, during the winter as seen from the closed Park Loop Road. Both preferred not to be acknowledged publicly.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



WILL NEWTON/FOA

The sun sets near the Bass Harbor Head Light just a few weeks before the popular visitor destination was transferred from the U.S. Coast Guard to Acadia National Park.

## Iconic Lighthouse Now Part of Acadia

BY EARL BRECHLIN

By the time you read this, one of Acadia National Park's most visited places will officially be part of the park.

While Acadia owns more than 50 acres immediately surrounding the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, the actual tower and keeper's house, along with other buildings and approximately two acres of land around them, have always belonged to the U.S. Coast Guard.

Nearly two and a half years ago, the Coast Guard announced it planned to relinquish the facility to the National Park Service. The final paperwork was signed in early July. "We now have control of the property the public always thought we had control of," says Acadia's Management Assistant John Kelly.

The lighthouse, first constructed in 1876, has appeared on the official Acadia National Park postage stamp, the Maine State Quarter, and on the cover of the Rand McNally Road Atlas of the United States. It gained even greater notoriety when President Barack Obama and his family visited in 2010.

According to Kelly, the lighthouse is the fifth-most visited

location in the park, trailing only Cadillac Mountain, Jordan Pond House, Sand Beach, and Thunder Hole. In 2019 an estimated 180,000 people visited the site. "It has to be among the most photographed locations in Acadia," he says.

Several processes had to be followed before the transfer could take place. Environmental assessments had to be made. The Coast Guard had to determine how to continue to power the lighthouse's distinctive red beacon once it no longer had control of the property.

Because it had frequently been used as housing for Coast Guard personnel, the building and tower itself have never been open to the public.

In June, an obsolete metal radio tower at the lighthouse was dismantled (visit Friends of Acadia's Vimeo page for a time-lapse video of the removal) and Coast Guard crews replaced the distinctive red beacon. Previously, it was a clear lamp surrounded by large red plastic panels. The new lamp, an energy-efficient LED, will itself be red allowing for the removal of the panels.

continued on page 27

# A Summer in Acadia Unlike Any Other

Life as we have known it has changed dramatically this spring, and very few places or institutions remain untouched by the cascading crises affecting our nation.

Millions of individuals, families, businesses, and government agencies have had to rethink their daily assumptions and their long-term futures and priorities.

But what about national parks, and specifically Acadia? Can we count on the park to be our constant in a sea of change and our anchor amidst the uncertainty and upheaval?

While the natural and cultural resources of Acadia remain intact and well-protected, your experience in the park this summer is likely to be different. Services like the Island Explorer bus, ranger-led interpretive programs, large volunteer crews, or youth trail corps are simply not viable with the continued emphasis on social distancing and safety.

Some of my best days in the park each year are spent working alongside volunteers, shoulder to shoulder, sharing tools, pounding dirt, lugging cedar logs or whatever else it takes to build and maintain trails. These traditions too will be impacted. I will miss the hugs and handshakes and crowded tables at events like the FOA Annual Meeting and Benefit Auction, which are both transitioning to virtual gatherings this summer.

Not all of the changes are negative, however. The delayed opening of Acadia's motor roads meant that more people walked, jogged, or biked these spectacular routes than in any previous spring. In response to a seasonal housing bottleneck, Acadia is piloting a streamlined hiring authority that will allow more area residents to compete for seasonal jobs this summer.

And this June brought historic and bipartisan collaboration in advancing landmark federal legislation that will directly benefit Acadia. The *Great American Outdoors Act* was passed with an overwhelming majority in the Senate and now moves onto the House and hopefully to the president's desk soon thereafter. The legislation provides millions of dollars to two critical needs. It addresses the deferred maintenance backlog to allow repairs to Acadia's trails, roads, bridges, and water systems and will bring much-needed dollars to the Land & Water Conservation Fund to help the park acquire key inholdings from willing sellers. Senator Angus King has been a leader on crafting and advancing this legislation. Maine was the first state to have our entire Congressional Delegation sign on as co-sponsors.

Our success is due in part to years of advocacy and building the case by FOA and other partners at the national level, such as the Pew Charitable Trusts, the National Parks Conservation Association, and the National Park Foundation.

But the challenges of the pandemic have undoubtedly reinforced parks as places offering mental, emotional, and physical health benefits in a trying time, as well as long-term economic assets and job-generators for surrounding communities.

Thank you for your support, your patience, and your resilience as we grapple with the many difficult changes and embrace the occasional positive ones coming our way in this historic year. Parks have a way of bringing out the best in people, and I remain optimistic about our long-term work together to ensure the best possible future for Acadia.



—David MacDonald

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**"...this June brought historic and bipartisan collaboration in advancing landmark federal legislation that will directly benefit Acadia."**

## WOODS SURROUND

the bog walk on the Jordan Pond Path in Acadia National Park.



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# 31st Annual Benefit Going Virtual

BY SHAWN KEELEY

For 30 years, Friends of Acadia's Annual Benefit has been a highlight of the summer season and a wonderful way to bring our community together to celebrate the park while raising critical funds for conservation projects. Due to COVID-19, FOA will not hold the 31st Annual Benefit or Patron Preview Party as in-person events this season but we are excited to offer a virtual event program that will accomplish the same two goals. FOA's Benefit Committee, led by co-chairs Laura and Vassar Pierce, and FOA staff have re-designed the Benefit to take place on an online platform the evening of Saturday, August 8.

You may be wondering exactly how the virtual event will work. Here are the answers to some frequently asked questions:

**How do I participate?** You can participate via your phone, tablet, or desktop computer.

**How do I register?** Phone or tablet – text the word: acadia to 843-606-5995 and follow the link you receive via text.

Computer – go to [event.gives/acadia](http://event.gives/acadia) to register.

You will need to provide your name, email address, and cell phone number to register.

**When can I register?** Anytime between now and the event on August 8.

**How much do tickets cost?** There is no ticket cost this year!

**Is there a limit on the number of people who can participate?** No, one of the silver linings this year is that we are not limited by the size of the tent so anyone can register and participate in the event.

**What should I expect during the event?** The evening will include a live broadcast accessed online. It will run from 7:00 – 8:00 PM and include many of the activities the Benefit is known for, including:

- Live Auction with Christie's auctioneer Lydia Fenet.
- Paddle Raise with Christie's auctioneer Lydia Fenet. For those of you who haven't participated in a Paddle Raise before, the concept is fairly simple. The auctioneer will show a video about a specific project FOA is raising funds to support, then lead participants through a number of gift-giving opportunities that you can "raise your paddle" to support.

In the online environment, clicking a "donation" button is how you will raise your paddle. Each donor's commitment will be added to a grand total.

- Voices of Acadia – special guests sharing their perspective on Acadia and how Friends of Acadia's work to protect and preserve the park is vital.
- Other yet-to-be-determined surprises.

Planning this event is a work in progress, so stay tuned!

**Will there be a silent auction?** The silent auction will open for bidding on Friday, August 1 and close on August 9, the day after the live event. The silent auction will not include as many items as it typically does but will feature items from long-time artists and donors who have been a part of our Benefit for years.

**How can I help?** You can help by spreading the word. Encourage your friends and family to register for the event, to bid in the silent and live auctions, and to support the Paddle Raise.

Thanks to everyone for their flexibility and patience as we re-create a 30-year tradition in this most unusual year. If you have questions, please contact Shawn Keeley [shawn@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:shawn@friendsofacadia.org)



# Finding Comfort in Acadia's Forever

As I write this Journal column from my makeshift home office, it is my kids' last day of school. I can overhear them talking into their computers as they participate in class online.

Normally, the last day of school is the proverbial start of summer. Unquestionably, however, this summer is going to be different.

The last several months have been like no others in my life. The coronavirus pandemic has challenged all of us in so many ways. Along with the pandemic, civil unrest across the nation ushered in a conversation around race, equality, unconscious bias, and the very foundational concepts of our American democracy.

Acadia National Park has always been, and always will be, a source of solace and refuge. During this time, I have felt fortunate to have the park nearby for quiet reflection and my own mental health. Bike rides and runs on the Park Loop Road and hikes on trails are all ways that I have refilled my spiritual gas tank. I am comforted by knowing such prime experiences remain so obtainable.

Acadia and our nation's national park sites provide a reservoir of strength as we face tremendously difficult challenges – whether they be personal or more societal. Collectively, America's national parks are places where we can contemplate our nation's past and reflect on how we can work to form a "more perfect Union."

When you stand on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial and look down the National Mall towards the Washington Monument, you can almost hear Dr. Martin Luther King's 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. Just two years after Dr. King's speech, African Americans were attacked


by counter protestors and blocked by police as they attempted to peacefully march 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery Alabama. It took a federal court injunction to allow the march to proceed.

Less than five months later, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The Selma march is commemorated as a National Historic Trail, where one can contemplate a powerful history lesson that feels so relevant today.

The newly designated Stonewall National Monument in New York City commemorates the 1969 uprising that began a movement for the civil rights of gay and lesbian Americans. Women's Rights National Historical Park tells the story of the first Women's Rights Convention in 1848. Manzanar National Historic Site preserves one of the places where Japanese-American citizens were incarcerated during World War II.

In this time of national challenge, our national parks, which like Acadia are places to recharge and rejuvenate, are testaments to the struggles we have overcome in our past.

For many in our community, this summer is going to bring immense challenges. Businesses that depend on tourism will struggle, our health care industry is challenged like at no other time, and some people's lives will have been changed forever. Still, the parks will continue to be timeless sources of inspiration and strength. As I listen to my kids' downstairs, I am comforted knowing that Acadia, and these other vital pieces of the fabric of the American experience, will be here forever.

 —Kevin Schneider

## SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



**"Acadia and our nation's national park sites provide a reservoir of strength as we face tremendously difficult challenges..."**



**ACADIA NATIONAL PARK**  
Superintendent Kevin Schneider enjoying a bicycle ride along the Ocean Drive section of the Park Loop Road.



# BUILT TO LAST

ACADIA'S CARRIAGE ROADS FROM HORSE-DRAWN  
CARRIAGES TO MOUNTAIN BIKES

by Lynn Fantom

## THOSE WHO HAVE BICYCLED, WALKED, OR JOGGED AROUND THE EAGLE LAKE CARRIAGE ROAD IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK UNDOUBTEDLY NOTICED HOW THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LAKE CHANGES DURING THE TRIP.

Sometimes, you are so close you can discern the yellowish-orange bill of a great blue heron as it wades along the shore. At other places, your view from high above the water reduces a kayaker to diminutive proportions.

These changing vistas reflect intentional planning and demonstrate just one of the many considerations that intrigued John D. Rockefeller Jr. as he created the network of carriage roads that are now a cultural treasure of Acadia National Park.

Remaining true to those aims and using traditional methods of construction are the top priorities in the total rebuild of the Eagle Lake loop, the final seven miles of Acadia National Park's Carriage Road network to be reconstructed. Preliminary work is slated to begin in the fall with the bulk of construction in 2021 (see related story). Completion of the restoration will cap an effort that began nearly 30 years ago when Friends of Acadia instituted its first major capital campaign and raised more than \$3.4 million to help leverage federal dollars for the project. (See related story.)

In many ways the process has been not unlike the labor of love begun by Rockefeller in 1913. Over more than a quarter-century of construction, the philanthropist, who was the only son of the founder of Standard Oil, pondered every detail including siting, drainage, and roadside vistas and landscapes. He was obsessed with building roads, according to historian Richard H. Quin.

"The view, moreover, is usually more attractive if one looks down into the lake from a little elevation than from practically the level of the lake," Rockefeller said. "Then, too, the road further back and higher up would undoubtedly be less apt to be seen from the lake," he further reasoned in a letter to the National Park Service after a team visited Mount Desert Island in 1922 to inspect proposed routes.

Such manipulation of views —to reveal stunning scenery, provide a range of perspectives, and offer surprises —was a guiding principle of Rockefeller's siting strategy, but so was aligning the roads to the land.

First and foremost, these roads were built for the pleasure of carriage driving: gently sloped for the needs of horses, wide enough for two carriages to pass, and curved to accommodate a carriage's turning radius. They started out in 1913 as "horse roads" for family and friends on Rockefeller's own property and gradually expanded throughout the eastern half of Mount Desert Island, in cooperation first with the Hancock County Trustees and then the US government, up to 1940.

It is no coincidence that the effort coalesced in 1913, the same year the Maine Legislature finally repealed laws favored by MDI summer residents that banned motor vehicles from much of the island.

Rockefeller was a master of road building, having worked closely with his father to construct carriage roads on their summer estates near Cleveland and later in Pocantico Hills, NY. When the family moved to Manhattan in the 1870s and went carriage driving in Central Park, he was influenced by its designers Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux, whose plan included



YEHYUN KIM/FOA



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**ABOVE, A RIDER** passes an intersection on the Eagle Lake Carriage Road in Acadia National Park. Lower photo: A pair of bicyclists prepare to ride under the Eagle Lake Road underpass on the Acadia National Park Carriage Road at Eagle Lake.

**FACING PAGE:** Jim and Kim Gray, of Scarborough, Maine, ride their horses, Doc and Chief, on the carriage road near Jordan Pond in Acadia National Park, in June.



pastoral bridges and separation of the driving roads from the city street system.

In Maine, Rockefeller personally chose the locations of the roads, walking the routes and providing written comments to his contractors. Thomas Vint, the chief landscape architect of the National Park Service, once remarked that “Mr. Rockefeller did not arrive at this excellent knowledge of road building by sitting at his desk and merely issuing instructions.”

Rockefeller’s construction team, longtime Mount Desert Island residents, built the roads using a broken stone construction method. Requiring much hand labor, it was difficult and time-consuming.

Generally 14 to 16 feet wide, the roads were excavated deeper than common gravel roads. Workers then successively layered large stones and boulders (ranging from the size of a human head to a car), medium stones, gravel and then very small “fines,” which were watered in and compacted. Along roadsides, they laid coping stones, some natural and some split from larger slabs. Residents dubbed them “Rockefeller’s teeth.” Modern crews and volunteers

tasked with trimming grass and weeds between the stones often refer to the job as “flossing Rockefeller’s teeth.”

Great craftsmanship and years of labor were invested in what started out as “a rich man’s hobby,” as one detractor said, and ended up as a way for the public to access beauty and nature. “These roads are something that never would, nor could, be built today,” says Gail Gladstone, Acadia’s cultural resources program manager and herself a landscape architect.

Among all of the system’s attributes, it is the design of the drainage system that Gladstone says she most admires. Along each section of a carriage road, Rockefeller’s workers created extensive stone-lined ditches to capture and direct water moving down mountains. In addition, a series of “back drains,” stone-lined channels perpendicular to the roads, were dug to guide water down the slopes to ditches and culverts. Those culverts ranged from two- to over 20-feet in diameter, some with multiple spans.

Next time while enjoying the carriage roads, Gladstone suggests visitors notice the drainage system’s “beautifully considered, hand-placed stonework,” which varies in style based on the crew

**BELOW:** Barney the carriage horse, at left, waits patiently while the passengers in his carriage enjoy the view near Day Mountain in Acadia National Park. At right, a team of horses from Wildwood Stables pulls a carriage along the road near the Cobblestone Bridge.

“I enjoy it as any work I do anywhere and have all the pleasure of a dog carrying a newspaper, as it makes me feel of some little use.”

— Beatrix Farrand

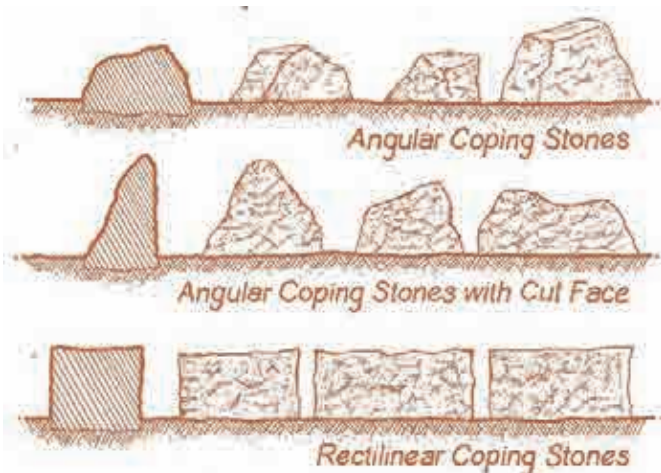


EARL BRECHLINI/FOA



EARL BRECHLINI/FOA

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working in that section.

“Infrastructure! Not sexy, but so necessary,” says Gladstone. Without it, the carriage roads “would wash right off the side of the mountain,” she adds.

Rockefeller also took care to protect the roadside landscape, which he enhanced with a little help from his friends. He sought to preserve the trees, their roots, boulders, and embankments. “You have agreed to see to it that your men are exceedingly careful,” he wrote to his contractor, acquiescing to a cost estimate that he deemed “a very high price” because of the meticulousness required.

In later years, the prominent landscape architect Beatrix Farrand of Bar Harbor drove the carriage roads with an assistant who made “road notes” about where native plants, flowering shrubs, and wild ferns might further delight, as well as conceal any construction scars. Despite Rockefeller’s entreaties to submit a bill, she refused, saying, “I enjoy it as any work I do anywhere and have all the pleasure of a dog carrying a newspaper, as it makes me feel of some little use.”

The experience of passing through a woodland garden was heightened by the creation of 16 unique stone-faced bridges. (An additional one was not financed by Rockefeller.) For these, Rockefeller enlisted new teams of architects and builders.

The first bridge, which spanned Jordan Stream, featured the

## Partnership Is Key To Perpetual Care

Completion of the work on the carriage roads that surround Eagle Lake will cap an effort that began nearly 30 years ago when Friends of Acadia instituted its first major capital campaign. The five-year Carriage Road Campaign, which wrapped up in 1996, created a \$4 million fund to maintain the 45-mile system in Acadia National Park in perpetuity.

Those funds leveraged a commitment of \$6 million in federal appropriations to reconstruct the entire system.

Because the carriage roads around Eagle Lake were in the best shape when the rehabilitation began, they were dropped out of the initial project and were slated to be done last. Some preliminary work may begin in late fall. See related story.

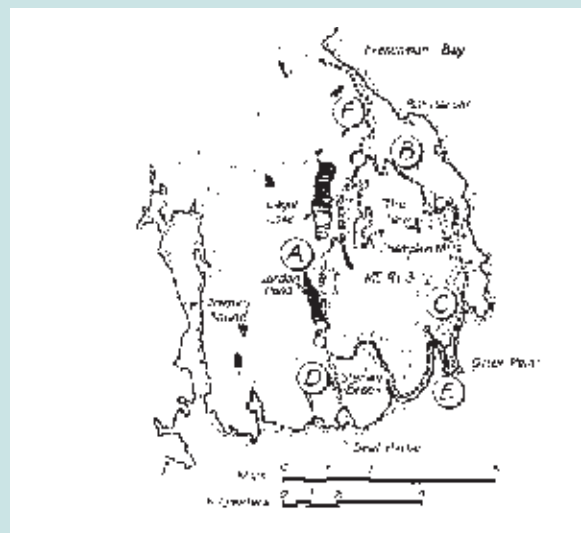
Friends of Acadia has also provided other support in the form of volunteers and fund raising for specific carriage road projects and preservation work.

Since those early years, the carriage road endowment has grown considerably.

In 2018, FOA made grants totaling \$470,510 for carriage road maintenance and carriage road vista clearing. In 2019, Friends of Acadia granted the park more than \$339,000 in support for maintenance of the carriage roads.

At the FOA Benefit last summer, paddle raise participants donated more than \$300,000 to help maintain and preserve 17 historic carriage road bridges. ■

— Earl Brechlin



use of native cobblestones, the only one to do so in the system. Although future bridges were constructed of quarried stone, each displayed an individual design and attention to its setting. For example, Hemlock Bridge adopted a gothic-arch style, “probably chosen as appropriate for its setting in a dark hemlock grove, reflecting the pointy tips of the majestic trees,” says historian Quin.

Although construction of the carriage road network—stretching 45 miles within the park and 11 on private property—was complete by 1940, Rockefeller stayed involved. Rockefeller continued to remain adamant that motor vehicles not be allowed on carriage roads, except for emergencies and maintenance. Among his communications with park management during the 1940s were messages transmitting disappointment that a visit by the Secretary of the Interior included a ride on the carriage roads in a car, and one opposed to the War Department’s request to let large trucks transport classified radar testing equipment on carriage roads on Sargent Mountain.

After World War II, recreation was changing. A Northeast Harbor summer resident asked the Park Service to allow bicycling over the carriage roads. In response, Acadia’s resident landscape architect Benjamin Breeze pedaled more than 40 miles to assess the adaptability of the carriage roads to bicycle use and prepared

a report, which was sent to Rockefeller in 1949. Breeze evaluated options such as tarring three or four feet on one side or building separate cycle trails.

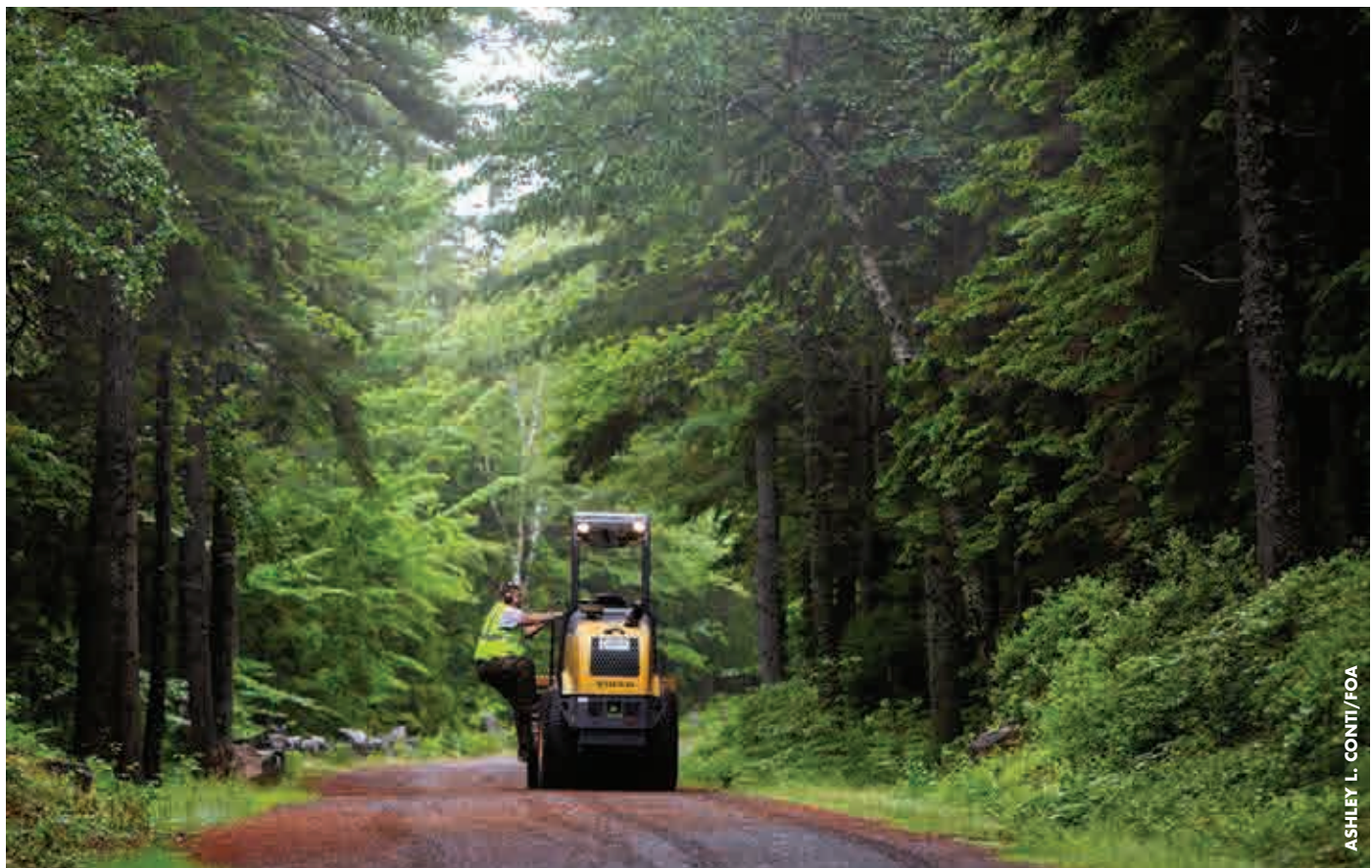
In the end, the park official, “being 35 years old, weight 195, and not having used my second wind more than twice a year for the last ten,” was surprised how much park territory he could cover. He advocated joint use of the carriage roads by horsemen and cyclists.

Some adaptations were necessary. For example, the park surfaced the ever-popular Eagle Lake loop with finer gravel in the 1970s, according to an historic engineering record. And soon it will be the focus of a major rehabilitation including both the road surface and drainage infrastructure. (See sidebar.)

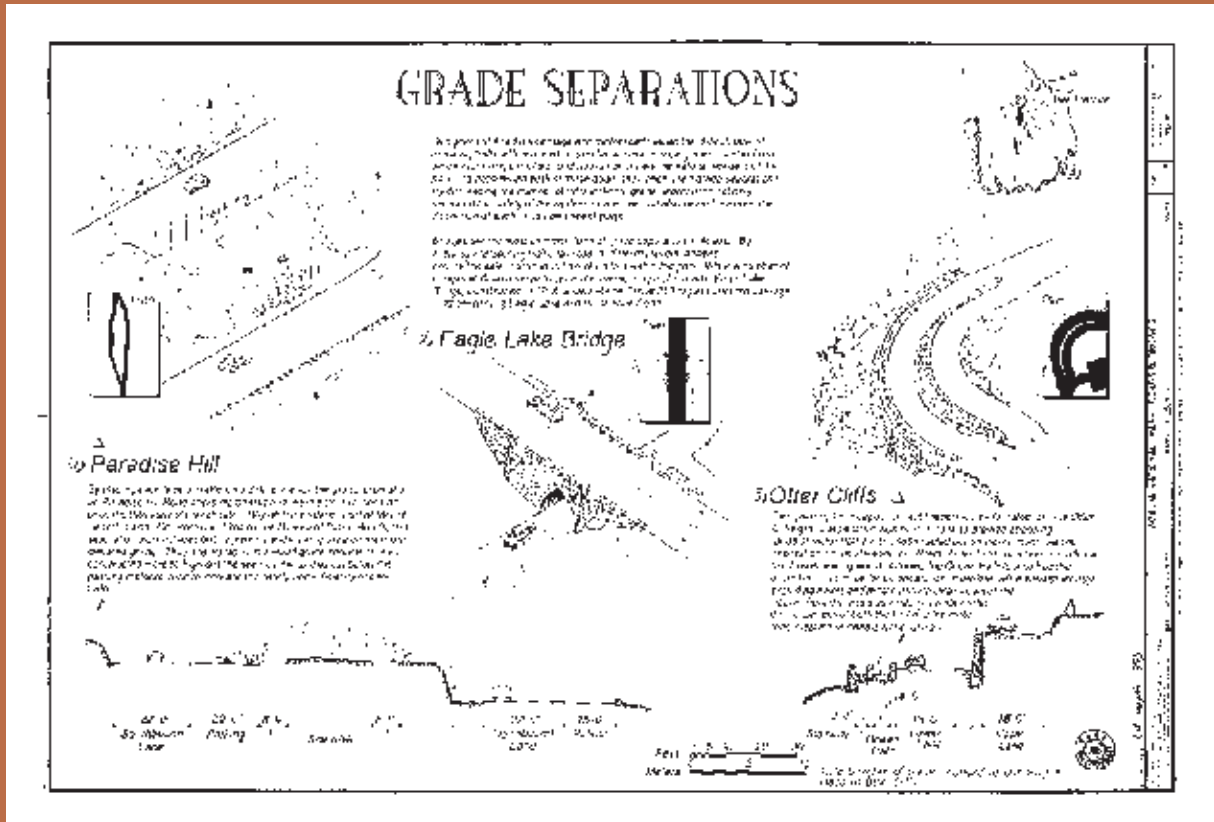
So, next time you venture out on a carriage road, think about John D. Rockefeller Jr.—and the architects, contractors, engineers, and crews who made his vision a reality. No matter how you enjoy the carriage roads, the well-trained, educated, and informed eye is sure to see more. ■

A former NYC marketing executive, FOA member LYNN FANTOM writes about the outdoors and aquaculture, especially in Maine, where she now spends half her time.

**ACADIA NATIONAL PARK’S** Scott Bennett, Carriage Road lead machine operator, checks to make sure it is on track to compact the gravel on the Carriage Road near Eagle Lake in Acadia National Park.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



## Eagle Lake Carriage Road Is Final Piece of 45-Mile Puzzle

The seven miles of carriage roads surrounding Eagle Lake are slated to be rehabilitated, although delays have pushed the start of work back from September of this year into 2021. Some preparation work may begin in late fall this year.

A final start date and the winning bidder have not yet been identified, according to Gail Gladstone, cultural resources program manager of Acadia National Park. Visitors should be alert to closures, especially next year when heavy construction begins.

Work on this popular route for bicyclists and walkers concludes a system-wide rehabilitation project, begun in the 1990s, that has already restored 38 miles of these rustic roads. Federal funds will pay for the rehabilitation, while FOA's Carriage Road endowment will provide funds for continued maintenance (See related story).

Capping three years of design work, construction will include replacing road surface and subgrade, rehabilitating

drainage infrastructure, restoring the historic bridge over Bubble Brook at the south end of Eagle Lake, and stabilizing a rockslide along the west side carriage road near Connors Nubble.

Construction crews will be using a staging area on the east side of the lake known as "Liscomb's Pit" and create a temporary road from the pit to the carriage road. Because the park's long-range transportation plan calls for converting that area to a parking lot (to facilitate a ban on parking along the roadside at the north end of Eagle Lake), that access road will eventually become the main entrance to the carriage roads in that vicinity.

New work will meet exacting standards, based both on historic precedent and the 1990s rehabilitation program. For example, some culverts will be enlarged from 18 to 24 inches, but the project will preserve the historic use of coping stones and hidden pipes.

"The stone will be placed by hand," says Gladstone. ■

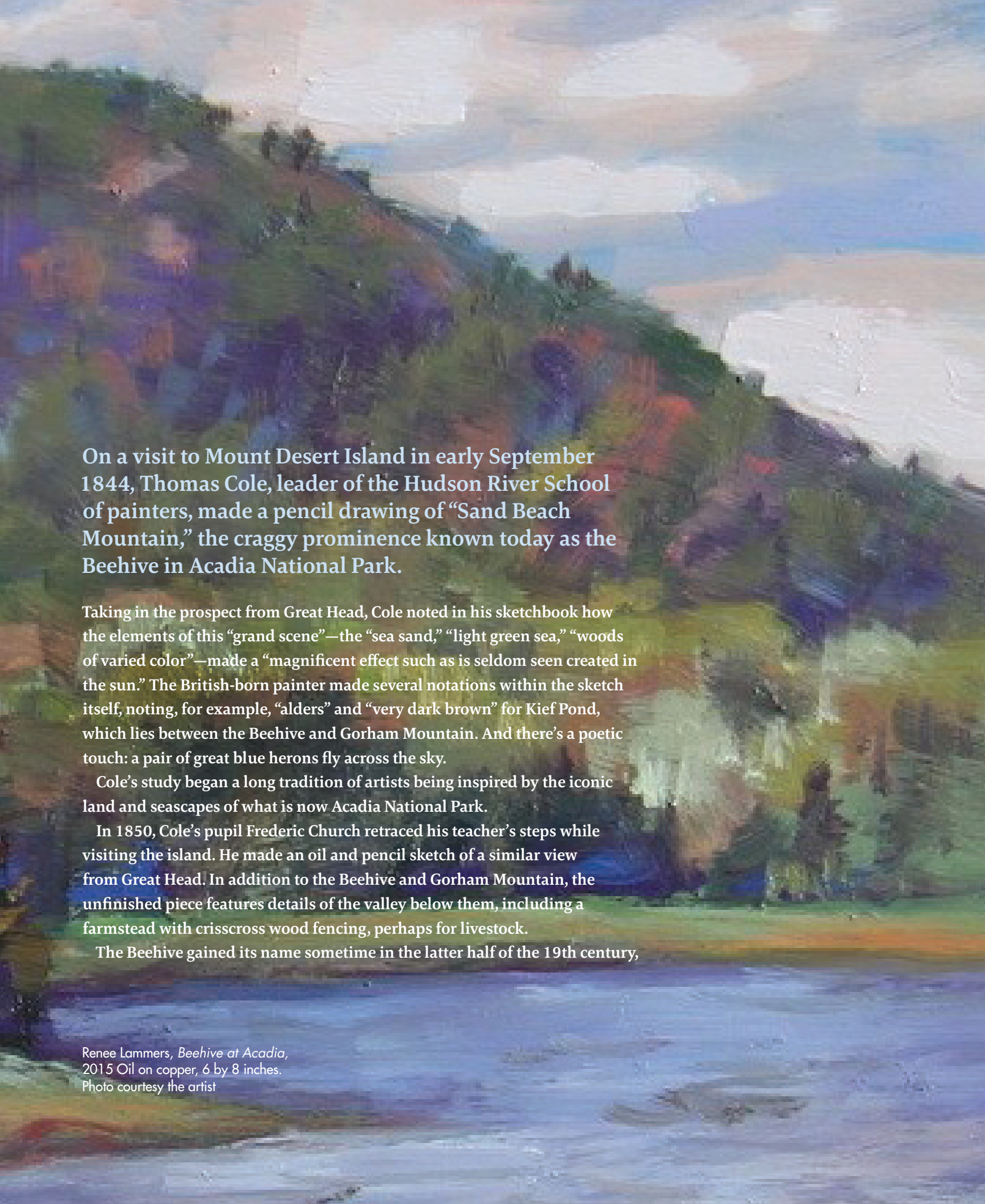


# Behold the Beehive

ICONIC MOUNTAIN HAS A  
SPECIAL PLACE IN ACADIA—  
AND ART—HISTORY

by Carl Little



The background of the page is a painting of a mountain landscape. The scene is viewed from an elevated position, looking down into a valley. The mountains are covered in dense, colorful foliage, with shades of green, blue, purple, and red. In the foreground, there is a body of water, possibly a lake or a wide river, with a sandy or rocky shore. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds. The overall style is impressionistic, with visible brushstrokes and a rich, textured appearance.

On a visit to Mount Desert Island in early September 1844, Thomas Cole, leader of the Hudson River School of painters, made a pencil drawing of “Sand Beach Mountain,” the craggy prominence known today as the Beehive in Acadia National Park.

Taking in the prospect from Great Head, Cole noted in his sketchbook how the elements of this “grand scene”—the “sea sand,” “light green sea,” “woods of varied color”—made a “magnificent effect such as is seldom seen created in the sun.” The British-born painter made several notations within the sketch itself, noting, for example, “alders” and “very dark brown” for Kief Pond, which lies between the Beehive and Gorham Mountain. And there’s a poetic touch: a pair of great blue herons fly across the sky.

Cole’s study began a long tradition of artists being inspired by the iconic land and seascapes of what is now Acadia National Park.

In 1850, Cole’s pupil Frederic Church retraced his teacher’s steps while visiting the island. He made an oil and pencil sketch of a similar view from Great Head. In addition to the Beehive and Gorham Mountain, the unfinished piece features details of the valley below them, including a farmstead with crisscross wood fencing, perhaps for livestock.

The Beehive gained its name sometime in the latter half of the 19th century,



COURTESY OF THE BAR HARBOR HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

Frederic Edwin Church, *The Beehive and Sand Beach from Great Head, Mount Desert Island, Maine, ca. 1850* Brush and oil paint, graphite on cardboard, 10½ by 15½ inches Gift of Louis P. Church, 1917-4-1368. Cooper Hewitt, Smithsonian Design Museum, New York. Right: The Lyman Farm at Schooner Head in Bar Harbor where artist Thomas Cole boarded in 1844 while doing studies of what is today the Beehive, Sand Beach, and Great Head in Acadia National Park.

thanks to its resemblance to the habitat of buzzing bees. According to historian Earl Brechlin, the name appears on some of the earliest maps of the island, including the 1887 Colby and Stuart map. He notes, “It was one [of the place names] that was never changed by the park over the years.”

In May 1908 Bar Harbor summer resident Eliza Homans donated the land surrounding the Beehive to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, “the first large parcel,” writes author Catherine Schmitt, “that later became Acadia National Park.” Part of the incentive for the gift was her fear that if the land was not preserved, her grandchildren might one day “find a Merry-Go-Round established there!”

When the American Impressionist Carroll Sargent Tyson painted the Beehive in 1946, he chose a more intimate perspective than his 19th-century predecessors. Setting up his easel on what was then called Satterlee’s Beach, he rendered the

Beehive as a bristling presence overlooking the stream that flows through the eastern side of the beach to Newport Cove. A bright red canoe rests on the bank, its color echoed in the rippling water.

The financier J. P. Morgan purchased Great Head and Sand Beach for \$50,000 in 1910 and almost immediately conveyed the property to his daughter Louisa who was married to New York City lawyer Herbert Satterlee. At her death in 1946, the estate went to her husband. The following year, the Great Fire of 1947 roared over the island, destroying much of the Satterlee homestead and scorching the surrounding landscape. According to Donald Lenahan, author of *The Memorials of Acadia National Park*, the couple’s daughter, Eleanor Morgan Satterlee, acquired the 100-acre property through her father’s will in 1949 and subsequently donated it, in her mother’s name, to the United States of America to become part of Acadia. A plaque at Sand Beach memorializes her special gift.



COURTESY OF EARL BRECHLIN



COURTESY WIKICOMMONS

Above: Hudson River School artist Thomas Cole, left, and his protégé, Frederic Edwin Church. Courtesy Wikicommons. Left: A vintage postcard, circa 1890, of the old Lyman Farmhouse on Schooner Head.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PRINCETON UNIVERSITY ART MUSEUM & ART RESOURCE, NEW YORK

Carroll Sargent Tyson, *Satterlee's Beach, Mount Desert Island, 1946* Oil on paperboard, 19 3/4 by 23 7/8 inches. Photo courtesy Hirschl & Adler Gallery. Right: Thomas Cole, *Sand Beach Mountain, Mount Desert Island, 1844* Graphite on cream wove paper, 11 3/16 by 17 inches Princeton University Art Museum, gift of Frank Jewett Mather Jr.

Today, artists continue to be drawn to paint the Beehive. On a hike with friends in November 2006, watercolor painter Diana Roper McDowell of Lamoine remembers looking back at the mountain from the end of Sand Beach and being taken by the zigzag path of the stream. “The mountain just framed itself behind the stream,” McDowell recalls.

Working from a photo taken of the motif, McDowell transformed the mountain into a geometric patchwork quilt. The Beehive takes center stage, tilted slightly upward to the pale blue sky, its surroundings receding. In her signature manner, she simplified the shapes that define the trees, rocks, and light and dark areas. “If I try to paint ‘what it looks like,’ I get lost in making it look ‘real,’” she explains.

McDowell donated the painting to Friends of Acadia for its 2019 benefit auction.

By contrast, Renee Lammers of Bucksport is a plein air painter,

ready to brave the elements. Despite the challenges of working outdoors, including canvases carried off by the wind, Lammers finds she has “greater energy and excitement” when trying to capture the light on location. On a busy Memorial Day weekend a few years back, she hiked the length of Sand Beach to find the view she wanted. With the wind blowing fiercely, she found a protected spot, although some sand still mixed in with her paint. “I think it adds character,” she says. With its active brushwork, her portrait of the Beehive and its surroundings seems to capture the blustery day.

McDowell and Lammers number among a host of contemporary painters who find inspiration exploring what Cole called “the grandest coast scenery we have yet found.” Thanks to ongoing stewardship by the park and Friends of Acadia, we can be assured there will be more memorable paintings where those came from. ■

Diana Roper McDowell, *The Beehive*, 2007 Watercolor, 10 by 29 inches Private collection. PHOTO KEN WOISARD, COURTESY THE ARTIST



# Coronavirus Changes Park Operations

BY EARL BRECHLIN

Hamstrung a year ago when a lengthy partial government shutdown interrupted the seasonal hiring process, officials at Acadia were looking forward to a “normal” season in 2020. Then the coronavirus crisis hit in March.

Officials, many working from home to comply with Maine’s “Stay Safe At Home Order,” found the importing of seasonal workers again grinding to a halt. This time the holdup was waiting for new rules dealing with reconfiguration of seasonal housing and figuring out how to comply with Maine’s 14-day mandatory quarantine policy for anyone entering the state.

“The guidance limited the number of people we could have staying in park accommodations,” explains deputy superintendent Michael Madell. The new rules: one person per bedroom and bathroom. “It basically cut our housing capacity for the season in half.”

However, with so many other properties on Mount Desert Island that are often rented short-term to tourists unable to open, a good number of landlords decided to rent to seasonal workers instead. “It has been much easier for people to find housing this season,” Madell notes.

Acadia officials also sought, and were granted, special authority

to allow them to hire seasonal workers outside the usual federal process, which means they can advertise and bring on more people already living in the area.

## Spring closures

Acadia closed all motor roads and facilities to the public on March 26. All non-essential personnel at headquarters were directed to work at home whenever possible. The bulk of the Park Loop Road was already closed for the winter, but the directive meant even the Ocean Drive section was closed.

The carriage roads, which had already been closed as usual for mud season, were kept shut. All volunteer efforts were ordered to cease.

The entire park, however, was not closed, an approach that officials deliberately took to allow area residents continued access under guidance that urged people not to travel more than 30 minutes from home to recreate. While many trailheads and other parking spots quickly filled with cars, especially on weekends, Acadia did not experience the problems of trash, waste, and resource damage reported by parks in other parts of the country. The Schoodic Point Loop also remained open.

**SOCIAL DISTANCING IN THE OUTDOORS**

- Observe the CDC’s minimum recommended physical distancing of 6 feet from other persons at all times.
- Wash hands frequently. Cover when you cough. Use hand sanitizer.
- Do not use the park or the trails if you are exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19.
- Share the trail and warn other trail users of your presence as you pass.
- Be prepared for limited access to public restrooms and water fountains.

FRIENDS OF ACADIA  
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LISA WILLIAMS/FOA

## Volume Lower On Acadia's 'Quietside'

Separated from Bar Harbor by five miles of ocean and nearly 50 miles away by road, the Schoodic Peninsula section of Acadia National Park, and Schoodic Institute, have not been spared impacts from the coronavirus pandemic.

Officials are contemplating major changes to the Schoodic Education Adventure, a joint Friends of Acadia, Schoodic Institute, and Acadia National Park program that last year brought more than 400 middle school students from across Maine and New England to participate in overnight experiential learning. That may only offer day visit activities, for instance.

According to Schoodic Institute's President and CEO, Nicholas Fisichelli, PhD, science programs continue even if meetings, trainings, and work with partners have moved online. Most noticeable, Fisichelli says, is a quieter campus on the extensively reconfigured former Navy base. "We are taking this time as an opportunity to evaluate and improve our science and education programming and prepare campus for the return of visitors."

— Earl Brechlin



COURTESY OF KAREN ZIMMERMANN

### Gradual Reopening

Rather than the usual April 15 opening, the Park Loop Road and most restrooms did not open this spring until June 1. The carriage roads reopened to pedestrians only on June 5. Bicycles and horses were prohibited while crews removed downed trees, filled in washouts, and repaired other damage.

### A Different Kind of Season

While the spectacular scenery has not changed, visitors throughout the summer will find that Acadia is operating on a very different footing than in the past.

Unfortunately, there will be no Island Explorer Bus service. (See related story in this issue.) Because of planned carriage road work in the Eagle Lake area (see related story) a decision not to operate the Explorer's Bicycle Express between the Bar Harbor Village Green and Eagle Lake had been made before the pandemic hit.

Tight spaces that hamper the ability to allow optimum social distancing have prompted changes to visitor information services at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. It opened on June 1, but all activity has shifted to tents and canopies outside. The restrooms in the building are open, however. The installation of exterior doors during major renovations last year allowed those to remain operational. The Eastern National bookstore in the visitor center opened in June but shops at the Sieur de Monts Nature Center, and two at Schoodic, will remain closed.

The Nature Center itself is not slated to open to the public this season.

The Jordan Pond House opened in June for limited hours with take-out service.

According to Madell, park personnel, as well as visitors, will be encouraged to wear face masks when it is hard to maintain the recommended six feet of physical distance. Few, if any,

formal interpretive programs will be scheduled to avoid drawing crowds. "It will probably look more like a roving-type of situation which rangers encountering folks and striking up a conversation," he adds.

New schedules governing the cleaning of restrooms and other buildings were still in the process of being drawn up when this issue went to press. "Normally we'd try to get to each restroom at least once a day but now they will be cleaning more frequently," Madell notes.

Because they get much heavier use, campground restrooms need to be cleaned even more frequently, Madell continues. That requirement, plus uncertainty about whether Maine will modify its 14-day quarantine rule before July 1, has resulted in postponement of a decision on opening campgrounds.

Also, because of limits on gathering sizes, most special use permits have been cancelled.

According to Madell, when the Hulls Cove Visitor Center opened June 1 this year the number of people who stopped by was an order of magnitude lower than in 2019. "I think they may have had a total of 50 people all day," he said.

As restrictions on stays at lodging places relax in Maine (Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, and New Jersey residents have no restrictions, others must show proof of a negative coronavirus test within 72 hours prior to arrival), it is inevitable that there will be more visitors coming. But no one expects it will approach the previous record of 3.5 million visits in a year. This year, the anticipated Memorial Day Weekend surge failed to materialize. "There's no playbook for how to do all of this," Madell says. "Things are going to be very different than in the past." ■

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

# Island Explorer Service Suspended For Season

BY EARL BRECHLIN

In consultation with Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, the Maine Department of Transportation, and other partners, Downeast Transportation elected to indefinitely postpone Island Explorer bus service for 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Island Explorer normally begins service at Schoodic over Memorial Day weekend and on Mount Desert Island June 23.

To meet social distancing guidelines issued by the State of Maine and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Island Explorer buses could only carry 12 passengers each this summer as compared to the normal capacity of 30 seated passengers and 14 standing. During busy times of the season, the bus system often operates at capacity and requires passengers to wait in queues for the next bus with room for riders. The 12-passenger limit would likely increase the frequency and length of time for passengers to wait.

Citing the difficulty of the decision to indefinitely postpone service, Paul Murphy, Executive Director of Downeast Transportation said, “We recognize that park visitors, residents, and commuters love the bus system, so we do not take this action lightly. But the safety of our employees and the public is paramount.”

National parks have been reported widely as top choices for summer vacations during the pandemic since they offer recreationists outdoor activities. Murphy indicated that Downeast Transportation and partners would meet throughout the summer to evaluate whether conditions allow for operating the service. Factors in such a decision include what’s in the best interest of the public’s and drivers’ health and whether social distancing guidelines remain in effect. Also a factor is whether Downeast Transportation would be able to hire enough drivers locally to operate the service. Downeast Transportation typically hires around 120 drivers for the season, but many of them come

from out-of-state and decided not to travel to the region due to uncertainty of whether the Island Explorer would run. Many local bus drivers return to driving school buses in the fall, so hiring enough bus drivers for fall service could be challenging.

Friends of Acadia helps fund the operations of the Island Explorer each year. President David MacDonald stated, “We fully support the need to prioritize health and safety. FOA pledges to remain flexible and prepared to help in the future should there be a recommendation to resume some level of service later in the season.”

FOA also provided Downeast Transportation with a planning grant to determine future capital and operating needs for the Island Explorer as demand for public transportation may increase when Acadia National Park implements its transportation plan. MacDonald remarked, “It’s a particularly unusual year when simultaneously the Island Explorer partners are discussing growth in the system, as well as postponement of service.”

Earlier this year, Downeast Transportation made the decision not to operate the express bicycle shuttle between downtown Bar Harbor and entrances to Acadia’s carriage road system at Eagle Lake. That decision was made to avoid scheduled construction that would force closures on those popular routes. It now looks like construction may not begin in full until late fall, meaning full closures are unlikely. (See related story.)

Downeast Transportation continues to operate commuter bus routes from Bangor, Ellsworth, Cherryfield, and Milbridge to Bar Harbor on weekdays. It also operates limited public transportation routes throughout Hancock County. Downeast Transportation adheres to social distancing guidelines on these routes. It has also implemented a comprehensive cleaning regimen to ensure the safety of drivers and passengers. For more information, visit [www.downeasttrans.org](http://www.downeasttrans.org). ■

**WHEN ACADIA** reopened for visitors on June 1, after being shut down most of the spring due to coronavirus restrictions, information at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center was provided from staff in open tents.



# Protect and Preserve

## Join Friends of Acadia

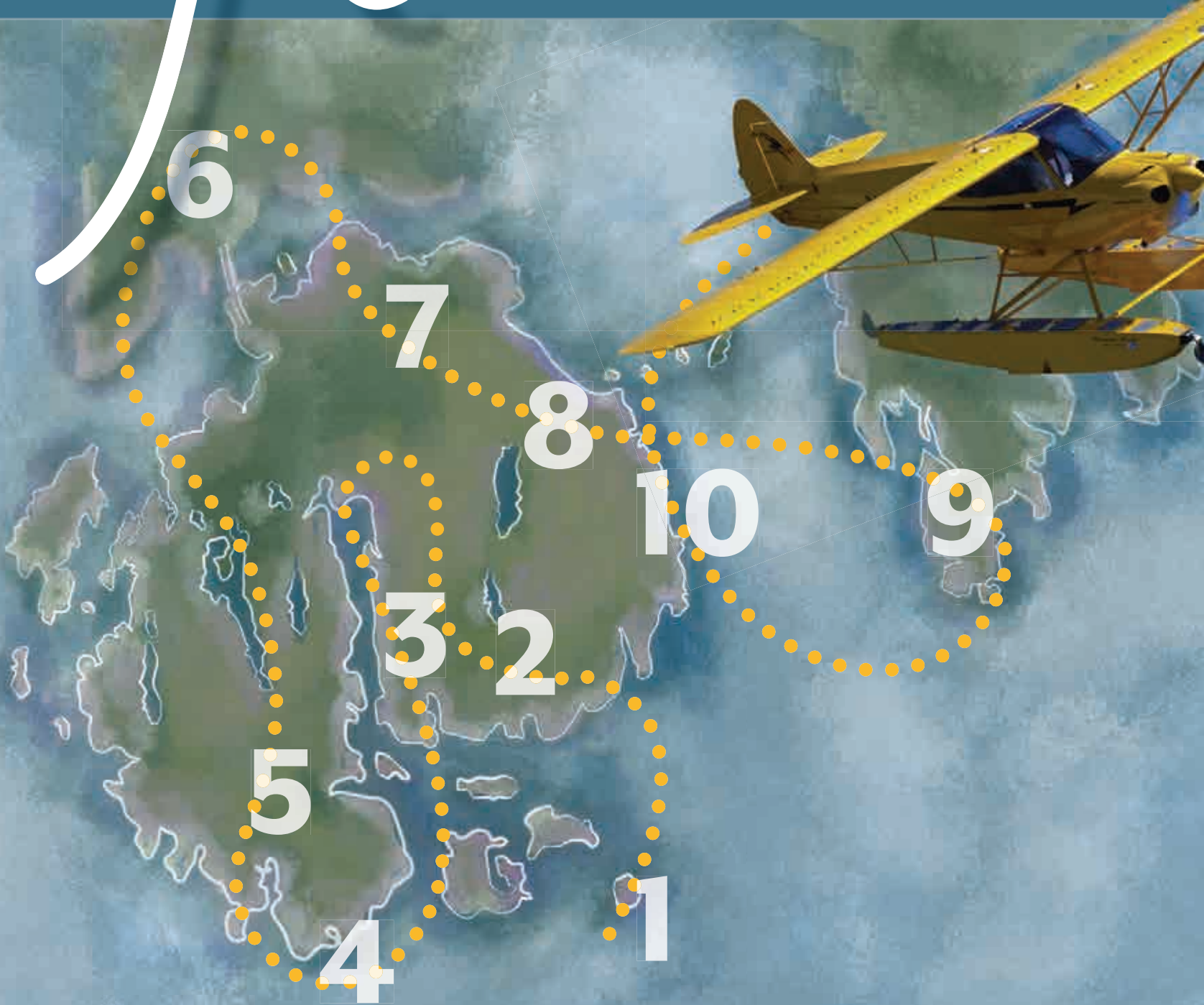
[friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org)

A membership you and your  
loved ones will benefit from  
for generations to come.

All donations and memberships, including gift memberships, are used to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK** and the surrounding communities.

# Acadia

from Above





# MARTHA STEWART EXPLORES FOA PROJECTS AROUND ACADIA WITH GARY LICKLE ABOARD HIS CARBON CUB SEAPLANE

In August of 2019 two wonderful Friends of Acadia supporters took to the skies for an aerial tour of FOA projects in and around Acadia National Park. Pilot and Vice Chairman of Chilton Trust Company Gary Lickle and Martha Stewart set off from Seal Harbor, near Martha's home, Skylands, flying mostly clockwise around Mount Desert Island while zig zagging toward Baker Island, Trenton, and Schoodic Peninsula.

Under Gary's leadership, Chilton Trust Company has been the lead corporate sponsor of FOA's Annual Benefit for the past six years and has always enjoyed finding creative ways to support Acadia. For example, Gary has offered an aerial tour of Everglades National Park to the Benefit Auction two years in a row. Martha Stewart has been a loyal and generous supporter of FOA ever since she bought a home in Seal Harbor in 1997. Whether as an annual donor, campaign donor, auction donor, or advisor, Martha's love of the park always shines through.

*One of my favorite ways to experience Acadia is from the air. Nothing is more beautiful than a bird's-eye view of the topography that Champlain discovered by ship in 1604. It's a wonderful way to appreciate the stewardship of Acadia and the tremendous amount of attention and dedication workers and donors have given to the park.*

*- Martha Stewart*



## 10 Acadia National Park Projects Supported by FOA

- 1 BAKER ISLAND
- 2 JORDAN POND
- 3 LOWER HADLOCK POND
- 4 BASS HARBOR LIGHT
- 5 MARSHALL BROOK WATERSHED & BASS HARBOR MARSH
- 6 ACADIA GATEWAY CENTER
- 7 NORTHEAST CREEK
- 8 CROMWELL BROOK WATERSHED
- 9 SCHOODIC WOODS
- 10 PRECIPICE



*Supporting the conservation work of Friends of Acadia has been an honor for Chilton Trust. Taking to the skies with Martha to see the scope of FOA's projects and the beauty of Acadia from above was an absolute pleasure!*

*- Gary Lickle,  
Vice Chairman, Chilton Trust*

# 10 AERIAL PERSPECTIVES



**BAKER ISLAND**, just south of MDI is a cultural and historic treasure of Acadia. The lighthouse, built in 1828, and the rich history of settlement and lighthouse stewardship make Baker Island a special destination in the park. In 2017 FOA raised funds for the restoration of the Gilley Family House and the Keeper's House, which have been closed to visitors for many years due to hazardous conditions.

**JORDAN POND** is one of the clearest and most popular lakes in Maine and serves as a water supply for the Town of Mount Desert. In recent years, water clarity in Jordan Pond has been declining. To monitor this change and inform management decisions, FOA partnered with the park and researchers at the University of Maine in 2013 to deploy a high-resolution water quality buoy. Learn more at [jpbuoy.com](http://jpbuoy.com).

1

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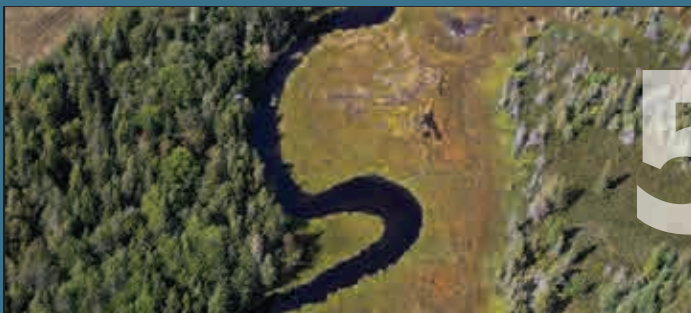
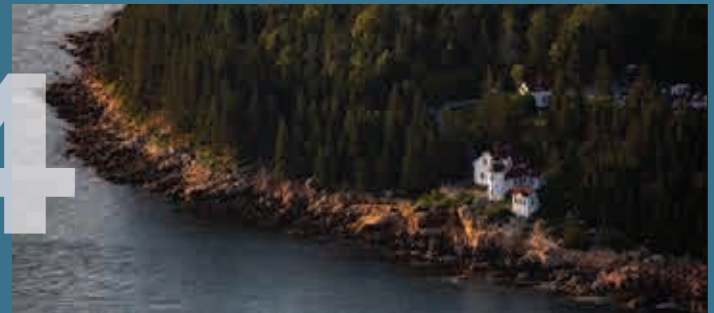


**LOWER HADLOCK POND** is a favorite hiking destination with mountain views, a burbling brook, peaceful waters, and numerous trail connections. It is also the water source for the village of Northeast Harbor. In 2011, FOA raised funds and partnered with Maine Coast Heritage Trust to execute a complex, multi-stage process to protect 37 acres along Hadlock Pond's western shore.

3

The **BASS HARBOR HEAD LIGHT**, built in 1858, is perhaps the most iconic of all the lighthouses along the coastline of Acadia. In 2018 FOA raised funds to help facilitate the transfer of the property from the U.S. Coast Guard to Acadia and to restore and repurpose the site for future use. The property officially transferred to Acadia in 2020.

4



The **MARSHALL BROOK WATERSHED** starts on the south slopes of Mansell Mountain and drains developed lands in Southwest Harbor before passing back into the park and Bass Harbor Marsh. The watershed has been negatively impacted by many activities over the years. Friends of Acadia, in partnership with the park, is working to assess the health of the watershed and restore its ecological function.

5



# OF FOA PROJECTS IN ACADIA



6

The **ACADIA GATEWAY CENTER**, located in Trenton, is an integral part of Acadia's transportation system. Currently, the center serves as offices and maintenance facilities for the Island Explorer and year-round regional transit services, as well as an official Maine "Park and Ride" facility. Future growth will entail a visitor center, additional parking areas, EV charging stations, and more robust bus service to the park. The center will be expanded to serve as a regional transportation hub, a visitor welcome center, and park-and-ride facilities for Island Explorer service to Acadia.

**NORTHEAST CREEK** is MDI's largest estuary and an essential habitat for many species. From 2004 to 2008, FOA partnered with Acadia National Park, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Bar Harbor Housing Authority to conserve 140 acres within the park's legislated boundary, protecting the water quality and scenic beauty of the Northeast Creek watershed.

7



8

**CROMWELL BROOK WATERSHED** drains Champlain and Dorr mountains, the Tarn, Sieur de Monts, and the Great Meadow before flowing into Frenchman Bay. Since 2013, FOA has partnered with the park, Town of Bar Harbor, College of the Atlantic, the Maine Natural History Observatory, and private landowners to restore this dynamic watershed. Invasive species management and native plant restoration, baseline mapping and monitoring, and improvements to sea-run fish passage under roads are just some of the projects underway.

In 2011 FOA and Maine Coast Heritage Trust helped conserve 1,400 acres of land on the **SCHOODIC PENINSULA**, which was added to the park in 2015 as the largest addition to the park in decades. The project also included the development of the 100-site Schoodic Woods Campground, expanded hiking trails, and a multi-use path for new recreation loops for skiing and biking.

9



10

The **PRECIPICE** trailhead at Champlain Mountain is perhaps the best location in Acadia to view Peregrine Falcons, which were reintroduced to the park in 1986. FOA supports Acadia's Raptor Intern who staffs a viewing platform at the trailhead. Many mornings from mid-May through mid-August, spotting scopes offer close-up views of the nest, and the intern is on hand to teach visitors about the falcons' behavior and life history.

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Basma Swearingen  
Dorothy and Lewis Thayne  
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Denise Van Winkle  
John Wabiszczewicz II  
George Waldrep  
Susan Warhol  
Sherry Wenger  
WePay  
Lisa White  
Jane and Edmund Woods  
Christine and Charles Wujcik  
Mary Youman



Newly minted Friends of Acadia line up for a group shot after signing up at the membership table at Jordan Pond House last summer.

FOA



The final paperwork to transfer the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse from the U.S. Coastguard to Acadia National Park was completed in early July. Above, top left and bottom right, a crew works to remove an unused radio tower from the site. As the other images above illustrate, the lighthouse is among the most photographed spots in the park.

LIGHTHOUSE continued from page 4

Park officials are planning some environmental remediation and are exploring exactly how to manage it and how much access to allow. More than \$300,000 contributed during a Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit paddle raise has helped pay for that work.

“Our goals are to preserve the lighthouse first and foremost and to increase the understanding of its historical and cultural significance,” Kelly says. He continues that officials have already launched a process that will involve park managers, Tremont town officials, and the local historical society.

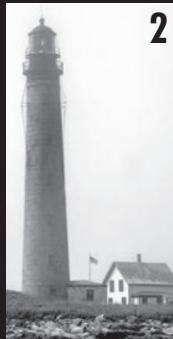
No decision has been made yet on whether it will be possible to make the top of the tower accessible to visitors, who would have to ascend a narrow spiral staircase and squeeze through a small metal hatch. “Accessibility would be a major challenge,” Kelly says.

With the completion of the paperwork involving the park, Coast Guard, and the General Services Administration, an entire realm of possibilities opens, Kelly continues. Property west of the lighthouse will become part of the park and could provide new and different views of the beacon. Officials are also exploring ways to mitigate the parking and traffic congestion along the access road, which can become jammed with cars during peak visitation hours, particularly at sunset.

“There are a lot of ideas on the table,” he says. ■

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia’s Communications Director.

# LIGHTHOUSES NEAR & AROUND ACADIA NATIONAL PARK | Q TEST

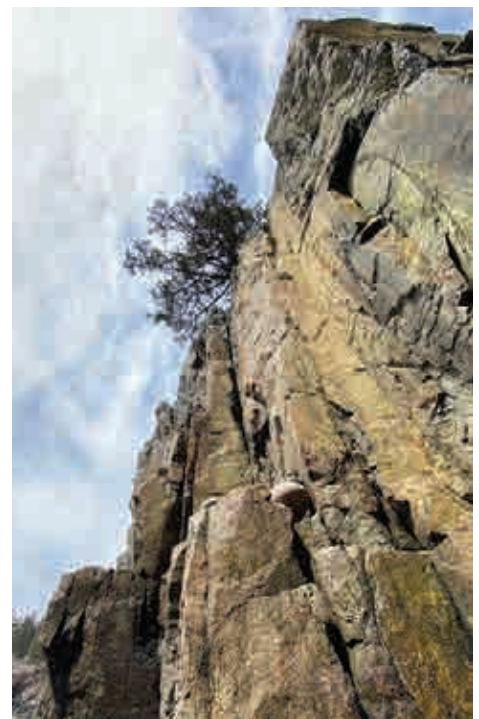


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February 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020

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ANNE GREEN/FOA

\_\_\_ Baker Island, \_\_\_ Bass Harbor Head, \_\_\_ Bear Island,  
\_\_\_ Duck Island, \_\_\_ Egg Rock, \_\_\_ Isle au Haut,  
\_\_\_ Mark Island, \_\_\_ Mount Desert Rock, and \_\_\_ Petite Manan.



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

**“...even though their schedules and responsibilities are increasingly congruous, they have made it a policy to keep work and family life separate.”**

Brothers Bik and Jesse Wheeler of Bar Harbor have been connected to Acadia National Park since they were children growing up among its forests, mountains, shores, and lakes. Both ended up pursuing careers with the National Park Service.

## Brothers Share Life-long Connection to Acadia

BY BRONWEN ROGERS

Brothers Jesse and Bik Wheeler have been deeply connected with Acadia National Park as far back as they can remember. While they were growing up in Bar Harbor, Acadia served as the bedrock of their community—a setting for numerous childhood memories, lessons, and beyond.

Jesse holds dear their family’s annual Thanksgiving walks through the park. He has a favorite memory of their mother taking them to surveil a family of beavers off the Park Loop Road. Bik has vivid memories of exploring tide pools—a beloved activity for children in Acadia. “I also have this memory of this amazing uplifting feeling hiking down the ridges with the family,” he adds.

In those early years, the brothers knew the park as recreational visitors, reveling in its beauty. Later, that relationship inspired a desire to give back, with both joining the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps supported by Friends of Acadia during their summer breaks from Mount Desert Island

High School. AYCC employs high school students and allows them to experience the park in a new way by contributing to the upkeep of the trails and other backcountry infrastructure. Jesse joined the program in 2000. Bik joined in 2001.

After high school, the Wheeler brothers ventured off — Jesse to the University of Vermont and Bik to Mount Allison University. Both returned in the summers for seasonal work at the park. Eventually they found their way back to Acadia permanently. Bik chose to transfer to College of the Atlantic where he also completed his Master of Philosophy. While he was studying, Acadia was Bik’s classroom.

Jesse considers his settlement to be more coincidental—he was working for The Northeast Temperate Network during graduate school at Antioch University New England and was sent to Acadia to monitor forest health. Now, Jesse is the manager of the Vegetation Program dealing with invasive species, and Bik is one of the park’s leading wildlife biologists.



WILL GREENE/FOA

Jesse Wheeler works to remove invasive purple loosestrife from a wetland on Marshall Brook in Acadia National Park.

Early in their careers here, they rarely had the opportunity to work together. Often, there were periods when they were like two passing ships with Bik, who was studying bats, working in the field at night and Jesse during the daytime. “We have evolved in our disciplines in recent months and years,” Jesse explains.

Now, they find themselves working within the same interdisciplinary teams more often these days as their roles are more closely aligned. But even though their schedules and responsibilities are increasingly congruous, they have made it a policy to keep work and family life separate. For example, they agreed not to bring up work at family dinners. Still, their bond has its perks.

“I fully trust what Bik has to say and I think we have some pretty high levels of respect for each other,” says Jesse.

“That’s one-sided for sure!” Bik jokes, but quickly adds, “I totally agree.”

Bik explains that working with your brother gives you a “confidante [who’s] always available to help. We don’t feel bad about asking each other dumb questions or bouncing wacky ideas off each other.”

Bik also notes that their positive working relationship is not solely reliant on their brotherhood. The respect and trust they have in each other, something you can only build with time and shared work experience, is also valued in their resource management workgroup.

Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Management at Acadia,

has known Jesse and Bik for more than 10 years. She describes the brothers as real “homegrown people” who are unique experts in their individual fields and yet share a remarkable commitment to conservation ethics, collaboration, and science communication. Cole-Will says that the entire park staff “appreciate[s] their skill, commitment, and [ability to collaborate] with their coworkers.”

As lifelong observers of Acadia, they have closely witnessed the gradual changes in the area both in terms of the increasing visitation levels and natural and human-influenced changes to the landscape. Their childhood home in Bar Harbor was built in the area burned by the Great Fire of 1947. Jesse notes that there has been a forest succession over the years shifting from deciduous trees like maple or birch to more coniferous varieties in this area since his childhood. Bik adds that the dwindling populations of sea ducks, gulls, and shorebirds that used the coastline “seems completely different.”

While Acadia is always changing, so are Jesse and Bik Wheeler. They have enjoyed the park in all manner of capacities in their lifetime whether it be in childhood, AYCC, working as park employees, or even as parents showing Acadia to their young children for the first time. “I really appreciate seeing the park through those different lenses,” says Bik. ■

BRONWEN ROGERS is the summer intern in the FOA Communications Department.



# Car Donations Benefit FOA

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

Do you name your cars? Do you think of them as part of your family? Going on epic road trips together and carrying heavy loads for you? I do.

And when I received a call from my friend and colleague Dana Petersen last month that his sweet 1994 Plymouth Voyager van that he affectionately named Sheila could no longer be repaired, I could hear the tinge of sadness in his voice. He asked if we had any way of accepting the vehicle and converting it to dollars to support the conservation work of Friends of Acadia.

“Maybe,” I told him.

And then I quickly went to work. Friends of Acadia has long accepted vehicles from members and donors but we typically would transfer them to Acadia National Park for use by their employees or, on a rare occasion, sell it at the Annual Benefit. But we had never been offered a car that no longer ran.

I started my investigation of different programs and what they offered to the nonprofit and the donor. Charity car donation programs have been around the country for many years and we have, on occasion, visited with vendors who could help us add the program to our fundraising operations. I started with those we already knew and, ultimately, interviewed three additional companies to find just the right fit for Friends of Acadia.

I am excited to announce we are now partnering with CauseNetwork based in McLean, Virginia to process donated cars. The process is easy. Complete a short, online form and they will contact you to pick up the vehicle and take it to an auto auction. The proceeds from the sale, less a processing fee for CauseNetwork, are then sent to Friends of Acadia to continue our good work to preserve and protect the park.

If you want to learn more about how you can turn your car into support for the park you love, give us a call at 207-288-3340 or visit our website, [www.friendsofacadia.org/cardonation](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/cardonation). ■

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Friends of Acadia’s Development Director.



LISA HORSCH CLARK/FOA

FOA Stewardship Coordinator Dana Petersen with his beloved car “Sheila” that he recently donated to Friends of Acadia.

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To join the Trailblazer program, go to the FOA website ([friendsofacadia.org/giving-membership/trailblazer/](http://friendsofacadia.org/giving-membership/trailblazer/)) and select the date and frequency for your donation. You can change the amount of your gift or opt out of the program at any time. Each January, we mail you a letter acknowledging your total giving for the past year.

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## Membership Table Looks To Adapt

BY LEE McWILLIAMS

From June on during a normal season the Jordan Pond House is bustling with park visitors. In the midst of this scrum of hikers, bikers, kayakers, people on foot, stopping by via car or arriving by bus, is Friends of Acadia's Membership Table. Staffed by an outgoing, knowledgeable group of FOA volunteers who love Acadia, and who love to meet people from around the world, it is a place to share stories and information about the park, FOA, and the work we do together to make visiting Acadia a memorable, deeply satisfying experience.

FOA's Membership Table is the primary source of new signups and a place where many people renew their memberships each year. As the new manager of the FOA Membership Table, I knew during the coronavirus pandemic we were in for a challenge.

This spring, FOA and park staff held several Zoom meetings with our volunteers to keep them updated, discuss concerns, and answer questions about what to expect this summer. With safety and social distancing guidelines taking priority, it became clear that our Membership Table will not function as it normally does.

Our volunteers, however, are not ones to sit idly by. They care deeply about Acadia and they know the importance of membership support for Acadia – now and for the future.

In May, our Membership Table volunteer group met to discuss new, creative, effective approaches to meeting people, telling them about our work and mission, and encouraging them to become members for the first time, to renew, and to spread the word to others. It was a well-attended, high-energy exchange of ideas. The enthusiasm and readiness to do things differently was fantastic.

We asked if someone would like to share their thoughts describing why volunteering for FOA and Acadia National Park matters.

Barbara Roth wrote the following.

“Capturing the passion, the commitment, that Friends of Acadia has for preserving the beauty of Acadia for future generations would be like trying to trap the Milky Way as it spills on a clear night into Frenchman Bay, or surround the quiet that descends upon residents and visitors alike perched atop of Cadillac Mountain, watching the sun slide beneath the horizon.

“For many, Friends of Acadia is the soul of the park. The people and businesses that belong to FOA carry their passion for Acadia within them wherever they go.

“This passion is why FOA volunteers rise early and spend mornings clearing carriage road ditches for all to enjoy. It is why Summit Stewards greet people atop Cadillac Mountain with bright smiles, always happy to answer questions. It is why Membership Table volunteers are eager to interact with people and encourage them to express their love for Acadia by becoming members of FOA so that the park will continue to be protected and to be enjoyed for generations to come.”

Old friends and new friends. We will be working to reach out to as many park lovers and Friends of Acadia fans as we can. It will take some creativity, but we know why we are doing it and are looking forward to the year to come. If you would like to share your ideas or join us in helping protect and preserve Acadia National Park, please be in touch. [lee@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lee@friendsofacadia.org) ■

LEE McWILLIAMS is Friends of Acadia's Development Officer.

## CAPTURING THE MOMENT

BY ASHLEY L. CONTI

I have always been fascinated with people, how they interact with each other, how they interact with their environments, and how they interact with themselves.

This photo is of Emma Forthofer, shot in July 2019 sitting on the Sand Beach lifeguard chair. Emma, at the time, was a four-year Acadia Digital Media Team intern. We had done some night photography the year before and we really wanted to try our hand at getting more that summer.

Emma had a long day but somehow I convinced her to venture out with me at 10 p.m., and I'm so glad I did. We both knew we wanted some sort of anchor point for the Milky Way, and the lifeguard chair was the perfect thing to help viewers know where they were in the park. A past intern, Will Newton, took a similar shot one summer and I loved the way it turned out.

I set up my tripod, I put on my 14-35mm lens, at 14mm, and used my headlamp on red (not to fry my night vision) to help focus my camera on Emma in the chair. Usually, I would focus on the actual Milky Way with the camera at infinity, but I wanted the focus to be more on her. My camera settings were ISO 2000, aperture 3.2, shutter speed for 25 seconds. Anything longer than 30 seconds and you start to get star trails, which isn't always a bad thing, but for this photo they would make the stars look less sharp. I set a two-second shutter delay to help reduce the camera shake, then walked to the side of the lifeguard chair. I turned the flashlight on from my phone and light painted Emma and the chair as the shutter was open for a few seconds. This allowed Emma and the chair to appear not in silhouette, but rather brightly illuminated with the Milky Way shining behind.

It is always a great time when you get to try new things and push yourself with another photographer. ■



ASHLEY L. CONTI is the Coordinator of Friends of Acadia's Acadia Digital Media Team. She is an independent photojournalist based in Bangor.

# Updates

## Seaside Path Nears Completion

Crews working on the rebuilding and restoration of the Seaside Path between Seal Harbor Beach and the Jordan Pond House can literally see the light at the end of the tunnel this season as they labor to complete the last quarter mile or so of the trail.

Work on the trail began in 2017 and is being done to exact historical standards. The project has been supported by more than \$315,000 in donations made during a Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit Paddle Raise

and a grant from the S.L. Gimbel Foundation. On early maps, including the 1917 Bates Path Map of Mount Desert Island, the footpath appears as the Jordan Pond Trail. The trail provided a convenient route for the Seaside Inn's 200 guests as well as those staying in two other lodging establishments in the village of Seal Harbor. It was likely laid out in the late 1870s. The name Seaside began to be used shortly after 1917 and undoubtedly refers to the former inn (long since torn down), which was once

located in the field near where the path ends today.

The Stanley Brook Motor Road, which provides the most direct access from the village to Jordan Pond, was not constructed until 1930.

The current project would not have been possible without agreements with several landowners in the area as well. The path has been maintained over the years by a combination of Village Improvement Society and National Park Service crews.

“Our multi-year attack on the Seaside Path continues,” reports Acadia National Park Trails Crew Foreman Gary Stellpflug in a memo outlining work planned for season 2020.

During the 2019 season, projects included creating new drainage swales, digging and stabilizing more than 1,300 feet of drainage ditches, and prepping more than 1,400 feet of treadway for final surfacing.

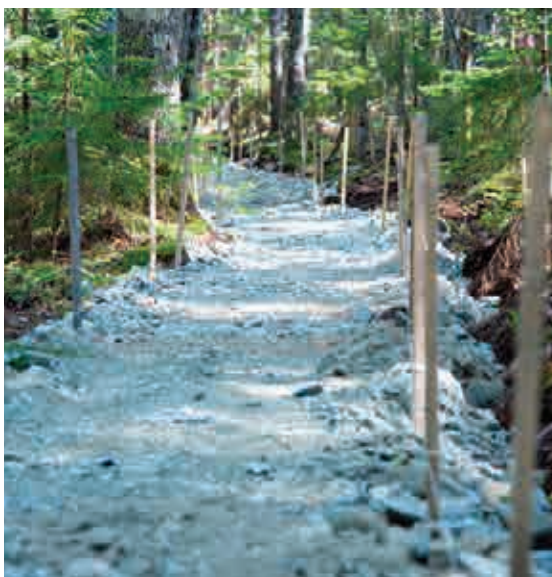
Along with the park's professional crew, members of the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and FOA stewardship volunteers have helped with the effort.

A video interview and tour of the trail work can be found on the Friends of Acadia Facebook page and on the FOA Vimeo channel. The video features Stellpflug, crew supervisor Chris Barter, and FOA Stewardship Coordinator Dana Petersen talking about the work, construction techniques, and challenges.

“Hikers who have passed by are quite pleased with the improvements so far,” Stellpflug notes.

## Acadia Quest Relaunches

Is your family looking for a fun and interactive way to explore Acadia National Park and safely meet park rangers this summer and fall? Then download the 12th edition of Acadia Quest featuring the “Treasure Keepers



WILL NEWTON/FOA

Work continues this summer on a rebuild of the Seaside Path that connects the Jordan Pond House with Seal Harbor Beach. A Bates 1911 Path Map, lower right, shows the route of the now-restored trail then called the Jordan Pond Path.

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of Acadia,” also known as the cultural and natural resource managers of Acadia, for an experiential scavenger hunt in the park. Teams will meet bat biologists, curators, climate scientists, and more who will take them to amazing and little-known locations in the park such as Sargent Mountain Pond and the Baker Island dance floor, along with a Wabanaki cultural demonstration.

Teams may download the free mobile Acadia Quest app, which is developed for iOS and Android platforms and will operate on smartphones, tablets, and desktops. Check out the new app by searching the app store for “Friends of Acadia” or “Acadia Quest,” then download to your device. You may also use this QR code or visit [www.friendsofacadia.oncell.com](http://www.friendsofacadia.oncell.com).

Teams may also visit the Friends of Acadia website to download a paper version of the Quest. Paper packets will not be available for pick-up at visitor centers this year due to COVID-19. Visit <https://friendsofacadia.org/events/acadia-quest/>.

The Acadia Quest program is free



COURTESY OF GALWAY FAMILY

The Galway family of Freeport, Maine are among the enthusiastic participants in this year’s Acadia Quest. “We were pleasantly surprised that the Quest sent us to five out of the six locations that we hadn’t visited before,” Ryan Galway wrote. “Thank you for showing us a new Acadia.”

and open to all, but teams will need a park pass to participate. We also request that you adhere to social distancing guidelines while exploring the park. Enjoy your quest!

### Culvert Aids Aquatic Life

Friends of Acadia partnered with the Southwest Harbor Water and Sewer District to replace an undersized culvert to improve fish passage on Marshall Brook.



BRIAN HENKEL/FOA

Water in this tributary of Marshall Brook in Southwest Harbor will flow more naturally following the installation of a culvert to ease passage of aquatic and amphibian life.

Undersized culverts force water in a brook to flow through a narrow opening, meaning the water must flow much faster when moving through the passage. That faster flow makes it difficult for native fish species to swim upstream through the culvert and for amphibians to traverse it as well.

Replacing undersized culverts with larger structures helps the brook flow at a more natural rate and improves the capacity for fish and other aquatic organisms to move freely. According to Wild Acadia Coordinator Brian Henkel, culverts designed for improved fish passage are typically also climate

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adapted in that the culvert has greater capacity to accommodate larger flows from larger rain events.

This partnership was made possible with the support of the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, which allowed the district to pursue the project in lieu of paying a fine for a record-keeping infraction at the town's wastewater treatment plant. Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia are dedicated to improving fish habitat on area brooks and culvert replacements help to achieve that goal.

### Outdoor Classroom Grants

The Outdoor Classroom program, connecting students to learning outside in nature and to Acadia National Park, is continuing this year on school campuses despite closures due to COVID-19. The teacher collaboratory from the Mount Desert Island school system is actively creating and updating curriculum to be used by fellow teachers with students outdoors on their various campuses, and potentially at home if closures continue into the fall.

In addition, kindergarten students from Deer Isle-Stonington Elementary School published a book about their new Nature Trail, which was completed in 2019 through an outdoor classroom grant. The school plans to apply for additional years of funding to continue work on the project and increase student learning outdoors.

Their plan to connect to Acadia via a field trip to Isle au Haut will resume in the fall or next spring.

Finally, a new grant was issued in April to the Down East Family YMCA Early Learning Center at the Moore Community Center in Ellsworth. This is the first grant issued to infant, toddler, and pre-K learners, who will enjoy a new interactive outdoor exploration space throughout the year. The area will feature a classroom with cedar logs for circle time and teaching, a mud kitchen for herb planting and "cooking" with pinecones and needles, a sand area for digging, and an animal habitat, as well as tree stumps, boulders, and native vegetation for climbing and open-ended play. The Director of Childcare Services, Shauna



Preschoolers at Down East Family Early Learning Center, Moore Community Center, Ellsworth

DOWN EAST YMCA

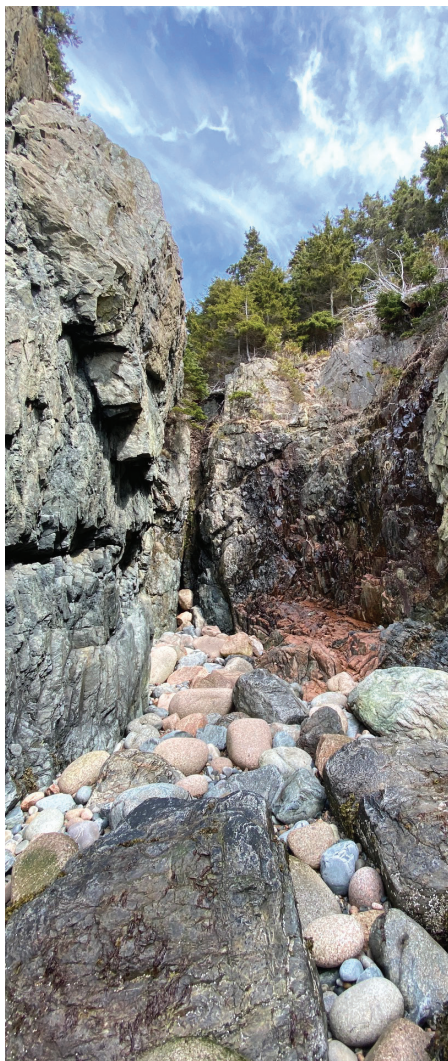


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### ANSWERS to Lighthouse IQ quiz on p. 28

1- Isle au Haut, 2 - Petite Mana, 3 - Mount  
 Desert Rock, 4 - Mark Island, 5 - Baker  
 Island, 6 - Duck Island, 7- Bear Island,  
 8 - Egg Rock, 9 - Bass Harbor Head



ANNE GREEN/FOA

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Esposito-Caldwell, says, “This is a vision of the whole team and we are passionate about this endeavor. The outdoor classroom is to be used by all programs and to engage children ages 6 weeks old to 5th grade. Teachers will use the space daily and the space will be alive and growing in its possibilities.

“We are so excited about offering this amazing opportunity to our children, staff, and families.”

### Kids And New iPads For Digital Visits

The education rangers of Acadia National Park quickly shifted to digital learning this spring in response to school campuses closing and field trips to the park being canceled due to the pandemic.

Teachers responded to the park closure by sending a slew of requests to Acadia's education team for electronic field trips.

A true silver lining of this major shift in programming was that Acadia's rangers were invited into schools from across communities in Maine

that they have never been in before, such as Machias, Kennebunk, Etna, Dixmont, Searsport, Wiscasset, and Old Orchard Beach.

With only a quarter of their normal staff available, the education team was able to reach over 2,300 students at 27 schools through electronic field trips and other virtual offerings. All of this impressive digital learning was largely aided by Friends of Acadia's support of school engagement with Acadia. Fortuitously, the park's education team requested funding for new iPad-minis in 2020 to update their collection of tablets for programming. The tablets are normally used by students during field trips, but the seven new iPad-minis are now being used by education rangers to better deliver electronic field trips, web page activities, social media posts, and videos to help parents teach from home.

This spring, several publishing companies kindly granted permission for folks to read stories that can be posted on secure school platforms and then removed at the end of the year.



Ranger Lisa Girardin, whose position has been funded by FOA for many years, displays some sea life during a virtual visit to Acadia.

Ranger Lisa Girardin, whose position has been funded for many years by FOA donors, recorded “Stories with a Ranger” with a new iPad purchased by FOA and reached over 1,485 students in 80 classrooms. Stories included “Animal Tracks” by Arthur Dorros and “Something’s Tugging on my Claw” by Janice Petrie.

Another popular program enjoyed by students was the live, interactive ranger-led lessons such as At Home in Acadia, Adaptation Olympics, Shoreline Discovery, and Tracking Acadia’s Seasons. With the format of the fall school semester still unknown, education rangers are busy preparing more great digital learning. ■

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February 1, 2020 – May 31, 2020

- |                                |                                     |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
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| John Banister                  | Douglas Leland                      |
| Eileen Tateo Beebe             | Regina Catherine Lennox             |
| Meghan Kyla Tateo Beebe        | Catherine Lowery                    |
| Dorothy and John Brooks        | Sally A. Magyar                     |
| Dominick Carioti               | Jack McDowell                       |
| Barbara A. Carlson             | Candace B. Meads                    |
| Lois Carlson                   | Betty Meiklejohn                    |
| Bill and Eleanor Casey         | Phoebe Milliken                     |
| Dwight E. Clark                | William Mills                       |
| Barbara Cleaves Cole           | Neil “Goose” O’Keefe                |
| Don Cullinane                  | David Patterson                     |
| Raymond A. Dietz Jr.           | Lucille Pfister and Gordon Ramsdell |
| Stephen M. Dungan              | Daniel Pierce                       |
| AJ Emmett                      | Donald Potter                       |
| Francis C. and Rachel W. Evans | Grace Suzanne Presby                |
| Eda Finelli                    | George Price                        |
| Cathy Fioravanti               | Roger Ptak                          |
| Richard Frost                  | David Rabasca                       |
| Aurele Goguen                  | J. Paxton Roberts                   |
| Kevin Goss                     | Paul Rousseau                       |
| John E. Griffiths              | Patricia and David Scull            |
| Roland Haight                  | Jeanne B. Sharpe                    |
| Evelyn S. Hale                 | Craig Smith                         |
| Dolores Hutton                 | Dee Solomon                         |
| Hallett Johnson Jr.            | Barbara Stevenson                   |
| Mary Ellen Johnson             | Elizabeth F. Thorndike              |
| Daniel Kenney                  | King and Cleo von Black Bear        |
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## Leadership and Fondness for Heavy Lifting

BY EARL BRECHLIN



Jim Linnane

Across 30 years of visits to Acadia National Park and nearly two additional decades of volunteering for Friends of Acadia, Jim Linnane of Bar Harbor has seen and experienced nearly every nook and cranny of the 44,000-acre preserve.

The former Medicaid analyst for the State of Connecticut cut his teeth on hiking around the region including in the Catskills, White Mountains, and on trails across the Taconic Range in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Still, Acadia's trails always seemed to call to him. "When you get the chance to move up here, you've just got to take it," he says of his relocation to the area with wife Eileen in 2001.

He became interested in Friends of Acadia while working at the Jordan Pond House as he followed construction of long sections of bog walk on the trail around the lake.

Beginning by working with crew supervisor Mike Alley, Linnane has done a variety of trail and vista clearing jobs in the park over the years. "Julia Schloss showed me the proper way to cut tree branches close to the trunk," he explains.

He also embraced trail work standards that require any trimmed branches and brush to be hauled far back into the woods where it cannot be seen from the trail. "That was easier

said than done on the West Face of Cadillac," he recalls. "It was very steep and scary." Other jobs included installing water bars and resetting stone steps that had worked loose.

Eventually Linnane became a leader of volunteer crews himself. He also worked as a volunteer directly for the park in the sign shop during the winter, making replacement posts for the carriage road system, among other tasks.

Over the years, Linnane says, the volunteer programs at FOA have become integral to the visitor experience in the park and more professional as well. He credited the management efforts of FOA's Stewardship Coordinator Dana Petersen and Acadia's volunteer coordinator Dianna McKeage.

"Many people that were the volunteers ten years ago are the leaders now," he notes. "Groups of young people return year after year. To see how hard these kids work is really inspirational. When it comes to the future, it's up to them."

Despite his affinity for fieldwork, Linnane expanded his volunteer efforts in recent years by helping at the Wild Gardens of Acadia. "They needed someone to open the gates on Saturday and Sunday mornings," Linnane recalls. "It was a pleasure to be the first one there those days. It had to be the most pleasant volunteer experience I ever had." He also helped with the most strenuous tasks too.

That's saying something, considering all the varied volunteer experiences he's had over the decades, all of which he enjoyed thoroughly, he notes. "Really all the people we've gotten to know and become close friends with came via Friends of Acadia and the Garden Club," says Linnane. Specifically, he mentions close hiking pal Don Lenahan and Bob Sanderson, who coordinates the park's sign shop volunteers.

Sanderson says, first and foremost, he appreciated Linnane's enthusiasm.

"Jim was always the first to volunteer for a new task or project. Once he volunteered for a project he continued until the project was completed," Sanderson explains.

Despite a recent temporary relocation to the Boothbay Harbor area, where he is considering volunteering at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens, Linnane insists it will not be long before he and his wife Eileen move back to Mount Desert Island.

For his part, Linnane explains that along with the camaraderie of being with other dedicated volunteers, the physicality of the work is a bonus. "In the sign shop I was fine just sanding away at a big log," he explains. "I guess I've always liked doing mindless, heavy work." ■

## A Novel Change

Dear Friends,

I hope the arrival of the Journal finds you and your families well.

Over the past few months, our worlds have been rocked. The scope of uncertainty has been vast and making decisions in light of a global health crisis, and during a time of great social upheaval, has been extremely challenging.

What will park visitation be like during a pandemic? How will Acadia fare without the thousands of hours of volunteers working on the upkeep of the carriage roads and trails?

Still, the work of FOA went on. The executive committee frequently convened to weigh in on emerging topics such as whether to apply for the federal government's Payroll Protection Plan funds (we did not) and on how to continue to help the park. Planning continued for long term goals related to the transportation plan and on a new committee to address the growing need for seasonal park and FOA staff housing. Observing FOA leadership and staff adapt to a rapidly changing landscape and altering plans was a true testament to a healthy, resilient organization equipped for good times and bad.

Typically, we would be preparing for numerous events, meetings, and gatherings.

Now we spend our time reimagining those and reevaluating our core programs.

One of the most anticipated and significant of FOA's events in the spring is the Earth Day Roadside Clean Up. It was canceled. Also, FOA quickly shifted gears by deciding to host the July Annual Meeting, and the Annual Benefit Patron Program on August 8, on virtual platforms.

With many changes beyond our control, a

welcome transformation is the new updated look of the FOA Journal. In the spring, FOA's communications team and designer Karen Zimmermann of Z Studio and I met to learn more about freshening the magazine. The *Journal* will now be published quarterly, up from the usual three editions annually. Pages have been added, the size has increased slightly, the type made a bit larger for enhanced readability, and there will be a greater emphasis on photography while continuing to publish stories about the people that make belonging to FOA so special.

In early March, my husband and I decided to come to Mount Desert Island early. A silver lining was exploring parts of the park and island we had never visited before. Experiencing many first sightings of the vast array of birdlife was a personal highlight, as was hearing the high-pitched chorus of the spring peepers. We experienced the park in a whole new light as Mother Nature transitioned from winter to spring. But we know summer will be different.

I have accepted that our time in the park will be peculiar this season. As pleasant as it was this spring to wander through the park with no motor vehicles around and very few visitors, it felt strange. It was with a renewed acknowledgment that Acadia is here for all, forever, that I welcomed the reopening in June.

Stay well, take care, and thanks for your continued support for Acadia and Friends of Acadia in these unprecedented times.

In Gratitude,



—Anne Green

### FROM THE CHAIR



**“Observing FOA leadership and staff adapt to a rapidly changing landscape and altering plans was a true testament to a healthy, resilient organization equipped for good times and bad.”**



**CONES CLUSTER** atop a small spruce tree on Penobscot Mountain as mist forms over Pemetic Mountain in Acadia National Park.

# MY ACADIA

BY TONY PALUMBO

It was not until my honeymoon that I had my introduction to what would become my second greatest passion — Acadia National Park.

It was the fall of 1988 and I immediately knew there was something special about these woods, waters, summits, and shores. I am sure I am not alone in that epiphany. And while it would be 10 years until my second trip, since then I've been a consistent visitor for the past twenty years.

My favorite places in the park are the Jordan Cliffs, Maple Spring, and Cadillac South Ridge trails, although I enjoy hiking and taking photographs everywhere. My affection for Acadia has only increased through my co-management of the "I Love Bar Harbor Maine" (ILBHM) Facebook page where I regularly share my passion with more than 12,000 members — my extended family!

And, over the years, those connections have been nurtured and strengthened through my affiliation with, and support for, Friends of Acadia.

MDI in many ways is now my second home. An island friend described it best when he said "Tony, your home may be in NJ, but you live on MDI and for Acadia."



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