

# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

SPRING 2021



**ACADIA OPENS**  
FOR THE 2021 SEASON

**RESERVATION  
SYSTEM**  
TO IMPROVE VISITOR EXPERIENCE

**CREATIVE WAYS**  
TO SUPPORT ACADIA

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# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

SPRING 2021

Volume 26 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.

Acadia is published four times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Barred Owl in Acadia National Park.  
EMMA FORTHOE/FOA

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# WHERE IN ACADIA?

Those who venture to this vista are rewarded with a grand view of a group of islands named as rodents, and one said to be bound by heavy metal. Before being rewarded with this view, however, you must first stroll past giants spared in the fire of '47, pass through a farm with no livestock, and walk in the swimming footsteps of the father of Acadia.

*If you think you can identify the location of 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 a randomly selected correct respondent.*

## IN THE WINTER ISSUE OF ACADIA

About 20 readers correctly identified the image in the last issue as Bald Peak taken from across Upper Hadlock Pond. Sadly, we do not have room to print them all, but a selection of what folks shared can be found on the next page. We enjoy reading all responses.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

## READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IS IT?"

The “Where is it?” photo in the fall issue drew scores of responses from near and far. The following is a sampling of the many wonderful and heartfelt messages we received.



COURTESY MATT MALLINCKRODT

That’s the Upper Hadlock Pond Trail, facing north toward Bald Peak and Parkman Mountain. My wife and I hike that frequently during the summer. It is a pretty hike and good for working on your balance.

—Matt Mallinckrodt

The picture is of Bald Peak taken across Upper Hadlock Pond. It is famous in my family as the first peak in the “Four Peak Hike Up Sargent.” This includes Bald, Parkman, Gilmore, and finally Sargent. My son recently added a fifth peak to the hike, Cedar Swamp, for those who find four just not enough.

—Merle Edwards-Orr

My guess is Upper Hadlock pond looking at Bald Mountain. I grew up in Northeast Harbor and our parents used to drop us off for the day to skate on Lower Hadlock because it was less windy—sometimes at Upper if it was sunny and the ice was good. We would have a thermos of hot chocolate and lunch packed for the day. They would pick us up before dark—didn’t need a cell phone or any electronic game, we loved it! My childhood in Northeast Harbor was magical with many fond memories all four seasons hiking, fishing, boating, but of course never swimming on Upper Hadlock!

—Roger Agnese

Your photo was taken from the boardwalk along the south shore of Upper Hadlock Pond. I think the mountain is Bald Peak. We go there to see the interesting wildlife on

the pond. There often is an osprey nest in a dead tree on the north shore. There usually is a pair of loons on the pond during the summer. One year, we had a wonderful close-up view of a juvenile loon along shore next to the boardwalk.

—Edward and Pamela Taft



COURTESY EDWARD AND PAMELA TAFT

Recognized your winter issue location: Bald Peak and Gilmore. The attached image was taken from the south shore of Upper Hadlock Pond. I normally visit Acadia in June, but with the onset of the pandemic, had to cancel my reservations. Fortunately, there was a brief period of cooperative travel among the northeast states in October and I was able to visit in time for the fall foliage. Easily the best part of the pandemic.

—Bob Stone



COURTESY BOB STONE

This is a view of Upper Hadlock Pond with (left to right) Parkman, Bald, and Sargent Mountains. I took the same photograph yesterday in the snow!

—Ann Bradford

# Unwavering (But Adaptive) in Our Support for Acadia

It's a warm March day as I write, and I am torn between whether to go all-in on the bicycling state of mind or to hold out hope for a few more days of spring skiing; the sun is out and the sap is flowing, but snow is in the forecast.

Memories of those few spectacular weeks in February when the volunteer groomers of the Acadia Winter Trails Association gifted us with day after day of perfect conditions on Acadia's carriage roads inspire me to leave the cross-country skis on the porch at the ready just in case.

I love the energy and tension this time of year in Acadia between sun and snow, ice and mud, overflowing streams and often-impassable trails. Those of us who have experienced Maine's long winters and fickle springs know that the only thing we can be certain about is that the weather and conditions will be constantly changing.

That mindset of rolling with the changes has likely helped us to endure the past year and all of the challenges brought on by the pandemic, although nothing could have prepared us for the extent of upheaval around the most basic parts of our lives: work, school, health, travel, and time with friends and family.

Certainty has been in short supply, and one of the few places to find it has been outdoors and in nature—and for many, that has meant Acadia National Park. Time on a favorite trail has felt safe and reliable when little else has. So much so, in fact, that one may have often found the parking lot for that favorite trail already full—even in the middle of winter! Visitation to Acadia this past fall and winter was up considerably over last year pre-pandemic. What does that mean for the coming summer?

All indications suggest that national parks will be among the most desirable destinations for those wanting to venture out after a year of staying close to home. It is also safe to say that parks will

be challenged to meet that growing demand, with coronavirus health and safety precautions still affecting operations and visitor experience. Last year, Acadia made the difficult decision to keep park campgrounds closed and to suspend the running of the Island Explorer bus system entirely. This year, we are glad to see both easing back into operation, but at reduced capacity. This will challenge the patience of visitors and community members alike, but it's a step in the right direction and ahead of where we were last year.

So even as Acadia has represented a constant for many of us amidst a year of uncertainty, we will all need to maintain an adaptable mindset in the weeks ahead as the continued effects of the pandemic may prompt both increased use and decreased capacity. Plan ahead; do your research and use the on-line resources available; have an alternative in mind if your Plan A does not work out.

In many ways, this is the approach that Friends of Acadia will be taking in our partnership work with the park. As much as we will strive to be that unwavering source of support, we also appreciate that the form that support takes needs to remain nimble and open to change. One day it may mean writing a check to the park; the next day, it may mean buying materials or equipment or loaning them a staff person; next week, it may mean networking within our community to find summer housing for a couple of seasonal park employees.

Please know that it is your loyal support that allows us to offer Acadia both certainty and flexibility. Thank you for trying to bring that same mindset to your plans and expectations this coming season!



—David MacDonald

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**“That mindset of rolling with the changes has likely helped us to endure the past year and all of the challenges brought on by the pandemic...”**



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

**SPRING SNOWMELT**  
and rain cause Hadlock Brook to swell and flood the Hadlock Ponds Trail.

## Remembering Dianna Emory: Our Friend, Conservationist, and Defender of Acadia

BY DAVID MACDONALD

Friends of Acadia lost a dear friend and passionate defender of Acadia National Park when Dianna Emory passed away in January following a courageous battle with cancer. Dianna was active with the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, Honorary Trustees, and Benefit Committee for more than a quarter-century, including chairing the board from 2003-2007.

When Dianna was on your team, anything seemed possible. Her optimism, energy, and commitment were contagious. Her knowledge of the park was exhaustive, from the condition of trails, to native flora, to the complexities of land transactions and boundary legislation. You never knew where you might run into Dianna making the most of a day in Acadia—cross-country skiing Around the Mountain; paddling or sailing in Frenchman Bay; hiking the most remote trails on Isle au Haut; or biking the loop road at Schoodic.

She generously committed herself to the work of many conservation organizations beyond Friends of Acadia, including Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Schoodic Institute, College of the Atlantic, and Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters. In fact, one of her legacies is her visionary encouragement of

collaboration among different groups, including championing the joint work by Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to assist the park with land acquisition priorities.

Former Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele appreciates that most of this work would not have been possible without Dianna's leadership: "Dianna was an amazing conservation and community leader as demonstrated by her inspired work on the Acadia Land Legacy Partnership," Sheridan recalls. "She

**"When Dianna was on your team, anything seemed possible."**

always spoke eloquently about the needs of Acadia and enlisted the necessary support for many accomplishments benefiting this and future generations. When I think of Dianna, I think of the words dedicated, thoughtful, enthusiastic, energetic, and elegant. She was always ready to host a party or make phone calls to spread goodwill and build new friendships."

Dianna also led by example when, together with her husband Ben, she served as a conservation buyer and donated a permanent conservation easement protecting nearly 100 acres of wildlife habitat on the Blue Hill peninsula.

Dianna counted herself lucky to be part of this work at Acadia and was always ready to pay it forward by doing whatever she could to help young people trying to break into the conservation field. I will always be indebted to her for the many introductions and kind words she put in for me and social gatherings she included me in when I was trying to gain a toe-hold early in my career, and I have heard similar stories from many of my colleagues here at Friends of Acadia and beyond.

When Dianna distilled much of her wisdom, philosophy, and gratitude in her 2018 book *Bonding with Nature*, she may have known that her time in her beloved Acadia was limited. "We are remarkably fortunate to be in this place, in this world, in this time," she wrote. "How do we take this good fortune and use it to assist the world while bettering ourselves physically, psychologically, and spiritually?" Through her actions and words, Dianna offered inspiration for many.

All of us at Friends of Acadia will miss her fearless approach to life, but her spirit lives on throughout the park and the many lives she touched. ■

DAVID MACDONALD is Friends of Acadia's President and CEO



COURTESY PETER TRAVERS

Dianna Emory at Penobscot Mountain.



# Collectively Caring for Acadia

I am often asked how Acadia is funded and about the role that private contributions from Friends of Acadia play in running the park. While the overall picture is always changing, Friends of Acadia support is a crucial piece of the funding pie—both for its ability to be more flexible than most federal dollars and its ability to provide a match and leverage to help us succeed in attracting additional National Park Service funds.

The most important source of funding for Acadia is our base operational account, which this year is about \$8.6 million. This funding pays for day-to-day park operations and about 80% of it goes to cover the salaries of our year-round workforce and some of our seasonal employees. The remainder goes to pay our bills: propane, fuel oil, and other utilities and most of our everyday supplies and materials. While this number has grown slightly, when you consider the effects of inflation on buying power, it gets harder and harder to make ends meet each year.

Entrance and camping fees are another critical source of revenue. In a “normal” year, Acadia collects about \$6.5 million in fees. Of this, \$1.5 million goes to fund the Island Explorer bus system. Of the remaining \$5 million, we retain 80 percent, while 20 percent funds other projects in national parks across the nation. One mandate for these funds is that we spend 55 percent on facility projects that cure deferred maintenance, such as repairing trails or carriage roads. The fee money that doesn't go to deferred maintenance supports the costs associated with collecting the revenue, running the campgrounds, and hiring our seasonal lifeguards at Sand Beach and Echo Lake.

New this year is the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA). This legislation is hugely important and will fund deferred maintenance projects at parks around the nation. We are actively working to prepare funding requests for GAOA funds.

Other pots of money are targeted towards specific programs. There are dedicated programs for cyclic maintenance of facilities, major repair and rehabilitation, large construction projects, cultural and natural resources preservation, and others. For all of these sources, we compete with other parks around the country for funding and nothing is guaranteed. Because of this, the amount of funding Acadia receives from these sources fluctuates from year to year.

One of the challenges of running a park like Acadia is that many of our costs are fixed, such as employee salaries and utilities. These costs only increase over time, and unless we stop doing one thing, it's very difficult to initiate a new program.

This is why the Cadillac Mountain parking reservation system requires an additional fee. We want to keep this fee as minimal as possible, and the \$6 parking reservation fee allows for rangers to be there from sunrise to sundown validating reservations and assisting visitors.

All of this money collectively cares for 50,000 acres of diverse natural and cultural resources, many restrooms, miles of trails and carriage roads, and so much more. And it illustrates why funding from Friends of Acadia is so valuable.

Thanks to all of you, Friends of Acadia is a reliable partner that can fund work that otherwise would not be possible within the constraints of our limited federal funding sources. Friends of Acadia funding also allows us to do projects better than we could otherwise—and the best example of this is our stewardship of the trails and carriage roads.

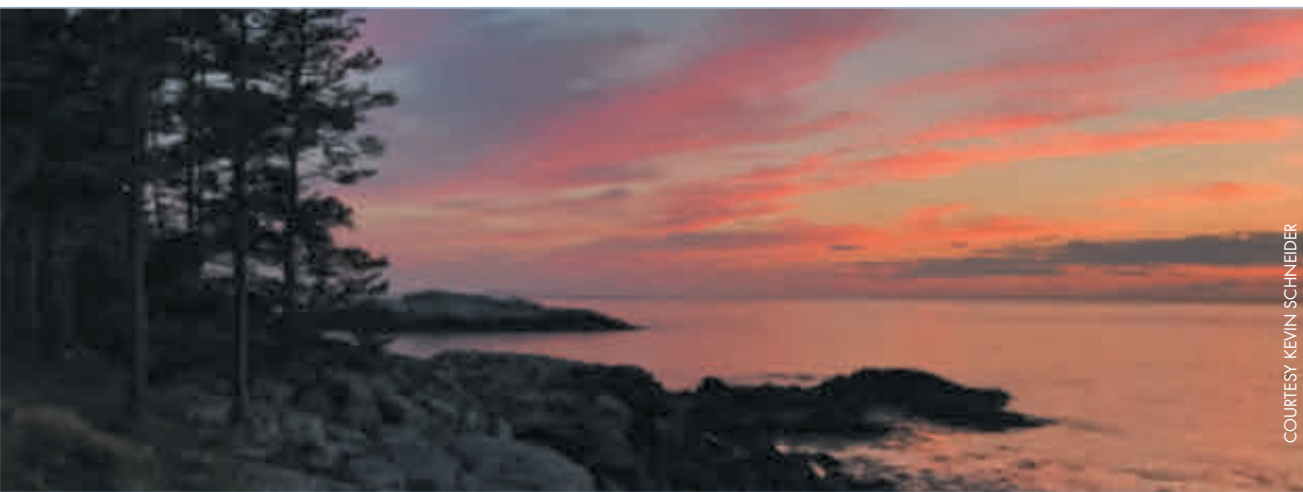
Here's a hearty thanks to all of you for your steadfast support of Acadia National Park!

—Kevin Schneider

## SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



**“Friends of Acadia funding also allows us to do projects better than we could otherwise...”**



COURTESY KEVIN SCHNEIDER

**ONE OF THE BEST** spring sunset views is from Isle au Haut. This one was taken on a Memorial Day weekend camping trip.

# Virtual Learning Programs Provide Lifelines and Virtual Sunshine

BY PAIGE STEELE

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



Top right: Student artwork from the “Acadia Virtual Club.” The club is a group of students who meet with Acadia National Park Rangers Mackette Kark and Crystal Lewis each week to learn about a variety of park-related subjects, including this lesson on owls of Acadia. Above: Interpretive Ranger Mackette Kark livestreams from Ship Harbor.

**ONE OF THE BRIGHT SPOTS DURING THE EDUCATION CRISIS CREATED BY THE PANDEMIC** is the increased collaboration between school communities and outside educational partners to find innovative solutions. They have come together to ask: “How can I help?” “Who needs help?” and “Ah, I need help!”

Friends of Acadia is helping to improve remote learning for students by supporting Acadia National Park’s education rangers, who are a dynamic and effective partner to schools in Maine and beyond.

## Virtual Learning for Teachers and Schools

Students around the state and the country are being energized with virtual rays of sunshine when they tune in for live, interactive, nature-based programs with an education ranger. The park’s staff have become a well-oiled machine of virtual programming, delivering 421 online field trips to 6,719 students and 580 adults since late September, with 275 more programs expected for the spring semester.

Rangers piloted 33 new programs, either with new content—

such as winter ecology for kindergarten through 8th grade—or modified content from a field program like “Sedimentary Sleuths” normally held in person at Sand Beach. And exciting new content was created for younger kids in pre-K through 2nd grades, as the park had few lesson plans for this age group pre-pandemic.

Kate Petrie, Acadia National Park’s education coordinator, said her team achieved this feat because of Friends of Acadia’s support. “Friends of Acadia funded staff to develop, train, and present these virtual programs, and the schools need it. This will never be a full substitute for in-person experiences in the park, but we have jumped in to be as useful to teachers as we can be right now.”

In addition to direct support of seasonal education staff, Friends of Acadia is helping the park create virtual lesson plans that will last beyond the pandemic. A Friends of Acadia seasonal staff member and the park team



**CHECK OUT**  
“I Notice, I Wonder”  
videos and images  
here:  
<https://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/photos-multimedia/clips.htm>



created a series titled, “I Notice, I Wonder,” featuring short video clips of Acadia’s wildlife.

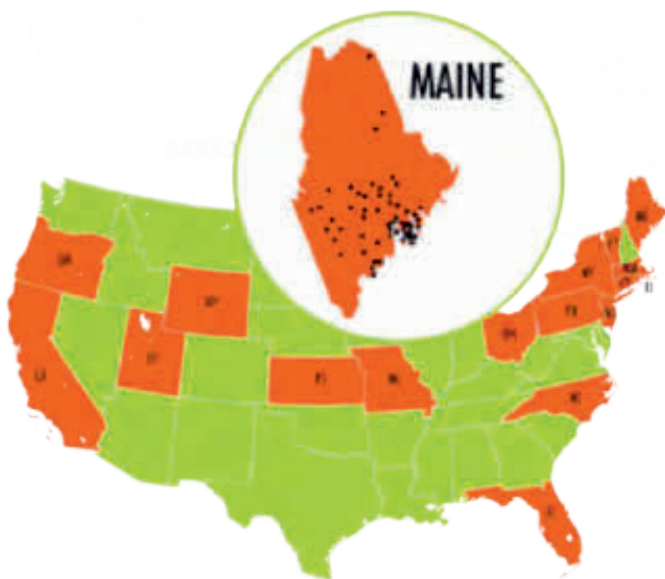
In this series, students view nature videos and learn to make observations and compose questions. For example, they may watch a sea star in a tidepool and then discuss with their classmates “How does it breathe?” and “What does it eat?” When school groups return in person to Acadia, online content like this will amplify the learning experience, pre-and post-field trip.

### Social and Emotional Learning

Park educators are also infusing social and emotional learning throughout virtual programming as much as possible, because kids are desperate for that type of interaction during the pandemic. Most kids are naturally social, but for over a year they have been isolated and disconnected from family, friends, schools, and even playgrounds.

Mount Desert Island schools requested that rangers meet weekly with a small group of kindergarten through 5th grade students. Park staff have hosted 16 of these programs so far with 96 students, and another 14 sessions are booked for the spring.

The program was designed to help little learners grow by creating, then sharing their work with park rangers, such as an animal they drew or poem they wrote. Remote learning has also been enhanced with field experience through self-guided educational hikes for families and nature study kits that were distributed to local kindergarten through 8th grade students.



This past winter, park rangers delivered virtual programs to 75 schools across the state of Maine and in 17 states (marked in orange).

### Virtual Programming for Families

In addition to programming for teachers and schools, education rangers also piloted 54 virtual public programs during this time, reaching 580 homeschool students and members of the public on topics such as marine chemistry and feathered friends. Participants ranged from young, home-schooled children with their parents to elderly couples interested in park offerings.



Ranger Lisa Girardin with props she uses for the educational programming she livestreams from a small studio in her home.

### Thank You Friends

To achieve this incredible volume of virtual programming, the park team trained each other on timing, themes, props, and more so they could envision how a program would be viewed at home or in the classroom. They also trained thoroughly on all technical logistics to aid teachers no matter their skill levels with computers or digital platforms.

Alongside program production, the park was updating and expanding digital media equipment and hiring a Visual Information Specialist thanks to more than \$300,000 raised at the Friends of Acadia Benefit for the Acadia Resiliency Fund. These funds are increasing program capacity and ensuring high-quality virtual programs at Acadia.


The support of education rangers by Friends of Acadia cannot be overstated in its value to school communities this year, especially in Maine. Thank you to the superhero teachers for stewarding our children. Thank you to Friends of Acadia members for supporting impactful partnerships. And thank you to the incredible education staff at Acadia National Park who are supporting schools every day by sending out learning lifelines and virtual sunshine. ■

PAIGE STEELE is Conservation Projects Manager at Friends of Acadia

# New Day on Cadillac Mountain

## Reservation System Aims to Improve Visitor Experience

BY LORI SCHAEFER



Having the ability to pre-plan a Cadillac reservation, just as one would plan dinner, a whale watch, or a carriage ride, will provide more certainty and a better experience on the mountain.

WILL NEWTON/FOA

### **IMAGINE A CADILLAC MOUNTAIN SUMMIT**

with fewer vehicles, smaller buses and greater respect for nature and fellow visitors. One where visitors can rest assured they will have a place to park and can enjoy a safer and more enjoyable experience on Cadillac's breathtaking summit.

A huge step toward that vision begins this spring as Acadia National Park implements a Cadillac Reservation System—one of the major management actions selected in the Acadia National Park Transportation Plan to reduce traffic and parking congestion in the park.

### **New Vehicle Reservation System**

To help visitors plan and enjoy a better experience, beginning May 26 through October 19, 2021, vehicle reservations will be required for Cadillac Summit Road from sunrise to sunset.

A vehicle reservation for Cadillac Summit Road costs

\$6 and can be purchased online at Recreation.gov. The fee covers the park's cost of administering and staffing the reservation system and completing necessary infrastructure improvements.

Visitors can buy both a park entrance pass and Cadillac Summit Road vehicle reservation in advance of their trip. Vehicle reservations do not have time limits. The timed-entry reservation system allows visitors to stay on the mountain as long as they want after entry.

In 2021, improvements will be made at the intersection of Lower Mountain Road and Cadillac Summit Road, including siting two entrance booths, paving gravel areas, adding road markings and curbing, and installing new signage and landscaping. To expedite the necessary work and have the system ready to go by spring, Friends of Acadia contributed funding for planning, design and site engineering at the base of Cadillac.

# View from the Top

STEPHANIE LEY

Most people come to Cadillac Mountain for the expansive views.

In addition to enjoying this beautiful setting for their job, Friends of Acadia's seven seasonal employees working as Summit Stewards on Cadillac Mountain have seen plenty of worrisome views. Cars snaking down the roadway waiting to park. Tempers flaring when someone swoops to take a parking spot from another or blocks someone in by parking illegally. Drivers circling around after letting their passengers disembark across traffic. Vehicles parked on top of "no parking" signs.

Visitors inadvertently trampling the fragile sub-alpine landscape.

Part of the Summit Stewards' role is to aid Acadia National Park in enhancing the visitor experience on Cadillac Mountain. This includes helping monitor and manage traffic congestion.

During the October 2020 pilot of the vehicle reservation system, we saw a snapshot of what Cadillac Mountain could look like under the new reservation system. That 1,530-foot view from the top was encouraging and refreshing!

Even when every parking



NPS

space was filled, the situation was not overflowing or unsafe. The atmosphere was relaxed, and visitors fully immersed themselves in their summit saunter without worrying about parking or getting blocked in.

The Summit Stewards are eager to interact with visitors about their experiences and to help inspire them to become good stewards of our beloved Acadia. ■

## Why a Reservation System?

Acadia National Park is among the most popular and smallest parks in the U.S., with more than 3.5 million visits a year. Visitation grew nearly 60 percent in a decade, and, in 2020 during the COVID pandemic, Acadia was the eighth most visited national park.

Park studies show that about 75 percent of visitors go to the summit of Cadillac at some point during their trip. The summit has parking for only about 150 vehicles, yet as many 350 vehicles have been known to converge there—all but 150 parked illegally.

The summit's popularity has resulted in trampling of fragile alpine soils and plants, illegal parking and traffic gridlock, crowding at interpretive platforms, unsafe conditions, and degradation of the overall visitor experience. During peak visitation, the summit road can become so crowded that emergency vehicles cannot access the top of the mountain.

Friends of Acadia supports the use of timed-entry vehicle reservations to improve visitor experience on Cadillac Mountain, ensure visitor safety, and protect park resources.

## Enjoying the Park Without Reservations

The vast majority of Acadia National Park does not require reservations, so visitors have many options for enjoying mountain summits, trails and historic roads while paying only the park entrance fee.

Reservations are not required for visitors to Cadillac who enter by foot or bike, or who wish to drive to the Cadillac summit outside of the dates of the reservation system. ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director

## THINGS TO KNOW WHEN PLANNING YOUR CADILLAC VISIT

- Reservations are per vehicle, not per person.
- A park entrance pass is required in addition to a vehicle reservation. You can buy both at Recreation.gov.
- Reservations are not required for visitors who enter by foot, bike or taxi.
- One sunrise reservation is allowed per vehicle every 7 days.
- Drivers must pass through the Summit Road booth within 2.5 hours of start time listed on the reservation.
- If you leave with your vehicle, you must have another reservation to re-enter.
- Make sure to bring a printed or digital copy of your reservation to be scanned at the base of the Cadillac Summit Road.
- 30 percent of reservations are released 90 days in advance.
- 70 percent of reservations are released two days in advance.

# Acadia Opens

for 2021 Season

## VISITORS: Know Before You Go

BY LORI SCHAEFER



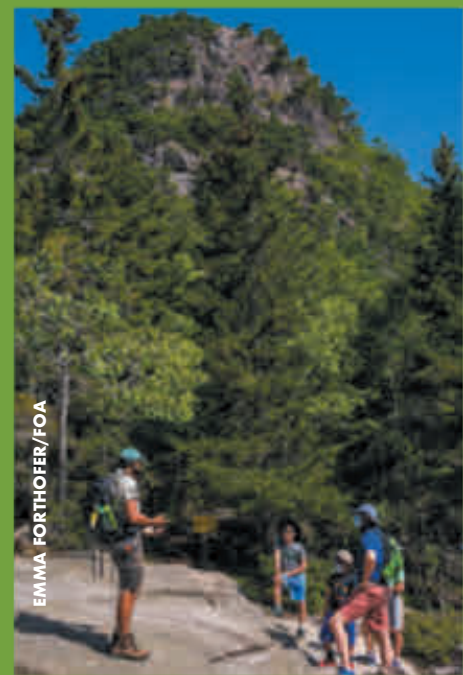
WILL NEWTON/FOA



WILL NEWTON/FOA



WILL NEWTON/FOA



EMMA FORTHOER/FOA

**FOR MANY, ACADIA HAS BEEN AN ANCHOR DURING THE PAST YEAR—** a place of renewal, inspiration, and hope. A place to get a healthy dose of nature, while enjoying its emotional, mental, and physical benefits.

This spring as the park opens for the 2021 season, visitors will be asked to follow COVID-19 prevention guidelines to stay safe, but the park's natural beauty remains unchanged for all to enjoy.

And there are many reasons to be cautiously optimistic this season.

## Tip

If you plan to drive Cadillac Summit Road in 2021, you must make a vehicle reservation in advance at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). For convenience, you can buy and print both your park entrance pass and your Cadillac Reservation at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov)

After running the park in a pandemic for over a year, park staff have a better idea of what to expect and are building upon what they've learned. And with vaccines underway across the U.S., it looks like public health outcomes could improve by the end of summer. Based on visitation last fall, Acadia is preparing for a very busy summer, with visitation possibly returning to pre-COVID levels.

"The most important thing for us is to make sure

park employees and our visitors are safe," said Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "The good news is that we know a lot more about running a national park in a pandemic, as well as a lot more about COVID than we did last

year. I'm optimistic with what we're seeing with vaccinations across the country, and I think we'll see a strong level of visitation that matches the rebound from last fall. It's clear people want to be outside and being outside is safer, so Acadia is a great place to come."

## KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

The key to a successful and safe visit to Acadia this year is to "know before you go." Some ranger-guided programs have limited capacity, and those that require reservations are expected to fill early. Campground capacity has been reduced, and the Island Explorer bus system is running with limited routes and passenger capacities.

So, it is best to plan ahead. Check the Acadia National Park website and state of Maine travel guidelines, and make reservations in advance—especially if you want to drive Cadillac Summit Road. You might also want to pack your patience and be prepared to adapt as things shift or change, because they surely will.

### Here's a quick summary of what to expect at Acadia in 2021:

- Masks and social distancing are required in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Masks are required in all federal buildings and on federal lands when social distancing of six feet is not possible. That includes in parking lots and on trails and mountaintops where others are present.
- The fare-free Island Explorer bus system will resume service with limited routes and reduced passenger capacity. Masks will be required on board and at bus stops. (See story on page 17).
- To reduce traffic congestion and ensure a more enjoyable experience, vehicle reservations are now required for the Cadillac Summit Road from sunrise to sunset from May 26 through October 19. Vehicle reservations are available at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). (See story on page 10).



## Face Masks Required

To protect the health of those who live, work, and visit our national parks and facilities, and in support of President Joe Biden's Executive Order, face masks are now required in all National Park Service buildings and facilities. Masks are also required on National Park Service lands when social distancing cannot be maintained, such as narrow or busy trails, overlooks, and parking lots.



EMMA FORTHOEFER/FOA

- Visitor access to the historic Eagle Lake Carriage Road will be reduced in stages during a rehabilitation and preservation construction project. (See update on page 34).

### PARK RE-OPENING & VISITOR CENTERS

The 27-mile Park Loop Road opened on April 15.

The Hulls Cove Visitor Center, which was closed last summer for the pandemic, will open 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. starting May 7 for as many as 15 occupants at a time to use restrooms, buy entrance passes, ask questions of rangers, and shop at the bookstore. Rangers will also staff outdoor information tents nearby.

Jordan Pond House will open May 19. The same COVID-19 safety protocols apply as in any restaurant in Maine.

Sieur de Monts Nature Center will open on weekends only May 15-28, and daily beginning May 29. The Thompson Island Information Center opens on May 24.

Echo Lake Beach opens April 15, and Lakewood Beach opens June 1. Sand Beach is open year-round.

### RANGER-GUIDED PROGRAMS

Ranger-guided programs will be offered in a hybrid model, with both virtual and in-person opportunities. Most ranger programs are scheduled early or late in the day to avoid mid-

day congestion, and to maximize parking availability.

Check the calendar on the park website for more information including specific dates and times. Some programs may require a reservation. Be sure to check for ticketed programs at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov).

### CAMPGROUNDS

Campgrounds will open in 2021, but capacity will be reduced for health and safety protocols in response to COVID-19.

Here's what you need to know if making a camping reservation:

- All campsites must be reserved on [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) within a 60-day rolling window. No sites are available for walk-up request upon arrival.
- All group sites are closed for 2021 due to the pandemic.
- Online reservations are available now for Blackwoods Campground, which opens May 7, and are expected soon for Seawall and Schoodic Woods campgrounds, which both open May 26.

**ONLINE RESERVATION TIP:** If you're not able to reserve a particular campsite on the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) website, it might not be available in 2021, or you may be checking dates ahead of the 60-day window.

### TRIP PLANNING RESOURCES

Check the Acadia National Park website at [nps.gov/acad](https://www.nps.gov/acad) often for updated information to help plan your trip. Reservations and park entrance passes can be purchased at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). You can also download the new National Park Service app on your phone for easy planning on the go.

In addition to this Journal, the Friends of Acadia website at [friendsofacadia.org](https://www.friendsofacadia.org) has information on recreating responsibly and being a good steward of our beloved Acadia. Enjoy your time in the park! ■

## Tip

Buy your park entrance pass online at [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) before you arrive at the park, then print and display it in your windshield while in the park.

WILL NEWTON/FOA





# Know Before You Go

## 2021 ACADIA VISITOR CHECKLIST



### Face Mask

Required where social distancing of six feet is not possible.



### Park Entrance Pass

Required for all visitors.

**TIP:** Avoid lines by buying your pass in advance at Recreation.gov, print and display on your windshield.



### Cadillac Vehicle Registration

Required to access Cadillac Summit Road, sunrise to sunset.

**TIP:** Purchase both your park pass and Cadillac Vehicle Reservation at Recreation.gov in advance, print and/or download a digital copy.



### Campground Reservation

Campsites must be reserved in advance at Recreation.gov.



### Ranger-Guided Program Reservations

Some programs require advance reservations.

**TIP:** Check the calendar on the park website for more information including specific dates and times.



### Island Explorer

Due to COVID, buses are operating on limited routes with reduced passenger capacity. Check the schedule and routes at exploreacadia.com.

**TIP:** Think about multiple ways to get to or from your desired location in case buses are full and unable to stop.



### Leave No Trace

Be a good steward of Acadia by practicing the 7 Leave No Trace Principles.

**TIP:** Visit Friendsofacadia.org/leave-no-trace/ to learn about the principles in fun and short videos.

# Schoodic Institute Offers Mix of In-Person and Virtual Programming

BY MEGAN MOSHIER

As a key partner in science and learning at Acadia National Park, the Schoodic Institute operates the former Navy base at Schoodic Point as a hub of research and conversations about the park. While most on-campus experiences were halted by the pandemic last year, the Institute is offering a number of events and activities for the public this summer, including a robust schedule of bird tours, a two-day bird-carving course, as well as a three-hour watercolor workshop. Art workshops are offered by Maine artists Phillip Frey, Tom Curry, Carol Douglas and Kevin Beers; both residential and commuter packages are available.

Space for in-person events is limited and registration is required due to COVID-19 safety guidelines. For more information visit [schoodicinstitute.org](http://schoodicinstitute.org).

## Inaugural Goldstein Lecture

On July 26, from 4 to 5:30 p.m., Schoodic Institute's inaugural Goldstein Lecture will convene a panel of leaders to discuss "Science Communication & Engagement in a Rapidly Changing World." Moderated by science writer Catherine Schmitt, the panel includes Raj Pandya, director of the American Geophysical Union Thriving Earth Exchange; Andrew Revkin, founding director of Initiative on Communication and Sustainability at Columbia University's Earth Institute; and Bina Venkataraman, author of *The Optimist's Telescope*, *Boston Globe* editorial page editor, and professor of Science, Technology,



Painter Phillip Frey

JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

and Society at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

The past year has shown the great need for enhanced understanding and engagement in science. The ability to affect change is in the intertwined relationships of us all, and national parks are an ideal space for this collaborative work. The panelists will share their experience and aspirations for engaging the public in addressing critical environmental and social issues of our time.

This event is free, but registration is required. It will take place outdoors for a limited number of in-person guests and will be available online for all to view. ■

## IN NOMINE

November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021 We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

Acadia National Park  
Debra Acton and Scott Wiles  
All Front-Line Workers  
Julie Banzhaf-Stone and Steve Stone  
Cort Bassett  
Courtney Bell  
Kim Boswell-Jensen and Mark Jensen  
Acadia and Evan Branch  
Constance Clark  
Miriam, Peter, and Mimi Clarke  
Stephanie Clement  
Greg Cornell  
Patricia and Michael DiZazzo  
Ann and Keith Douglas  
Elliot Eastman  
Dave Edson  
Dianna Emory\*  
Peg Emple  
Karol Foss  
Lynn Fantom and Fred Stern

Mary and Phil Galperin  
Ellen Gellerstedt  
Libby Gibson-Catania and Bill Catania  
Helen Goodhue\*  
Henry Griffen  
Chloe Gudet  
Patti and Dan Harbison  
Amanda Heppie  
Henry, Ben, and Oscar Hodder  
Holler Family  
In appreciation of trails  
Sandra and Ole Jaeger  
Françoise Haasch Jones  
Susannah C. Jones\*  
Kendall Kinney  
Sharon Knopp and Enoch Albert  
Candace and Peter Kolyer  
Anne Kozak  
Sue Leiter  
Regina Catherine Lennox\*  
Stephanie Ley

Story Litchfield  
Katie Lowery  
Kelly McCool and Todd Tompkins  
Ella Miodownik  
Karli and Griffen Molino and Montgomery Molino  
Mother Nature  
Judy Neidel\*  
Sam Patterson  
Anne Piazza  
Steve Plissey  
Phyllis Prout  
Jack Putnam  
Ollie Rhee  
Susan Richardson  
Dave Robb  
Betsy Roberts and John MacDuffie  
Ed and Martie Samek  
Bob Sanderson  
Judy and Peter Scarafile  
Dylan Schulberg

Wolfie Shah  
Randy Shepard  
Linda Silka  
Stephanie Sims and Jeff Passman  
Howard Solomon  
Rachel Songer  
Nour Tellow and Duncan Watson  
Julia Walker Thomas  
Genie Thorndike  
Lisa Walker  
Jill and Todd Watson and Gwyneth Watson  
Joanie Weaver and Andrew Stevenson  
Bradford White  
Suse Wicks  
Lisa Williams and Elisabeth Pepper  
Lexi Woods

\*Deceased

# The Island Explorer Back Up and Running

## Routes Adapted for the Health and Safety of All

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

The Island Explorer will once again roll through Acadia in 2021, but with changes in route design and frequency for the health and safety of riders and staff.

The bus service was canceled in 2020 due to the uncertainties surrounding COVID-19. The loss of the bus system was felt acutely, as Acadia's visitation reached almost 2.7 million visits, and automobile traffic in the park was busier than ever.

COVID remains a significant factor in 2021, but Downeast Transportation will implement safe operating protocols that include:

- Passengers on each bus will be reduced from 43 seated and standing passengers to about 12, depending on social groupings.
- Masks and social distancing will be required both on board and at bus stops.
- Passengers will be encouraged to use hand sanitizer.

Because of the approximately 12-person capacity on each Island Explorer bus, four buses will now be needed to carry the 43 passengers that could have been carried on one bus prior to the pandemic. Downeast Transportation had to decrease the number of routes offered, but increase frequency of buses so that passengers would not be left with intolerable waiting periods if buses filled to the 12-person capacity.

### Expected Routes

The routes that will likely be offered this year include daytime service from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center around the Park Loop Road and to Jordan Pond, along with frequent daytime service between the Visitor Center and the Bar Harbor Village Green.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Service on the Schoodic Peninsula and between Bar Harbor and Sand Beach will also be offered. Because of the reconstruction of the Eagle Lake carriage road and the inability to safely distance passengers in vans, the Bike Express between Bar Harbor and Eagle Lake will not run in 2021.

Passengers looking for a ride in 2021 are encouraged to visit [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com) for updated route maps and schedules. Being prepared with water, snacks, layers of

**Overall, the Island Explorer has been a valuable tool in reducing automobile congestion and enhancing visitor enjoyment of the park.**

clothing, and a book or other entertainment is helpful in case one has to wait for the next bus, which could be 10-30 minutes away.

### An Important Tool in Managing Congestion

Overall, the Island Explorer has been a valuable tool in reducing automobile congestion and enhancing visitor enjoyment of the park. It will continue to be an important part of Acadia's transportation plan. Ridership has grown each year, with it carrying more than 600,000 passengers in 2019.

Annual passenger surveys point toward high satisfaction with the service and gratitude for L.L.Bean's support. A Kentucky visitor on the Sand Beach route in 2019 wrote, "*Love the National Parks! Wonderful that this park is served by bus to reduce pollution and congestion.*" A New York passenger on the Jordan Pond route that year wrote, "*Thoughtful of L.L.Bean to think about our national resources.*"

Many people in the surrounding park communities depend on the Island Explorer and want bus service to get back to "normal." While COVID generated the need to redesign service in 2021, Island Explorer partners hope for a return to normal routes and timetables in future years.

For more information, visit [exploreacadia.com](http://exploreacadia.com), as well as [downeasttrans.com](http://downeasttrans.com) for year-round transit options around Hancock County, including travel to Bangor. ■

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Director

# Creative Ways to Support Acadia

BY DAVID MACDONALD

While most Friends of Acadia members provide generous support for our conservation mission through direct financial donations, our work has benefited greatly from people who are finding other, creative ways to give back to the park they love.

**Heidi Hershberger's** deep commitment to Acadia was evident through the years she served as a stewardship volunteer, helping to maintain Acadia's trails and carriage roads. When it became clear to her that her declining health would not allow her to realize her dreams of building a home on a small tract of undeveloped land she had purchased in Bar Harbor, she began looking for ways to donate that property to benefit the park.

Heidi had originally hoped to donate the acreage directly to the National Park Service, but when she learned that it was not included within the park's congressionally approved boundary, she explored other options.

Heidi ended up donating the land to Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) in 2018, with the understanding that the Trust would sell the land and put the proceeds to work helping the park acquire lands that were approved for addition to the park boundary.

After reviewing the property to make sure that it was appropriate for residential development without harming the conservation values of Acadia, MCHT sold the property in January of 2020. In order to fulfill Heidi's wishes that the proceeds be used specifically for additions to Acadia, the Trust granted the proceeds to Friends of Acadia, since we maintain

an existing fund for just that purpose.

This far-sighted gift by Heidi, and the ensuing transactional expertise and generous re-grant by MCHT, builds upon a long-standing partnership between Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Friends of Acadia that has helped Acadia add dozens of parcels to its boundary over the last 20 years.

In a fitting final piece to the story, the buyers of the parcel, Adrienne and Chad Jones, are also Friends of Acadia members, and the land purchase fulfills a long-held dream to someday move to Mount Desert Island (MDI) in order to live closer to their favorite national park.

Somesville residents **Pat and Bob Foster** are also putting their properties to use to benefit Friends of Acadia's mission, through rentals to Friends of Acadia seasonal employees. Like so many MDI area organizations and businesses, Friends of Acadia relies on seasonal employees to conduct important work in the park during the busy summer and fall seasons.

The ability for these seasonals to find housing has become increasingly challenging in recent years as more units that were rented by the month or seasonally in the past have been converted to short-term weekly rentals on MDI.

The Fosters decided to buck that trend and switch from weekly rentals to entering into multi-month, affordably priced agreements with Friends of Acadia seasonal employees.

"We have so enjoyed getting to know and do business with these impressive young men and women, and we are glad to be able to offer them a home base on MDI as they are starting their careers," said Pat. "The time was right for us to ease off



COURTESY MARTHA PLAZA

Heidi Hershberger at the summit of Cadillac Mountain after a hike.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Bob and Pat Foster have generously put their properties to use to benefit the Friends of Acadia mission through rentals to seasonal employees in 2021.

the pace and step back from the weekly schedule and seeing the rentals help young people and the park is very worthwhile for us.”

Friends of Acadia is interested in building upon this model and working with other renters or landlords who would like to assist our mission by helping us to provide housing for Friends

of Acadia or Acadia National Park seasonal workers. Feel free to reach out to Friends of Acadia if you have questions or suggestions. ■

DAVID MACDONALD is Friends of Acadia’s President and CEO

## Charitable Gift Annuities: A New Way to Plan a Future Gift to Acadia

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

Have you ever loved a place so much you would give anything to protect it? Acadia National Park is a special place of memories, learning, healing, and history for Friends of Acadia members. But “giving it all” isn’t practicable. Most of us need to provide for ourselves and our families.

But what if you could do both? You can with a charitable gift annuity, which allows one to make a gift while receiving a lifetime stream of income.

### Here’s how it works:

- You donate \$25,000 or more in cash, securities, or other property to Friends of Acadia.
- Friends of Acadia pays you, or up to two beneficiaries, a fixed income for life at a guaranteed rate based on the age of the beneficiaries.
- You can begin receiving payments immediately (if you are 65 or older).

- You’re eligible for an immediate tax deduction. If you donated appreciated assets, you may save on capital gains taxes as well.
- The principal passes to Friends of Acadia after the lifetime of the income beneficiaries.

### The benefits:

- You receive fixed, reliable payments for the rest of your life.
- You save on taxes.
- You enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that your gift will help Friends of Acadia preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park.

If you’re interested in learning more about how a charitable gift annuity might benefit you and the park, send an email to [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org) and we would be glad to discuss questions and options further.

Leave a legacy with Acadia!

# Acadia Awakens

*Witnessing Spring Come in  
with Henry David Thoreau*

“At the end of winter, there is a season in which we are daily expecting spring, and finally a day when it arrives.”

— Henry David Thoreau

BY LYNN FANTOM

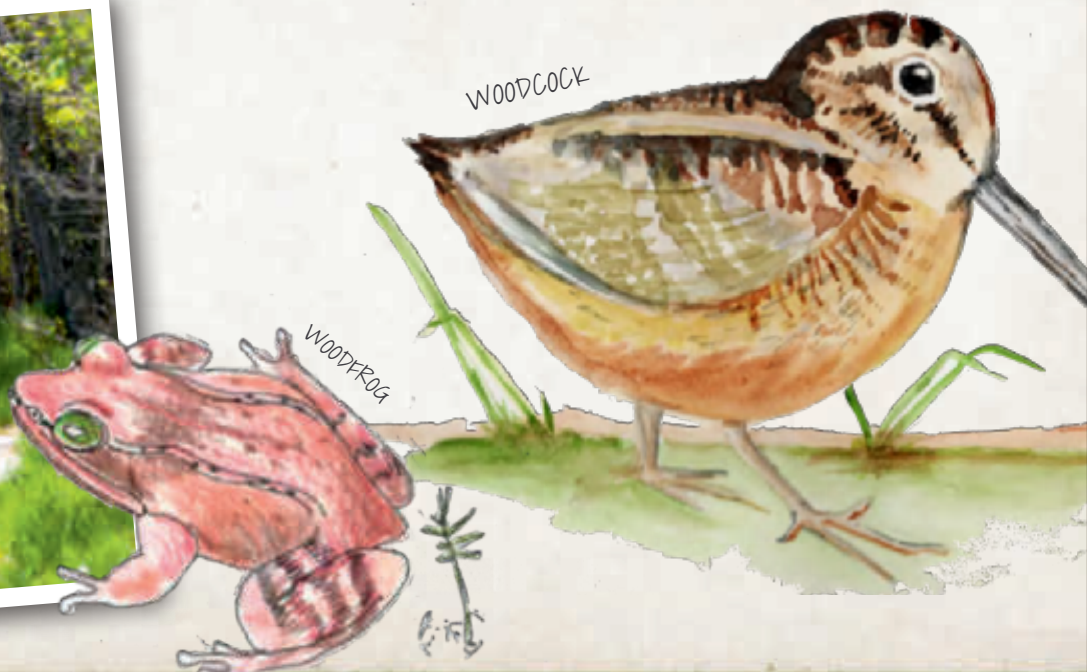
ART BY KAREN O. ZIMMERMANN

If that sounds more like Mark Twain than Henry David Thoreau, then it's time to become better acquainted with the gentleman from Massachusetts whose vivid descriptions about life on Walden Pond and excursions to the north woods of Maine render him spring's appointed spokesperson. After all, the American naturalist and philosopher did admit, "One attraction in coming to the woods to live was that I should have leisure and opportunity to see the spring come in."

Although tour books are wishy-washy about visiting Acadia National Park in the spring, there's ebullience about the goings-on of the natural world between March and June when Thoreau is the guide.

Spring starts flirtatiously in Acadia. Thoreau described the dynamic this way: "The first pleasant days of spring come out like a squirrel and go in again."

Of course, another member of the squirrel family—the groundhog—is infamous in North American folklore for





PHOTOS BY Ashley L. Conti (Trees along Jesup Path and Sieur de Monts spring bloom).

being similarly capricious. But naturalists know this true hibernator is motivated by something other than shadows. As early as February, the male groundhog (also called a woodchuck) leaves his burrow to scout locations where females are hibernating. He whistles while he works, which has earned him the epithet “whistle pig.” After roaming two or three acres, he resumes sleep in his burrow. The reconnaissance pays off with breeding in March.

The sun climbs higher in the sky and days last longer. Early in spring, pussy willows bloom, the female great horned owl sits defiantly on her eggs though it may snow, and the male American woodcock starts his courtship.

This plump, short-legged gent puts on quite a show. Twice daily, in fact. At dawn and dusk, he emits what Cornell University ornithologists call a loud nasal “PEENT!” to alert nearby females. Then he launches into the air, soaring high and circling to the ground. As air passes through his outermost feathers, twittering sounds add to the spectacle of the sky dance. And because the woodcock is not monogamous (though some 90 percent of bird species are), bird watchers who see the courtship ritual once may be in for encore performances the same night.

Sounds signal spring. As walkers circumnavigate Jordan Pond, they are captivated by the noise of the ice cracking. “Every incident connected with the breaking up of the rivers and ponds and the settling of the weather is particularly interesting,” Thoreau said, describing nighttime ice movements as “loud as artillery.”

Spring rains arrive, but frost driven as deep as four feet underground takes its time to thaw.

When the soil is so saturated that it cannot absorb any more rainwater, molten mud marks the days.

Dirt-road residents loathe mud season, but Thoreau was “cheered by the music of a thousand tinkling rills and

rivulets whose veins are filled with the blood of winter.” Still, he was realistic. “True, it is somewhat excrementitious in its character, and there is no end to the heaps of liver, lights and bowels, as if the globe were turned wrong side outward.” But, he concludes, “This is the frost coming out of the ground, this is spring. It precedes the green and flowery spring, as mythology precedes regular poetry.”

Bog walks are now a blessing, as spring hikers scan the woods for barred owls sitting on their eggs. Bluebirds and Eastern phoebes return, while fox sparrows pass through on their way to their more northern residences. Also, in March, wet areas like the Great Meadow witness male red-winged blackbirds, attired like scouts with bright red epaulettes, looking for nesting territories in advance of the females.

“The faint silvery warblings heard over the partially bare and moist fields from the blue-bird, the song-sparrow, and the red-wing, as if the last flakes of winter tinkled as they fell.”

EASTERN  
NEWT



“The first sparrow of spring! The year beginning with younger hope than ever! The faint silvery warblings heard over the partially bare and moist fields from the blue-bird, the song-sparrow, and the red-wing, as if the last flakes of winter tinkled as they fell!” Thoreau exclaimed.

Birds that have wintered in Acadia attract new attention as they don their courtship plumages. The male American goldfinch becomes bright yellow. The black guillemot changes from a pigeon-like grey and white to a more dramatic black with white wing patches—all the better to show off his bright red feet. Though male hairy and downy woodpeckers maintain the same appearance in spring, they drum on trees and telephone poles to announce their territories.

“This is the frost coming out of the ground, this is spring. It precedes the green and flowery spring, as mythology precedes regular poetry.”

The air is still nippy and spring witnesses “the honking of geese flying low over the woods, like weary travelers getting in late from southern lakes, and indulging at last in unrestrained complaint and mutual consolation,” as Thoreau said. Two subspecies of Canada geese fly over northern New England annually, but there is also a relatively small resident population.

Another migration begins in late March and continues during April. When temperatures climb into the 40s and spring rains fill natural depressions in the land, amphibians return to these so-called vernal pools where they were born. Although temporary, vernal pools provide essential breeding grounds for frogs and salamanders.



PHOTOS BY Ashley L. Conti (Owl fledglings), Will Newton (Ruby-throated hummingbird), and Nathaniel X. Boechat (Baby snapping turtle).



PAINTED  
TURTLE



SKUNK CABBAGE

Significant vernal pool habitat is protected by Maine law.

The amphibians often move at night, risking traffic deaths as they venture across roads like Route 3 here on Mount Desert Island. When thousands are migrating in Maine, citizen scientists volunteer as crossing guards. They even have their own Facebook page for the “Big Night.” Many are particularly eager to see the spotted salamander, with its shiny black skin generously covered with bright yellow spots.

In April, the cabernet-colored sheath of the Eastern skunk cabbage pushes out of the mud in swamps and near streams. Because it generates its own heat, it can literally melt its way through frozen ground.

In nearby forests, mosses and lichens enjoy their finest hours, flourishing in the wet weather. Hikers bow down to catch the scent of the Canada mayflower along trails meandering among pine trees. Back out on dirt roads, they

## The Bold Journey of Female Snapping Turtles

Why did the turtle cross the road? Especially with that much traffic. And so far from the water.

In early June, visitors to Acadia may see steadfast female snapping turtles, with their large heads and saw-toothed tails, crossing highways or alongside carriage roads. They are on their annual trek to find a good location in which to lay their eggs—some 15 to 50 of them.

Although fables do not laud the speed of the turtle, its determination is quite another matter.

The female snapper seeks out dry, sandy areas some distance from the water so that her eggs won't get wet or too cold. Temperature is key. In fact, the gender of the snapping turtle hatchlings will be determined by the temperature at a certain stage of development, as is the case for many reptiles.

Moving farther from the water may also decrease predation by the great blue heron. Foxes, coyotes, and skunks are likewise menacing. To help preserve the species, females can retain viable sperm in their bodies for several years to fertilize eggs even when they don't mate.

Visitors may spot a single, determined turtle slowly crossing a lawn or road en route to lay her eggs. Waiting and watching may yield another sighting.

As concerned as observers might be about traffic risks, they should be wary of approaching snapping turtles. “I recommend people move slowly and give the turtle plenty of space to cross the road on its own,” says Acadia National Park wildlife biologist Bik Wheeler.

In the water, snapping turtles that encounter humans usually just swim away. On land, however, they can be aggressive, even hissing at people they perceive as threats. They feel vulnerable, so do not disturb them.

Such defensive, if not vicious, behavior has a sound basis in their anatomy. Unlike many other types of turtles, common snappers cannot contract completely inside their shells. With their long and flexible necks, they not only lunge but can reach backwards. Their powerful jaws inflict a painful and damaging bite.

And this they do with the speed of a hare.

— LYNN FANTOM



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## Ice Out and Renewal For Acadia's Lakes

While most attention in the spring in Acadia is focused on melting snow, thawing roads, and the general warming of the landscape, remarkable changes are also underway within lakes and ponds.

Each spring and fall, lakes in colder climates “turn” as warm (less dense) and cold (denser) water layers switch positions. In summer, warmer water is at the surface and the coldest water is at the bottom. During the fall, the temperature in lakes gradually becomes uniform. Colder water from the surface sinks, shifting the comparatively warmer water upwards. When ice forms, however, the coldest water can now be found at the surface.

In spring, the cold water sinks and warmer water rises, turning the lake again. Both seasonal cycles redistribute nutrients through the water column and can affect water clarity and color.

### Ice Out

The most obvious visible transformation is known as ice out, which is officially defined as the first time in spring that someone could navigate from one end of a body of water to the other unencumbered by ice.

In northern Maine, the date of ice out on major lakes often doesn't happen until early May. Here on Mount Desert Island, the state has tracked ice-out statistics for only Long Pond. In 2020, ice out came on March 20. In the three preceding years it happened around April 13.

— EARL BRECHLIN

PHOTOS BY Aimee Beal Church (Shad in bloom, Shad buds), Ashley L. Conti (Visitors walking the closed Park Loop Road near Otter Cliffs, Ice melting on Long Pond viewed from Beech Mtn.), Will Greene (Black-throated green warbler), and Julia Walker Thomas (Cyclists on closed Park Loop Road).



“Every incident connected with the breaking up of the rivers and ponds and the settling of the weather is particularly interesting... loud as artillery.”

spy a bird in flight ahead of them with a white patch notable at the base of his tail; a flicker has been eating ants.

May marks an important moment: the opportunity to see returning warblers before the leaves hide them. Bird watchers spot palm warblers near bogs and yellow-rumped warblers high in spruce trees. The ruby-throated hummingbird is also back from Central America, taking in sustenance from newly flowered wild strawberries, cinquefoils, and white violets.

Meows emanate from catbirds deep in shrubs, while American kestrels, Maine's smallest falcons, drop to catch prey near open fields. The National Park Service has



likely already closed hiking trails near the Precipice, Jordan Cliffs, and Valley Cove, where peregrine falcons are nesting. Visitors, however, stop by the viewing platform at Precipice trailhead, lingering to chat with park rangers about the status of the nesting.

As the calendar turns to June, bird watchers head to Sieur de Monts Spring hoping to glimpse an American redstart, black-and-white warbler, rose-breasted grosbeak, or perhaps even a pileated woodpecker. After long days in the field, they open their windows at night to hear the spring peeper symphony and inhale the fresh air. Thoreau's words are like a prayer: "I am reminded of spring by the quality of the air ... It is a natural resurrection, an experience of immortality." ■

LYNN FANTOM is a former New York advertising executive who has embraced her second career as a freelance writer in Maine. KAREN O. ZIMMERMANN is a designer and a year-round resident of Otter Creek. The sketches in this story are from her Maine Master Naturalist journals.

## Closures Protect Carriage Roads

Each spring the carriage roads in Acadia National Park are closed to all users as much of the surface becomes a layer of mud of varying depth. Footprints from walkers, hoof marks from horses, tire marks from bicycles, and even jogging strollers create potholes and deep ruts.

As spring rains hit, those potholes can become large puddles. Tire ruts channel water that can cause major damage.

"We know everyone gets excited for the opening of the carriage roads and we appreciate everyone's patience with the brief spring closure," said Steve Allison, Acadia's roads supervisor. "The closure saves damage, time, and money and lessens the workload on the carriage road crew."

Typically, the carriage roads close in mid-to-late March and reopen in mid-April, depending on weather conditions. Visit Friends of Acadia's Facebook page or [www.nps.gov/acad/](http://www.nps.gov/acad/) for latest closure status and use advisories.

## Spring Brings Car-free Fun

Depending on when the snow melts off Acadia National Park's Park Loop Road, walkers, runners, and bicyclists can enjoy as many as three weeks of car-free fun on the scenic motorway, including the Cadillac Summit Road.

Park officials traditionally close the paved roads, which are unplowed in winter, to motor vehicles until the middle of April. But, depending on weather and snowpack, surfaces can often be clear and passable by late March.

Along with not having to worry about traffic on the gated roads, bicyclists do not have to comply with the one-way traffic rules as required in season. The lack of motor vehicle traffic is especially welcome on the narrow and winding Cadillac Summit Road.

In social media posts, one visitor shared her joy at being able to recreate free of motor vehicles. "Had a wonderful time riding all weekend even to the top of Cadillac on both days (had to "portage" a little here and there)," she said. "Be safe, have fun."

Users are advised they may encounter rangers, maintenance crews, or heavy equipment. Some patches of snow and ice can linger and there may be debris present such as downed tree branches or rockfall.

Two short sections of the 27-mile Park Loop Road remain open to cars year-round: the two miles of Ocean Drive from the Schooner Head Road to Miller Garden Road and the section between the village of Seal Harbor and the Jordan Pond House.

— EARL BRECHLIN

## 32ND ANNUAL BENEFIT COMMITTEE

### CO-CHAIRS

Laura and  
Vassar Pierce

### AUCTION CHAIR

Gail Clark

### COMMITTEE

Pepper Anderson  
Cynthia Baker  
Bob Bell

Allison Bourke  
Sharon Bradley  
Antoinette Brewster  
Ellie Buchanan  
Ildiko Butler  
Mary Ann Charlston  
Hannah Clark  
Karen Collins  
Whitney Kroeger  
Connor

Gail Cook  
Malinda Crain  
Kate Davis

Sydney Davis  
Melinda Dennis  
Lesley Draper

Alexandra Doorly  
Linda Douglas  
Aubin Dupree

Sunny Dupree  
Donna Eacho  
Ann Fenno

Susan Ferrante-Collier  
Leslie Fogg  
Ellie Ford

Leandra Fremont-  
Smith  
Christina Godfrey

Linda Levy Goldberg  
Carol Grant  
Keely Gray

Anne Green  
Emily Griset  
Anna Hargraves Hall

Diana Hambleton  
Laura Hamilton  
Anne Hopkins

Heather Jervis  
Kristin Johnson  
Lillie Johnson

Hilary Kärst  
Maggie Kelley  
Lydia Kimball

Wilhelmina Kipp  
Christina Baker Kline  
Elizabeth Lake

Sydie Lansing  
Story Litchfield  
Jada Loutit

Elizabeth Martinez

Suzanne McCullagh  
Linda McGillicuddy  
Kathleen McIntyre

Charlie Merriman  
Heather Mitchell  
Meredith Moriarty

Beth Nixon  
Ellanor Notides  
Susan Paneyko

Jenny Petschek  
Lili Pew  
Hadley Powell

Emilie Price  
Bambi Putnam  
Katrina Rank

Jennifer Richardson  
Deborah Schmidt  
Robinson

Diana Rowan  
Rockefeller  
Martie Samek

Liz Samek-O'Malley  
Meg Samek-Smith  
Sunne Savage

Laura Scott  
Elizabeth Seherr-  
Thoss

Diana Davis Spencer  
Martha Stewart  
Maureen Stewart

Christine Strawbridge  
Nonie Sullivan  
Charlotte Thibodeau

Courtney Urfer  
Thompson  
Patricia Toogood

Julie Merck Utsch  
Bonnie Van Alen  
Christiaan van

Heerden  
Kate Vanoff  
Melissa Waud

Ariane Wellin  
Kim Wentworth  
Lynne Wheat

Louise Hartwell White  
Lynne Williams  
Sydney Winthrop

Diana Wister  
Effie Wister  
Noelle Wolf

Anna Woodward

## 32nd Annual Benefit: A Mix of Virtual and In-Person Events

BY SHAWN KEELEY

Last year, we gathered virtually for the Annual Benefit for the first time and Friends of Acadia supporters rallied to make it a huge success—learning with us and supporting us every step of the way.

While the event was much different than before, we accomplished our goals of bringing our community together to celebrate Acadia and raising significant funds for our conservation initiatives. So many took time out of their evenings to be part of a fun, fast-moving online program that resulted in major impact for Acadia.

This year's Friends of Acadia Benefit Committee, led by co-chairs Laura and Vassar Pierce, is already busy planning the 32nd Annual Benefit. This year, we are hopeful that public health continues to improve. In that spirit, we are planning a mix of virtual and in-person events that build on what we learned last year while bringing back some traditions of years past.

**The 32nd Annual Benefit will be held as a virtual event on Saturday, August 14.** Like last year, the event will feature a silent auction, with bidding open a week prior to the event, and a live program the evening of the 14th with auctioneer Lydia Fenet of Christie's leading us through the Live Auction and Paddle Raise. The Benefit Committee is working on a few surprises to make this year's event distinctive, memorable, and a wonderful success for the park.

**The Patron Preview Party** is planned as an in-person, outdoor event on Wednesday, August 11. Last year this event was cancelled due to COVID-19. Bob Stolar and Lesley Draper will host the event at their shorefront home, *Summerwind*, in Northeast Harbor. This event is a wonderful way to thank our generous patrons and preview the live auction items that will be featured at the Benefit the following Saturday. If you would like to support the Benefit as a Patron, visit [www.friendsofacadia.org/benefit-patron](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/benefit-patron).

**New this year:** If you are in Northeast Harbor this summer, stop by Friends of Acadia's Annual Benefit Pop-Up Shop at 115 Main Street to see the auction items displayed and learn about the event and Friends of Acadia's conservation work.

If you have questions about the Annual Benefit, the Patron Preview Party, or would like to donate an auction item, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org). ■



# LEAVE NO TRACE

## How to Minimize Your Impact on Acadia

BY STEPHANIE LEY

If each visitor to Acadia walked off trail, took a rock, or left trash, the adverse impacts would quickly accumulate, impairing the environment for decades to come. In 2020, the Summit Stewards educated more than 11,000 visitors on the trails about *Leave No Trace*. To reach visitors before they hit the park, the Acadia Digital Media Team and Summit Stewards created a series of short videos to educate visitors about the 7 *Leave No Trace* Principles in Acadia National Park.

[friendsofacadia.org/leavenotrace](https://friendsofacadia.org/leavenotrace)

1

### KNOW BEFORE YOU GO

Check for current Acadia closures due to weather, maintenance, and wildlife. Don't forget to wear layers and bring water and a map.

2

### STICK TO TRAILS

There are over 150 miles of hiking trails in Acadia. By sticking to the center of the trail, you can prevent erosion and trail widening.

3

### TRASH YOUR TRASH AND PICK UP POOP

Keep a small bag with you to secure and dispose of waste. Trash accidentally carried by the wind is a frequent occurrence on Acadia's summits and coastlines.

4

### LEAVE IT AS YOU FIND IT

Summit trails are marked with rock structures called Bates cairns. Building your own rock stack or tampering with the cairns can mislead hikers and cause soil erosion.

5

### BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE

The only legal place to build a fire in Acadia National Park is in designated fire rings at campgrounds and picnic areas with locally acquired firewood.

6

### KEEP WILDLIFE WILD

You can protect Acadia's wildlife from being harmed by giving them their space and keeping food and trash secured.

7

### SHARE OUR TRAILS AND MANAGE YOUR PET

Dogs must be on a leash. The carriage roads host multiple users—horses have the right of way and bicyclists yield to all.

STEPHANIE LEY is Friends of Acadia's Summit Steward Coordinator.

Leave No Trace is © 2004  
by the Leave No Trace  
Center for Outdoor Ethics:  
[www.LNT.org](http://www.LNT.org)



## Linda Lewis: In on the 'Ground Floor'

BY EARL BRECHLIN



COURTESY LINDA LEWIS

Getting in on the ground floor is an expression that has long stood as a sign of enterprise and good fortune in the business world.

For Linda Lewis of Somesville, however, her more than 30-year involvement with Friends of Acadia began, literally, on the ground, helping organize the volunteers who care for Acadia National Park's trails and carriage roads.

In 1989, just a few years after Friends of Acadia was founded, Lewis, who had been coming to the island seasonally for years before moving here permanently, was encouraged to get involved by many friends including Libby and David Donnan. She started volunteering to take care of trails and carriage roads.

Eventually she was approached by then-director Duane Pierson and others to form a committee to help coordinate the efforts of volunteers with park staff. She set up regular monthly meetings to bring everyone together. "It really started out quite informally," she recalls.

One of the first initiatives Friends of Acadia took in those early years was to purchase tools for the volunteers. Still, there was not yet a permanent place to keep them. "I think there was one winter when we kept them in the basement of my house in Somesville," she adds. In time, Friends of Acadia secured

permission from the park to place a shed at headquarters for the volunteers' equipment.

Building upon that base and the hard work of those early trailblazers, the organization thrived and expanded.

Since those early years Lewis has stepped up to serve the organization in nearly every capacity—volunteer, member, donor, and leader. She was invited to become a board member in 1991, around the time she and Marilyn Mays were planning on opening Port in a Storm Bookstore. After its debut on the water in Somesville in 1992, Port in a Storm quickly became a retailing and literary tour de force on Mount Desert Island.

While on the board for just over two decades, Lewis also chaired the Friends of Acadia Board from 1994 until the summer of 1997. She became an honorary trustee in 2009 and served on Acadia National Park's Centennial Task Force from 2014 to 2016.

According to Lewis, among her proudest accomplishments was working on major campaigns to rehabilitate the park's carriage roads and hiking trails. The carriage road effort involved raising some \$4 million, which coupled with \$6 million in federal money allowed for restoration of the 45-mile system and the establishment of an endowment to maintain them in perpetuity. In fact, the last section slated for full reconstruction, around Eagle Lake, will be done this summer.

The subsequent Acadia Trails Forever campaign raised more than \$10 million to do the same thing for the park's more than 150 miles of hiking trails. "I learned so much from being involved with those campaigns," Lewis notes. "It was a crossroads time. It seemed like the park was being overwhelmed and lacked the resources to adapt," she adds. "I was worried we might lose it."

In her 30 years of conservation work, Lewis said she has been inspired as each generation of stewards who love the park have stepped up to do what is required to preserve this special place for future generations.

"Volunteering, becoming a member, being a part of Friends of Acadia allows you to feel a sort of ownership, a deep personal connection to this beautiful place," Lewis says. Along with the camaraderie and friendships formed, Lewis says the rewards include the satisfaction of being part of something bigger than oneself. ■

Maine author EARL BRECHLIN recently retired as Friends of Acadia's Communication Director.

## NEW MEMBERS

November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021

Anonymous (2)  
 David Ackerson  
 Deborah Acree  
 Rosalyn and Jonathan Akeley  
 Marybeth Allen  
 Anthony Anderson  
 Tammy Anderson  
 Sherri Antonacci  
 Donna and John Apgar  
 Dawn and Don Asp  
 Joseph Baily  
 Katie Ballantine  
 Yannoula Ballassi  
 Emily Bannon  
 Heather Barranco  
 Joshua Barrett  
 Travis Barrows  
 John Batson  
 Jane and Jay Baxter  
 Nancy Beals  
 Donna and Lee Beaudoin  
 Helen and Brendan Bechtel  
 Robert Belknap  
 Courtney Bell  
 Jeff Bell  
 Steve Bell  
 Emily Belson  
 Ethan Bennett  
 Fiona Bennett  
 Judy Benson  
 Jena Bergeron  
 Susan Berliner  
 Hannah Berridge  
 Blackwood and Grisard Family  
 Patricia and James Blahovec  
 Jennifer Blair  
 Dorothy and Edward Bloch  
 Christian Boessen  
 William Bohrer  
 Jeffrey Boudreau  
 Rachel Broadt  
 Kathryn Brown  
 Andrea Bryan  
 Maureen Bryant  
 Karen Burke  
 Gloria Butler  
 Leann Canty and  
 Prabhakar Devavaram  
 CASA by PC  
 Yi Cen  
 Tez Chantaruchirakorn  
 Pattie and Bill Charles

Brandon Chase  
 Chesapeake Community Advisors  
 Will Childs  
 Francis Chucker  
 David Clark  
 Kylie Clay  
 Janet Leston Clifford  
 Jacalyn Coghlin-Strom  
 John Concordia  
 JoAnne Conover  
 Joanne Conrad  
 Tim Cook  
 Steven Cooper  
 Diane Cormack  
 Evan Costanza  
 Marion Costanza  
 Mary Cotten  
 John Coulter  
 Elyse Coyle and Scott Weigand  
 Alyssa Damon  
 Elana Dandeneau  
 Casey Darnley  
 Farahad Dastoor  
 Pam Daube  
 Laura Davis  
 Marcie Day and Dave Fisher  
 Jay Dearborn  
 Tessanella DeFrisco  
 Megan Delaney  
 Elbridge DeLong  
 Joyce and Kenneth DeNeal  
 Sofia Diaz  
 DiDonato Family  
 Libby Dilling  
 Dirt in My Shoes  
 Teresa Doksum  
 Jackson Dragon  
 Patricia Dunn  
 Muffy Dyer  
 Eagle River Designs  
 Heather East  
 Meg Eastman  
 Betty Eaton  
 Meri Beth Elder  
 Laura Ellis  
 Joanie Engel  
 Robert Engel  
 Kathleen Erickson, Joshua  
 Gottfried, and Matt Somberg  
 Bridget Erlandson  
 Lori and Mike Eschmann  
 Liz Eudy

Pamela Faber  
 Nancy and Regis Farrell  
 Cecile Ferguson  
 Mariel Rose Ferragamo  
 Liz Fisher and Evan Sterling  
 Lucy Fisher  
 Nancy and Randall FitzGerald  
 Sharon Fitzgerald  
 James Flahaven  
 Michelle Flores  
 Jeffrey Forthofer  
 Haidi Fox  
 Vicki Fox  
 Christine and West Frazier  
 Sandra and Charles Freeman  
 Freestyle Travel Shop  
 Gail Frohlich  
 Amanda Frost  
 Susan and Matt Frye  
 Johnathan Fuentes  
 Marielle Gage  
 Karen Gagnon  
 Sara Gallant and  
 Wallace Bourgeois  
 Shelby Gardner and David Prout  
 Mary Gellerstedt  
 Laura Gluffling-Tham  
 Sandi Jo Goddard  
 William Goode  
 Nancy Gordon  
 Paul Goulet  
 Andrea Grace  
 Eugene Grace  
 Beth Graham  
 Paige Grant and Neil Williams  
 Eliza Gray  
 Emily Greenberg  
 Beatrice Griffin  
 Carol and Edward Gross  
 Zachary Grosso  
 Helen Gustafson  
 Elizabeth and Dick Haines  
 Lisa Hall  
 Mary Hanrahan  
 Kyle Hardin  
 Lucas Hepburn  
 Sarah Holler and Ben Lewis  
 William Holler  
 Karen Holyoke  
 Laura and Bobby Horn  
 Sarah Murray Hougan  
 Joshua Howard

Leslie Hudson  
 Joan Hueffner and  
 Stephen Steinbrink  
 Diane and Stan Itzkowitz  
 Melissa and James Jackson  
 Taffi and Jay Janelle  
 Carl Jensen  
 Rita Jensen  
 Kisla Jimenez and  
 Jonathan Williams  
 Elizabeth Johnson  
 Amanda Jones  
 Brianna Jordan  
 Joyce Family  
 Erik Karey  
 Kay Keaney  
 Alice Kehoe  
 Steve Kemp  
 Soomee Kim  
 Eleanor Kinney  
 Alexander Kita  
 Knight Foundation  
 Adam Knowlton  
 Philip Koch  
 Katharine Laban  
 Scott Landis  
 Teresa Larose  
 Sharon and Neil LeJeune  
 Mike Leonard  
 Greg Lessard  
 Jane and Bob Lessard  
 Emma Longcope  
 Fred Losi  
 Katie Lowery  
 Amy Luckiewicz  
 Nick Lumia  
 Jennifer and Todd Lynch  
 Amy Lytle  
 Deborah Madigan  
 Jeff Magidson  
 Alyssa Malone  
 Gay and James Maloney  
 Kathryn Marco  
 Andrea Maresca  
 Nicholas Marmet  
 Julie Martin  
 Lory Martin  
 Max Mason  
 Katie Massoudian  
 Debra Mastropaolo  
 Sarah Mathews  
 Eleanor Mattis

continued on page 30



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

# Acadia Quest: Treasure Keepers of Acadia

BY PAIGE STEELE

Acadia Quest, the experiential scavenger hunt, is back for its 13th season, inspiring youth to explore, learn about, and protect Acadia National Park with their family and friends.

Returning for a second year is the Treasure Keepers edition. Questers will meet bat biologists, curators, climate scientists, and more who will take them to places such as Sargent Mountain Pond and the Baker Island dance floor.

Quest teams who participated in the program last year were grateful for having the option to do a safe, fun, self-guided adventure while collecting digital badges in newly discovered corners of Acadia. Returning teams from 2020 will be able to enjoy a different set of six activities this year.

The Acadia Quest app is available for both iOS and Android platforms; it



COURTESY TRES CABALLEROS

The Acadia Quest team, Tres Caballeros, enjoyed the Treasure Keeper's edition last summer by hiking up Emery Path for an amazing view of Frenchman Bay, searching for scuppers on Duck Brook Bridge, and listening to cobblestones tumble on Hunters Beach. They saw loons, deer, seals, and osprey while creating wonderful family memories in Acadia.

operates on smartphones, tablets, and is free to download. Search the app store for "Friends of Acadia." Teams may

also download the paper version by going to the Friends of Acadia website [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org). ■

## NEW MEMBERS continued from page 29

Lori McElroy  
Emily McHugh  
Jill McLaughlin  
Josh McManus  
Melanie McVety  
Sharon Meade  
Michelle Merchant  
Paul Messier  
Marc Michalak  
Andrea Miller  
Sean Miller  
Susan Minard  
Erica Monko  
Josephine Moody  
Barbara Mooney  
Barbara and Richard Moore  
Jameel Moore  
Laura Morris  
Gertrude Morrison  
Maryjean Mucciarone  
Leila Murphy  
NABAMA Foundation  
Valerie Nadreau  
Shirley and Harold Nason  
David Nethery  
Deirdre Newman  
Nicoletta Family  
Beverly Nield  
Suzanne Nixon  
Elizabeth Noyes  
Regina Nysko

Ari Ofsevit  
Rebecca Onuchovskiy  
Stephanie Paine  
Bernadette Palmer  
Krista Palmer  
Maria Pepe  
James Phillips  
Anne Poole  
Emily and Nick Pope  
Frank Powell  
Christopher Price  
Emily Pulitzer  
Kathy and George Putnam  
John Quinn  
Janet Rash  
Dee and Bob Reich  
Susan Reid  
Carl Rella  
Tricia and Jon Renell  
Holly Robbins  
Bonnie Robertson  
Phaedra Mangan Rocha  
Kelly Roche and Jason Gilbert  
Adel Roff  
Karen and William Rogers  
Sloane Rogers  
Amy Roy  
Rudolf Steiner Foundation  
Judy Russell  
Denise Rymarz and Jim Kennedy  
Salsbury Hardware

Dawn Saltamacchia  
Lori Schaefer  
Philip Schena  
Amy Schrag  
Frances Schroedl  
Jean Schulz  
Mollie Schwingel  
Henry Sears  
Christy Seed and Stephen Ruda  
SEI Giving Fund  
Laura Selm  
Manisha Shah  
Jessica Shoemaker  
Lynne Skaskiw  
Allison Sloben  
David Snodgrass  
Jean and Lindley Sorber  
Deirdre Spencer  
Gail Steingisser  
Sharon Stephens  
Katherine Stockel  
James Stringer  
Mary Beth Strout  
Samantha Sturhahn  
Patricia Sullivan  
Sarah Sutro and Michael Bedford  
Kathy Tarantola  
Tina Taylor  
Mary Thomas  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Thompson  
Otto Torbek

James Tucker  
Norma Valente  
Michael Varney  
Jim Veilleux  
James Wade  
Dan Wagner  
Susan Tabor Wahman  
Julia Ward  
Tracy and Doug Ward  
Wegman-Corliss Family  
Tracey and Steve Welch  
George Westbrook  
R J M Westbury  
Gladys Wheeler  
Erica Whitcher  
Maris Wicks  
Suse Wicks  
Carlene Wilbur  
William and Flora Hewlett  
Foundation  
Carol Williams  
Marjorie Williams  
Michael Wong  
Joann Fairchild Wood  
Judith Woodruff  
Susan and Paul Wren  
Linda and Colin Wynd  
Anne Zaldastani  
Elizabeth Zelljadt  
Zachary Zinn  
Mary Zupan



# MDI Naturalist Shares Acadia's Avian World

BY EARL BRECHLIN



COURTESY RICH MACDONALD



*Little Big Year*  
Chasing Acadia's Birds  
By Richard Wayne  
MacDonald  
470 pages, paperback,  
\$19.95

Situated on the coast of Maine, and at the intersection of temperate and boreal bioclimatic zones, Acadia National Park and inland areas of Hancock County offer a unique opportunity to bird watch. The woods, waters, shores, and summits are home to some 280 species.

For field biologist Rich MacDonald, co-founder with his wife Natalie Springuel of Bar Harbor's Natural History Center, birding isn't just a pastime. It's a way of life.

So, mindful he wouldn't have time to participate in formal national events like the "World Series of Birding," MacDonald set out in 2018 to have his own "Little Big Year," devoting as much time as he could to spotting as many species of birds in the

Hancock County area as he could.

MacDonald's account of those adventures, "Little Big Year," is a diary of sorts, a naturalist's journal of his avian voyage of discovery. He devotes 190 days to his mission, logging an impressive number of sightings along the way. He spotted 268 species, just a few below the maximum possible.

He starts out on January 1, participating in the annual Schoodic Christmas Bird Count, and takes readers along over the next 12 months. Each chapter, devoted to a single day's total, flows smoothly along as MacDonald also shares his incredibly deep and rich background in the sciences and natural world. Readers will smile at the mention of so many familiar places and landscapes.

Like any good read, this book is as much about the author as the subject and MacDonald is an infinitely interesting and interested protagonist. His smooth writing style and attention to detail keep the narrative flowing, while the smart arrangement of chapters allows the reader numerous opportunities to set the book down and pick it up again without any loss of continuity.

At the end of each chapter, a master list of sightings is included as well as a master list in the back. MacDonald includes the requisite scholarly footnotes; however, they too are in back so as not to distract from the primary narrative at hand.

Along with sharing his exploits, MacDonald's book contains another, more profound message, and that is one about the disturbing diminishment of species of birds along the Maine Coast.

"To the untrained eye, signs of the declining natural world may not always be readily apparent," MacDonald writes. "Certainly, as I am out birding, I see fewer birds today, than I did forty years ago. Thirty years ago. Twenty years ago. Even

ten years ago. The root cause of this is a direct result of how we treat natural habitats."

Climate change, as MacDonald points out, is a major factor and the message that it's here, it's real, and it is having profound impacts in Acadia and environs is clear and needs to be heeded.

"Little Big Year: Chasing Acadia's Birds" is available at Sherman's Books in Bar Harbor, the Wendell Gilley Museum in Southwest Harbor, on Amazon, and through The Natural History Center by calling 207-266-9461 or emailing [info@TheNaturalHistoryCenter.com](mailto:info@TheNaturalHistoryCenter.com). ■

Maine author EARL BRECHLIN recently retired as Friends of Acadia's Communication Director.

## NEW TRAILBLAZERS

November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021

Lynn Cochrane  
Diana DeBenedictis  
Pamela Hattem and Richard Cohen  
Nancy Holler  
Jill and William Louv  
Barbara Lund  
Abigail Martin  
Patricia Sibilia  
Stephanie Silverman and Adam Garretson  
Aileen and Michael Starnbach  
Patricia Sullivan

## NEW BUSINESS MEMBERS

November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021

Fogtown Brewing Company  
Gai Consultants  
Hutker Architects  
LPL Financial  
Rusticator Shop  
West Bay Acadia RV Campground

## IN-KIND DONORS

November 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021

BerryDunn  
Lisa Horsch Clark and Bob Clark  
Helen and Philip Koch  
Lyme Timber Company



Downtown Bar Harbor  
Southwest Harbor

SERVING ACADIA VISITORS  
SINCE 1932



ACADIA



Park Company

134 Main Street, Bar Harbor  
2% for the Park

SUPPORTING TRAIL  
WORK IN ACADIA  
THROUGH  
FRIENDS OF ACADIA'S  
STEWARDSHIP  
VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

# TEST YOUR ACADIA Q

Can you identify these  
AMPHIBIANS  
that are located within  
Acadia National Park?

1



2



3



Pickerel Frog  
(Lithobates palustris)

Red-backed  
Salamander  
(Plethodon cinereus)

Spotted Salamander  
(Ambystoma maculatum)

Spring Peeper  
(Pseudacris crucifer)

Wood Frog  
(Lithobates sylvaticus)

4



5



6



7



8



ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



Growing  
beautiful  
outdoor  
spaces  
in Coastal  
Maine

207 664 0091 • info@mdigrows.com • mdigrows.com

## CAPTURING THE MOMENT By Ashley L. Conti



The beauty of Acadia extends far beyond summertime. Once temperatures drop and the snow flies, Acadia becomes otherworldly.

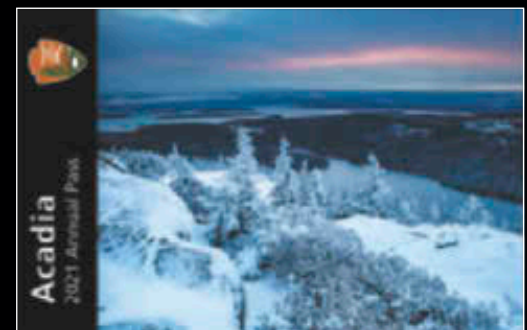
The day I took this image, I was hiking with my girlfriend, Kimi Smith, up Pemetic Mountain. Trails were icy and snow-packed and we put on microspikes to ensure a safe hike. As we approached the summit, the fog was enveloping Penobscot and Sargent Mountains. The trees were covered with needle-like ice and the sunset was quickly approaching so everything appeared blue-toned. It resembled something more like Mars than Maine!

We started down South Ridge Trail and the clouds started to break just enough to cast a bubblegum-colored streak across the sky. An overlook provided a vista of Jordan Pond where I snapped a half dozen photos.

It's an absolute honor to have this photo represent Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and the Digital Media Team on the 2021 Acadia Annual Pass. This hike was one of my favorite winter hikes ever, and I am thrilled to have it remembered this way.

This image was captured on a Canon 5D Mark III, with a 24mm-70mm lens at 24mm. My camera settings were ISO 1000, aperture f5, and a shutter speed of 1/250th of a second. ■

ASHLEY L. CONTI is the Friends of Acadia Digital Media Team Coordinator.



The Acadia Annual Pass will be available for purchase beginning May 1 at the Sand Beach Entrance Station and at other locations as they open for the season. The cost of the pass is \$55.

# Updates

## Eagle Lake Carriage Road Under Construction in 2021

The Eagle Lake carriage road is one of the most popular loops in the carriage-road system because of its scenic beauty and gradual hills. The loop will receive a major facelift in 2021 as the surface and subsurface of the road, drainage features, stone walls, and rock slopes are rehabilitated.

Because of this work, the Eagle Lake carriage road will be closed to the public throughout much of the season and the Island Explorer's Bike Express service will not run. The contractor hired to complete the rehabilitation, Harold MacQuinn, Inc., hopes to finish the work by mid-September, but visitors are advised to check the status of closures through the alerts on Acadia National Park's website, [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad).

Access to Witch Hole Pond from the Eagle Lake parking lot on the north side of Route 233 should remain open, and the National Park Service hopes to keep the short distance to the Aunt Betty Pond carriage road open as much as possible.

One exciting aspect of the rehabilitation project is the construction of a connector to the future Eagle Lake parking lot at Liscomb Pit. The existing parking areas at Eagle Lake are undersized, and cars spill out onto the shoulders of Route 233, creating a safety hazard as traffic passes rapidly. To address this issue, Acadia's Transportation Plan called for the creation of a new 125-space parking lot at an existing maintenance yard on the Liscomb Pit road. Visitors to the Eagle Lake carriage road over the winter would likely have seen



NPS

The Eagle Lake carriage road, indicated in orange, will be closed to the public throughout much of the 2021 season for improvements.

the terminus of this connector. The Liscomb Pit lot itself will be constructed through a future project.

## Recreation Technicians monitor visitor use at Eagle Lake & Cadillac Summit

Acadia's visitation in 2020 proved that even in a pandemic, interest in outdoor recreation remains incredibly strong. And although COVID is still very much part of our lives as we open the 2021 season, visitation levels are expected to return to pre-pandemic levels.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Friends of Acadia's seasonal recreation technicians will help Acadia National Park gather important visitation statistics.

One of technician will collect data for a long-term carriage road monitoring program to assess current visitation conditions and compare them to past research data. This intern will also work with the National Park Service's bicycle volunteer group to extend the reach of social science data collection throughout the carriage road system.

The second technician will work with park staff to assist with Transportation Plan monitoring and inventory collection. The technician will gather baseline and vehicular displacement data through parking surveys of four major areas on Mount Desert Island throughout the summer and fall, including Cadillac Mountain where personal vehicles will require a reservation from sunrise to sunset from the end of May to mid-October.

Collection of visitor use statistics throughout Acadia is a vital tool for ensuring the park can track visitation patterns, consider management actions, and prevent conflicts.

By Becca Stanley, Friends of Acadia's Recreation Technician Lead

### ANSWERS to Amphibians IQ quiz on page 32

1. Spring Peeper
2. Eastern Newt
3. Red-backed Salamander
4. Gray Treefrog
5. Green Frog
6. Wood Frog
7. Spotted Salamander
8. Pickerel Frog



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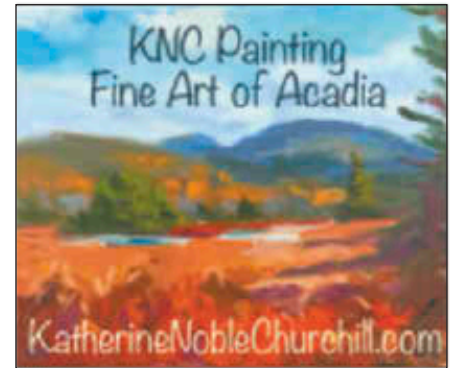


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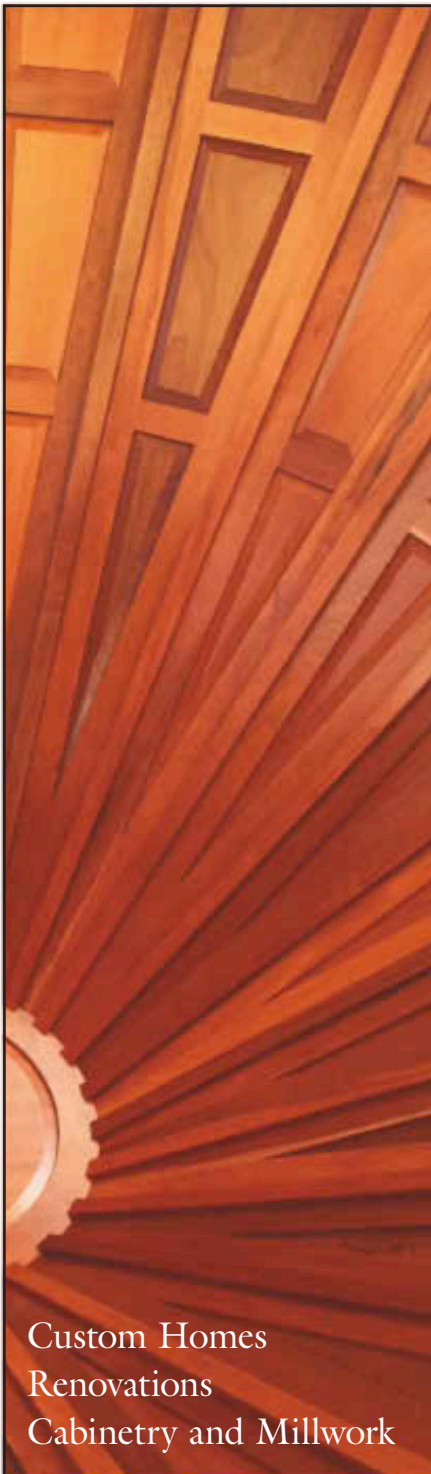
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## The George B. Dorr Society for Planned Giving

In 2020 Friends of Acadia hosted the 16th Annual George B. Dorr Society event via Zoom for society members, park staff, and other special guests. Recently retired, longtime Acadia National Park employees Judy Hazen Connery and Charlie Jacobi shared untold stories, historic images, and recently rediscovered oral histories of Acadia's rich history. Hazen Connery and Jacobi have partnered the last two years to research and document the administrative history of Acadia.

Sixty-seven guests attended the broadcast, including 15 society members who attended their first event. While we always enjoy visiting with our George B. Dorr friends at the annual event, moving to an online platform allowed us to include members who are unable to attend the in-person gathering.

Because of the uncertainty of the pandemic and our ability to safely gather, Friends of Acadia has decided to host the 17th annual event on July 26 in a virtual platform. Details are still to be finalized, but we have

scheduled a virtual tour of a rarely seen location in the park.

The George B. Dorr Society for Planned Giving recognizes members and friends who have documented bequests or other provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 with 18 founding members and has grown to over 100 member families.

The George B. Dorr Society and the planned and estate giving program at Friends of Acadia are sponsored by William Blair, a global investment banking and wealth management firm based in Chicago.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or would like information about joining the George B. Dorr Society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development and Donor Relations, at 207-288-3340 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org).



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

## Schaefer Succeeds Brechlin as FOA Communications Director

Lori Schaefer has taken over for former Communications Director Earl Brechlin, who departed at the end of February to pursue independent writing projects.

“Lori brings 20 plus years of experience in strategic communications and outreach from working for the Minnesota state legislature, to leading a non-profit economic justice think-tank, working as a journalist, and running her own marketing and PR firm,” said Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald. “We’re excited to welcome her to the team and look forward to working together to share our messages and address key issues facing the park.”



COURTESY LORI SCHAEFER

Schaefer will serve as editor of the recently revamped Acadia magazine. She will also manage media relations, assist Friends of Acadia staff, park managers, and other partner organizations with their communications needs, and contribute to the collaborative effort to further Friends of Acadia’s mission and strategic priorities.

“I’m thrilled to be joining the talented team at Friends of Acadia and excited to work closely with the board, our

continued on page 38



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UPDATES continued from page 37

members, volunteers, and partners to help preserve and protect Acadia National Park, which also happens to be my heart place,” Schaefer said.

**Earl Brechlin: Gone (Not Really), But Not Forgotten**

Our beloved friend and former editor of Acadia magazine, Earl Brechlin, has retired to begin work on a new book project, curate a new exhibit for the Bar Harbor Historical Society, and explore other interests. Earl has been a historian and journalist on Mount Desert Island (MDI) for more than 35 years, but he is perhaps best known as editor of the MDI Islander newspaper and for his books about Maine adventures.

Earl will always be part of the Friends of Acadia family. Even though he is technically retired, Earl has committed to keep writing for Acadia magazine and, rumor has it, he’ll be joining us for Acadia Week this year.”

Our summer issue of Acadia magazine will feature Earl and we know we’ll be seeing him around the park. Thank you, Earl, for continuing to share your deep commitment to Acadia.



EMMA FORTHOFFER/FOA

**ASHLEY CONTI**, the Friends of Acadia Digital Media Team Coordinator, is now a full-time member of the Friends of Acadia staff. Conti joined Friends of Acadia in 2018 after working as a photojournalist for more than 10 years. She coordinates hiring, scheduling, and project production for the seasonal team. She also works year-round, photographing Friends of Acadia events and assisting the Digital Media Manager in the production of visual content for Acadia magazine, the website, and social media. Contact: ashley@friendsofacadia.org.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

**AFTER TWO VERY WARM WINTERS**, the community rejoiced when a decent snowpack and cold temperatures set in for the month of February. Groomers did a phenomenal job maintaining classic and skate-skiing conditions almost daily, as well as grooming the entire network of designated carriage roads including Upper Around Mountain and Jordan Pond Connector. For the first time ever, a portion of the bike paths at the Schoodic district were groomed for skiing and snowshoeing! Friends of Acadia, park staff, and volunteers have been building the program expansion to Schoodic for the last four years. Special thanks to volunteer Brett Binns and Acadia National Park Ranger Chris Wiebusch for their work on Schoodic, and to Jeff Roseberry and Mark Fernald for work on Mount Desert Island.



**Longtime Volunteer  
Julia Schloss Honored**

Last month, Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider and Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald presented longtime Stewardship Volunteer Crew Leader Julia Schloss with a plaque to thank her for more than 25 years as a volunteer in the park.

Julia has spent thousands of hours sharing her love of Acadia National Park and she has been working on the trails since before Friends of Acadia had a formal program. "I started out with the Down East Outing Club working on trails," said Julia, 86, who moved to Mount Desert Island from the Washington D.C. area with her late husband, Dick.

On a volunteer's first day, Julia offers special advice: "When we get to the work site, I tell them to look at the trail now and then remind them to look again at the end of day. I always say: 'that's your reward, that's what makes it all worthwhile.'"

Julia announced her intent to step back from her leadership responsibilities last summer. "I plan to still volunteer and help out when I can. The friendships I've made are just wonderful," Julia said.

Thank you, Julia, for years of hard work and dedication to bettering Acadia's trails. ■



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

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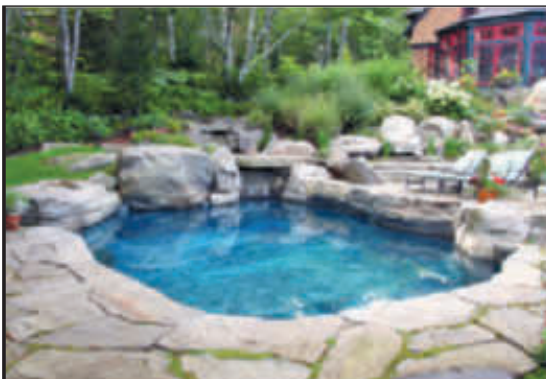
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## Using Science to Protect Acadia in a Rapidly Changing Environment

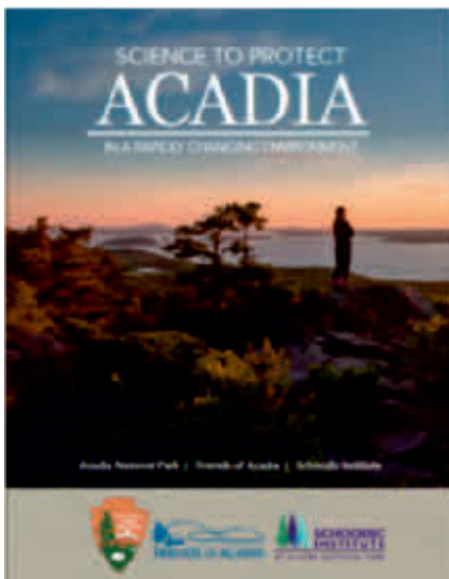
Climate change is accelerating alterations to weather patterns and seasonality that have direct impacts on Acadia's infrastructure, cultural resources, and plants, animals, and ecosystems.

Friends of Acadia, the National Park Service and Schoodic Institute have produced an introductory brochure highlighting specific examples of key environmental research in Acadia and how the partners are working together to address climate change.

Science continues to guide our relationships with Acadia's landscapes and shorelines. Studying the past, while monitoring current change, helps us prepare for the future.



Paul Mayewski, Director of the Climate Change Institute at University of Maine and a Friends of Acadia board member helped instigate the climate brochure. "Lessons learned from decades of research in Acadia National Park are critical in guiding mitigation and adaptation responses to both climate change and increasing utilization of the park by visitors," Mayewski said. "They also serve as an important model for environmental preservation in general."

The brochure is available online at [friendsofacadia.org/climatechange](http://friendsofacadia.org/climatechange). ■



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## Spreader of Joy and Positivity

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK



I first met Shawn Keeley as he interviewed for the position of Senior Development Officer for Major Gifts and Events at Friends of Acadia in May 2014. I remember how positive and joyful he was throughout the rigorous interview process. The interview team would volley tough questions and he would bounce back with solid, logical, and positive answers.

Little did I know then that his enthusiasm would never stall during the more than six years he held the position—even in some of the most stressful situations.

Shawn is creative, genuine, hard-working, a great problem solver, and has a perennial smile on his face. He exudes joy and positivity, and that's one of the primary reasons we're going to miss him following his recent departure.

Shawn's first week at work was during the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit, an event that would become a large part of his role. During that week, he welcomed guests at the annual Preview Party and staffed a clipboard station at the silent auction—experiences that introduced him to the Friends of Acadia community. Throughout that first event he had a smile on his face and a “can-do” attitude—something else he was known for.

In March, the Friends of Acadia staff held a virtual going-away party where colleagues shared stories and described Shawn as hardworking, successful, and fun. And it's not just his colleagues who thought highly of him. Shawn had incredible working relationships and drew praise from staff, members, donors, partners, and board members.

Anne Green, chair of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, said: “It has been such a pleasure to have worked with Shawn. He is a ‘rock star’ by every definition. When he arrived at Friends of Acadia, I took an instant liking to his outgoing, friendly personality. He was beloved by our donors and many went out of their way to recognize his talents and good nature.”

Anne went on to say, “Shawn interacted well with everyone of all ages and was never rattled. Last year when the pandemic was upon us, he reimagined a new virtual event in a short amount of time that ran seamlessly and was extremely successful.”

Gail Clark, another Friends of Acadia Board Member, past chair of the Annual Benefit and chair of the Auction Committee many times, added: “Everyone loves Shawn! He was so professional,



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

Shawn Keeley hangs carriage wheels from the dinner tent in preparation of the the 2019 Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit.

incredibly talented, committed, friendly, and always had a smile with a positive attitude. He made everyone on the FOA Benefit Committee feel important in raising money to support Friends of Acadia and the park.”

Shawn is a very special person, and we wish him all the best in his new role at the College of the Atlantic. Since he is just down the street in Bar Harbor, we look forward to seeing him often out enjoying the park. ■

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Director of Development and Donor Relations for Friends of Acadia.

# Spring Brings New Energy for Plans and Projects

Welcome spring! Who isn't excited to see the season unfurl, especially this year? In Acadia, signs of nature are stirring as indications of hope, light, and renewal emerge from winter.

The park awakens, and visitors begin to make their way to Acadia to energize their spirit with the park's majestic beauty.

Spring brings new energy for plans and projects. Looking forward to what lies ahead in Acadia, the park will be fully implementing the Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System. Many of us tried out the reservation system during its test run last October and realized the benefits of having a timed entry to the popular summit destination. The comfort of knowing you can secure a parking space at the top and the assurance of a safer environment all add value to the visitor experience when visiting one of the most iconic sites in Acadia.

I want to thank all of the park staff who have worked so hard to take on this huge project at a time when the pandemic has further strained park resources. This reservation system is a key piece of the broader Acadia Transportation Plan, and what we learn at Cadillac will inform efforts in future years to bring similar approaches to Ocean Drive and Jordan Pond, where overflowing parking can also lead to gridlock and frustration. The FOA board has been very supportive of these efforts and pleased to continue to provide funding for consulting resources and project management implementation for the work at Cadillac and beyond.

There are other challenges on the horizon for Acadia beyond implementation of the Transportation Plan. The pandemic has surely exacerbated the shortage of seasonal housing

on the island, which directly affects our ability to hire skilled employees to work to maintain park resources and provide a quality visitor experience. We are grateful for the efforts of local partners to collaborate to find creative solutions, and we are hopeful that some federal funding support from the recently enacted Great American Outdoors Act may help the park to expand its housing options for seasonals.

With summer around the corner, some of Friends of Acadia's traditional events and programs will operate virtually as they did last summer to maintain safe practices. The Annual Meeting in July and the 32nd Annual Benefit in mid-August will be brought to you online live wherever you may be, and I hope this means that like last year, we will have more people participate than ever. Keep an eye out for updates and information on how you can register and be part of the community of support for Acadia.

Friends of Acadia's work continues to make a big difference in this park we all love so much as we adapt to rapidly changing circumstances and park needs. I'm feeling growing optimism about the season ahead and hope that you are able to realize your goals and dreams for quality time in Acadia.

Thank you for remaining so loyal, supportive, and engaged in our work over the past year!

With gratitude,



—Anne Green

## FROM THE CHAIR



**"I'm feeling growing optimism about the season ahead and hope that you are able to realize your goals and dreams for quality time in Acadia."**



COURTESY ANNE GREEN

**ANNE ENJOYS A BIKE RIDE** with a friend on the Park Loop Road in spring 2020.

# OUR ACADIA

BY MAUREEN FOURNIER

Mount Desert Island is our home and Acadia National Park is our backyard. My husband, Gerry, and I have lived on MDI year-round since 2010, having moved from Gardiner, ME, to retire here.

My dream of becoming an Acadia National Park ranger came true in 2011, and it was my greatest honor to wear the green and gray for 10 years.

Now that my husband Gerry and I are both retired, "My Acadia" is a four-season slice of hiking heaven and a natural prescription for health.

When boots are put to path on a mountain summit, even an ordinary day leads to extraordinary experiences. And now, since my husband's diagnosis of Alzheimer's, not to mention the pandemic, we are more appreciative of Acadia's beauty than ever. It continues to be a source of serenity and healing. As John Muir said, "Earth has no sorrow that earth cannot heal."

Thanks to volunteer opportunities offered by Friends of Acadia, we can repay a little of what we have received. We are blessed to be able to volunteer on the park's trails, monitor its cairns, and share our love of "our Acadia."



COURTESY MAUREEN FOURNIER



# Renewal in Acadia!

[friendsofacadia.org/join-renew](https://friendsofacadia.org/join-renew)



**JOIN • VOLUNTEER • PRESERVE**

**MEMBERSHIP** in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve and protect **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK** and the surrounding communities for current and future generations.



## FRIENDS OF ACADIA

43 Cottage Street, PO Box 45  
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

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

VISITORS enjoy a game of cribbage while watching the sunset from Beech Mountain.

