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Ridge Runner
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Abigail Seymour
Recreation Technician and Cadillac Summit Steward
Erickson Smith
Fisheries Intern
David Sneden
Acadia Youth Technology Team Leader and Cadillac Summit Steward Program Coordinator
Nora Theodore
Aquatic Data Management
Julia Walker-Thomas
Communications Assistant

* deceased
Dear Friends,

“We’re almost to the water!” the young park visitor shouted to her friend, and the pair took off sprinting toward Jordan Pond…only to crash to a halt, awestruck by a placid loon just a dozen feet from shore. At Friends of Acadia, 2014 was a little like that—characterized by building momentum and tremendous anticipation for what’s to come, but also great appreciation for important moments right now.

Acadia is on the upswing and interest in this special place has never been higher: Last year’s recognition in national media and accompanying record-breaking statistics—for categories from park visitation and Island Explorer ridership to number of trail crew personnel—told just part of the story. Our organization itself grew significantly, achieving a new milestone of more than 4,000 members and growing our year-round staff. We supported more youth internships (see page 10) and initiated new programs including important conservation work at the Cadillac Summit (page 3) and Cromwell Brook Watershed (page 8). The approaching centennial of Acadia National Park inspired increasing numbers of businesses, nonprofits, and individuals from Acadia’s surrounding communities to plan their own contribution to that yearlong grassroots celebration (page 11). Perhaps most importantly, we started and continued a variety of conversations with park management about their vision for Acadia’s second century, so that together we can identify priorities and develop programs to care for this magnificent place for many years and generations to come. Our collaborations with the park have never been stronger and our impact never greater.

We couldn’t do this important work without you, our members, donors, and volunteers. A strong fundraising year, crowned by the 25th annual Benefit Auction, enabled FOA to make $1.4 million in conservation grants and also finish the year solidly in the black. We are turning your investment in Friends of Acadia into meaningful benefit for Acadia. Stay tuned—great things are happening and even more is to come!

With appreciation,

Edward L. Samek, Chairman of the Board

David MacDonald, President and CEO
“The challenge of being a Summit Steward is to convey the fascinating history of the mountain along with the why—and how—of preserving this place for generations to come.”  Abby Seymour, Cadillac Summit Steward
Every national park has its iconic spots, and at Acadia it’s hard to get more iconic than the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Accessible by car via a curving historic roadway and by foot via hiking trails that converge on its pink granite dome, it is the highest point on the Atlantic seaboard between Labrador and Brazil and offers magnificent views of a glaciated coastal and island landscape. Layer upon layer of cultural and natural history give the summit greater significance than many of the view-seekers may realize. But up to 6,000 visitors per day during the busy summer months can strain the capacity of the small summit parking area and their collective footfalls have degraded the fragile soil and alpine vegetation in the 83 years since the Summit Road opened.

Seeking to protect this keystone of the Acadia Experience, Friends of Acadia posted a team of three educators/stewards/researchers to the top of Cadillac for seven weeks last fall. Made possible by the Sustainable Acadia Fund and the generous paddle raise bidders of the 25th Annual Benefit, the Cadillac Summit Stewards interacted with visitors at the summit—answering questions, providing directions, sharing the historical and natural significance of Cadillac Mountain, explaining Leave No Trace (LNT) principles, and taking family snapshots. They recorded patterns of visitor behavior and auto traffic, to help the park improve management plans for the summit. And they blocked off social paths, installed LNT signs, re-blazed hiking trails, and removed 23 visitor-built cairns, all to protect sensitive alpine vegetation by helping hikers stay on-trail.

All told, the three were a friendly and effective presence at the rooftop of Acadia, assisting and engaging park visitors in the protection of this remarkable area. On the basis of that success, a new team of Summit Stewards plus a project coordinator will continue the program during the summer and fall of 2015.
“Shown on path maps as early as the mid-1880s, the Asticou & Jordan Pond Path is an important trail indeed.”

Gary Stellpflug, Acadia National Park Trails Foreman
Walking or riding on Acadia’s trails and pathways can feel like stepping back in time. We travel the same routes—past the same vistas, up the same cut-stone stairways—that the rusticators used more than a century ago. But time and use can take a toll, and until the Acadia Trails Forever and Carriage Road endowments were established by Friends of Acadia, these pathways were not fully maintained. The year 2014 marked 15 years of Acadia Trails Forever (the carriage road endowment will see its 20th year in 2015); over that time park crews—aided by FOA volunteers and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps—have combined ageless aesthetics and modern techniques to restore the former glory of Acadia’s beloved path systems.

First mapped by members of the Champlain Society in the early 1880s, by 1900 the Asticou & Jordan Pond Path served as the major pedestrian thoroughfare between Northeast Harbor, Jordan Pond, and other villages on the eastern side of Mount Desert Island; it offers a classic example of the generally level and broad walking paths of that period. In addition, it features an extensive set of stone steps and multiple stream crossings. Many hundreds of hours of work—from examining historic photos of bridges and culverts to gently mixing local gravel into the top layer of surfacing—has returned this historic trail to better-than pristine condition. Although not officially a Village Connector Trail, the last section of the path lies outside park boundaries and was restored through an agreement between FOA and adjoining landowners with funding from Nature Valley and the National Parks Conservation Association; it provides another wonderful option for visitors seeking to travel into the park using their own two feet.

While trails wear down, the carriage roads tend to grow in. In 2014 the park initiated a major effort to restore scenic vistas obscured by decades of tree growth. The park’s vista crew restored 41 historic carriage road vistas on Day Mountain and the west side of the Around Mountain Loop, using tools from chainsaws to historic documentation and a sense of artistry. FOA volunteers and the AYCC provided much-needed help managing the cut vegetation, allowing the specialized staff to work most efficiently. The work at Day Mountain took place in collaboration with the park’s Exotic Plant Management Team, which is supported through a partnership with Canon U.S.A.
“The desire which man feels to fix his eyes long upon the star-spangled vault, is a divine passion which transports him.... In the splendor of the night his spirit is intoxicated with the glow which the fires above shed upon him.”  Franz-Valéry-Marie Cumont
The starry night sky, a source of inspiration and wonder since the dawn of humanity, has been gradually fading. In most American cities only the very brightest stars are visible, if any—light pollution from street lights, home security lights, gas stations, and more has erased them from our sight. As people realize what they are losing, dark night skies are being recognized as an important natural resource.

Acadia National Park offers some of the best stargazing within a day’s drive of the Northeast urban corridor, and many first-time visitors are awed by their first-ever view of the Milky Way here. Since 2009 the Acadia Night Sky Festival has helped to raise awareness of light pollution—nearly 5,000 people attended the festival in 2014—and several of Acadia’s surrounding communities have been inspired to enact night sky ordinances, which require that new outdoor lighting use fixtures designed to cast light only where it is needed and limit “skyglow.” Still, older light installations impact Acadia’s skies—including some within the park itself. At Blackwoods Campground, Friends of Acadia partnered with the park, Yawkey Foundations, and Musco Lighting to replace 44 outdoor lights at the campground entrance station, restrooms, and amphitheater with dark-sky-friendly fixtures. As a bonus, the new fixtures are LEDs, which will reduce the park’s energy consumption.

Seawall Campground will receive the same treatment in 2015; more than 50 new light fixtures will be installed there. This work will complete an important step in Acadia’s effort to achieve International Dark Sky Park status, defined as “a location of exceptional nighttime beauty, dark skies education, and preservation of the nighttime environment” by the International Dark-Sky Association. Because that status is also affected by Acadia’s surrounding communities, in spring of 2015 Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park supported a night-sky intern from Waynflete Academy, who focused on lighting and lighting ordinances in Acadia’s surrounding communities. She inventoried light fixtures along Route 3 in Bar Harbor and took other steps to explore how the planned 2016 road reconstruction there can help to preserve Acadia’s celestial beauty.
WATERSHED WORK AT CROMWELL BROOK

The Wild Acadia watershed-based natural resource project being piloted in the Sieur de Monts area took an essential early step in 2014. A consultant, hired by FOA, inventoried the entire length of Cromwell Brook—through park lands, into the Town of Bar Harbor, and down to the ocean at Cromwell Harbor. She used GPS and digital photography to map and document the course of the brook and any problem areas like eroding stream banks or invasive plants, completing a full baseline inventory of conditions along the brook. Earlier in the season, a wildlife intern co-sponsored by FOA and College of the Atlantic completed a fish assessment and non-native fish survey; he also collected information on behaviors of deer, bats, and other mammals in the watershed using game cameras and other tools. ANP resource managers will use all of this data to track improvements throughout the project.

$20 MILLION OF IMPACT

Friends of Acadia’s grantmaking history passed a major milestone early in 2014, when total cumulative grants to Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities surpassed $20 million. FOA has come a long way since its first donation, in 1988, of $4,000 for the restoration of Bear Island Light. FOA gave more than $1.4 million in 2014 to programs in and around the park.

ACADIA WINTER TRAILS

A brilliant mix of epic winter conditions, dedicated volunteer groomers and park staff, and the generous Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment provided outstanding cross-country skiing conditions for thousands of visitors to Acadia during the 2014–2015 winter season. A group of eleven volunteers put in more than 400 hours to groom ski routes on the carriage roads, including three new volunteers who completed training. Making the program more efficient, the park led trainings in safety and snowmobile engine mechanics and, as in past years, park maintenance staff kept the grooming equipment purring. The cross-country ski community was unstinting in its praise for the program.
ACADIA LAND LEGACY

Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Friends of Acadia donated their remaining land holdings at Lower Hadlock Pond to Acadia National Park in April of 2014. The entire project—approximately 37 acres worth approximately $3 million—was accomplished in phases to maximize funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Friends of Acadia’s donors were instrumental in funding the initial purchase of this property, which helped to protect Northeast Harbor’s drinking water supply, preserve several important trail corridors, and enable the Mount Desert Water Company to upgrade their infrastructure. The LWCF dollars that were brought to the project will allow FOA and MCHT to reinvest in additional land protection projects inside park boundaries.

RIDING THE ISLAND EXPLORER

On June 30th, 2014, Acadia-area resident Marisa Gray disembarked from the Sand Beach route at the Bar Harbor Village Green to the news that she was the 5-millionth Island Explorer passenger; the following month the service was named to Down East Magazine’s “Best of Maine” list in the “Community” category. Over the course of the summer, the popular bus service broke several records including the first-ever 9,000-rider day. All of these milestones point to the increasing importance of the Island Explorer to a park whose roads and parking lots often overflow with increasing numbers of visitors each year.

Clockwise from upper lift: surveying baseline conditions along Cromwell Brook; a hiker enjoys the trails alongside Lower Hadlock Pond; a freshly groomed ski trail at the north end of Eagle Lake; Acadia National Park planner John Kelly congratulates the Island Explorer’s 5-millionth rider, Marisa Gray.

Facing page: A calligrapha beetle clinging to a royal fern, along the Jordan Pond Path.
Accomplishments

TOMORROW'S STEWARDS, TODAY
Friends of Acadia supported 32 youth internships in 2014, a record in the organization's history of bringing young people together with park staff to work on meaningful park projects. From core programs like the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and Ridge Runners, to innovative teams like the Acadia Youth Tech Team and Cadillac Summit Stewards, to specialized positions like the Raptor, Wild Gardens, Environmental Compliance, and Fish & Wildlife interns, these teens and young adults contributed to park conservation first-hand and saw the positive impact they could have on this place.

CHANGING ACADIA, CHANGING LIVES
Friends of Acadia worked with a consultant to determine whether participating in an internship like the Acadia Youth Technology Team truly impacts the interns' lives. By surveying the AYTT members, a control group of their peers, and a group of adults, the consultant found that participation in an internship like the AYTT gives young people a deeper understanding of Acadia National Park as an institution (as opposed to the park as a place), which correlates with improved park or environmental stewardship behaviors as adults.
CENTENNIAL FILM FROM MDI TEENS
Through donations of funds and professional video equipment, Friends of Acadia helped support the development of a youth-produced film about Acadia from the perspective of students at Mount Desert Island High School. Envisioned as a “by youth for youth” centennial project to both explore and cement the bond between the park and local teens, the film is being created by students in a special multi-year course at the high school established in collaboration with Acadia National Park. With a documentary filmmaker serving as an advisor, the students started by learning the basics of filming, editing, scripting, and musical scoring; they are now working to write screenplays and shoot footage of Acadia throughout the seasons.

CENTENNIAL UPSWING
Acadia’s 2016 centennial has the potential to benefit the park for many years—by deepening the good relationship between park and communities, by inspiring new levels of stewardship, by launching best-practice projects for the care of Acadia’s ecosystems, and by re-engaging the nation in our collective commitment to our national parks. To achieve this, Friends of Acadia and the Acadia Centennial Task Force worked in 2014 to raise enthusiasm and public awareness for the celebration. The Acadia Centennial Logo, designed by artist Catherine Breer, was adopted as the visual signature of the centennial and the Acadia Centennial Website was designed to serve as the key marketing tool and informational hub for the year-long celebration. With a searchable events calendar, perspectives on Acadia’s history and significance, and centennial product listings, the site showcases the efforts of the 1,088-strong-and-growing cohort of Acadia Centennial Partners.

Clockwise from upper left: The Acadia Youth Technology Team—a life-changing experience; FOA’s wildlife intern works with park staff to survey native fish in Cromwell Brook; the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members, with their families and park crew leaders at the program’s annual Parent Day; the Acadia Centennial logo.

Facing Page: New maple leaves above Asticou Brook.
2014 DONOR LIST

INDIVIDUALS

Friends of Acadia is deeply grateful to each and every individual who made gifts and purchases in 2014. Whether you gave $1 or $1,000,000, you provided the foundation for our work to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park. Because of space limitations, we have listed only those who made gifts of $100 and above.

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Elevation 1,530 feet
$50,000 +
Isabel and John Ed Anthony
Charles Butt
Barbara Danielson*
Andrew Davis
David Reis
Donna Reis
David Rockefeller
Martie and Edward Samek
Martha Stewart
Nonie and John Sullivan
Elizabeth Tibbetts*
Julia Merck Utsch and Hans Utsch
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SARGENT MOUNTAIN SOCIETY
Elevation 1,373 feet
$20,000 - $49,999
Anonymous
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Kate Baxter and Stan Gillmar
Bobbie Burdick and Joanne Kurt
Gale and Shelby Davis
Sharmila and Alfred Ford
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Cookie and Bill Horner
Josephine and John Ingle
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Dordre and Peter Quesada
Strandy and Ric Quesada
William Stewart
Genie and Will Thomdike
Carol and Ken Weg
Kim and Finn Wentworth
Lynne Wheat and Thomas Peterfi
Diana and William Wister

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Elevation 1,248 feet
$10,000 - $19,999
Anonymous
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Ann and Fred Benson
Allison and Avery Brinkke
Antoinette and Benjamin Brewster
Ildiko and Gilbert Butler
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Allison and Stephen Sullens
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Jill and Todd Watson
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Elevation 941 feet
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Dana and Brownie Carson
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and Philip Connor
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Elevation 837 feet
$2,500 - $4,999
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Barbara and William Whitman
Pamela and John Wegand
Averel and John Wilson
Wendy Wood
Anna and Charles Woodward
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Elevation 681 feet
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Dermott and Susan Breen
The George B. Dorr Society recognizes those members and friends who have documented 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 2003 with 18 founding members and has grown to 54 member families.

Each year Friends of Acadia hosts a special appreciation event for the George B. Dorr Society. In late July, members of the society, park leaders, and FOA staff celebrated Acadia in Rusticator style with an old fashion porch picnic at Edgecliff, the historic home of Maggie and Jack Kelley in Southwest Harbor. Host and FOA board member Jack Kelley gave a tour of the Queen Anne 1880s coastal cottage, sharing architectural details, its new designation on the National Register of Historic Places, and anecdotes from its history. The picnic lunch, catered by the Jordan Pond House, was then served on the porch, overlooking Norwood Cove and the mouth of Somes Sound.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or some other deferred gift vehicle, 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

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Elizabeth and Harry Sehem-Thoss
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Elevation 282 feet
$100 - $249
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Glen Beane
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Robert Belkin
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25th Annual Benefit Auction

The Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction is one evening each August that has a significant impact all year long on our work in and for Acadia National Park. In celebration of the event's 25th anniversary and in the spirit of giving back to this very special place, the donors, bidders, and volunteers—led by co-chairs Nonie Sullivan, Julia Merck Utsch, and Noelle Wolf—of the 2014 Benefit came together to make this the most successful benefit event in Friends of Acadia’s history. Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald welcomed the guests, saying, "I hope that all of you enjoyed the beautiful day in Acadia today, out on the trails, out on the carriage roads, out on the water. It is also my hope that while you were out there, you thought a little bit about how different this place would be without Acadia National Park. And maybe you thought a little bit about how your experience in Acadia National Park would be different if it weren’t for Friends of Acadia.”

In addition to supporting all of FOA’s projects and partnerships in Acadia by providing essential operational dollars, the Benefit earmarked $130,000 for the protection and restoration of Cadillac Mountain through the generosity of 40 paddle-raise bidders, whose donations enabled the pilot season of the Cadillac Summit Steward program. It was truly a night to remember and a fitting tribute to the history of philanthropic support for Acadia—in which the Benefit and its countless supporters have firmly established their place.
We thank Trailblazer donors who have chosen to contribute monthly via credit card or direct deposit. To become a Trailblazer, call Friends of Acadia at 207-288-3340.

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Heather and Alex Stephens
Martha Stewart
Stone Designs
Allison and Stephen Sullens

Reel Pizza
Tina and Jerry Rosenberg
Scenic Flights of Acadia
Schrabbe Fine Arts
Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park
Christopher Scott
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Shinola
Patterson Sims
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Heather and Alex Stephens
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Friends of Acadia thanks the thousands of volunteers who gave their time and talents for the betterment of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities in 2014. Whether you participated at an event or serve on a standing committee, we are grateful for your contribution. Members of the following groups and committees provide essential leadership and support for Friends of Acadia’s programs.

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Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee

Want to become more involved at Friends of Acadia? Consider volunteering on one of these essential committees. Call the office at 207.288.3140 or visit http://friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/to learn more.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Trails Forever Trail Maintenance</td>
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<td>Wild Acadia Natural Resource Initiatives</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ridge Runners</td>
<td>19,671</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cadillac Summit Stewards</td>
<td>16,621</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Pride in Acadia Day</td>
<td>9,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016 Centennial</td>
<td>6,540</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sustainable Acadia</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Winter Trails</td>
<td>5,383</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youth Program Evaluation</td>
<td>5,100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ANP Interns</td>
<td>5,046</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Quest</td>
<td>3,593</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peregrine Falcon and Hawk Watches</td>
<td>3,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schoodic Volunteers</td>
<td>1,568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous Projects</td>
<td>2,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park Pass Contest</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL ANP GRANTS** $996,356

### OTHER GRANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Island Explorer Bus System</td>
<td>209,239</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Land Legacy / Lower Hadlock Pond</td>
<td>119,467</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Land Legacy / Northeast Creek Gilbert Farm</td>
<td>37,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MDI High School Centennial Film</td>
<td>25,108</td>
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<tr>
<td>Islesford Museum</td>
<td>10,590</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trenton Community Trail</td>
<td>5,270</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earth Day Roadside Cleanup</td>
<td>3,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Acadia Wildlife Foundation</td>
<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acadia Birding Festival</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL OTHER GRANTS** $411,324

**TOTAL ALL GRANTS:** $1,407,680

Bates cairn on Norumbega Mountain
Statement of Activities
for the Year Ending December 31, 2014

OPERATING REVENUE
- Contributions, grants, and events (net) $4,461,546
- Other revenues 4,522

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE $4,466,068

OPERATING EXPENSES
Programs
- Resource preservation and protection $1,795,885
- Education and outreach 466,241

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES $2,262,126

Supporting Services
- Development, fundraising, and membership $536,465
- Management and general 215,334

TOTAL SUPPORTING SERVICES $751,799

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $3,013,925

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FROM OPERATIONS $1,452,143

NON-OPERATING GAIN (LOSS)
- Contributions $17,797
- Net investment income 856,327

TOTAL NON-OPERATING GAIN $874,124

TOTAL CHANGE IN NET ASSETS $2,326,267

NET ASSETS
- Beginning of year $25,505,431
- End of year $27,831,698*

* Of this total, $25.6 million are endowments and funds restricted or designated to specific projects, such as trails and carriage roads.

Friends of Acadia Financial Statements

TOTAL PROGRAM EXPENSES $2,262,126

- Resource Protection Grants 33%
- Acadia Trails Forever Grants 14%
- Education and Outreach Programs 13%
- Carriage Road Grants 10%
- Island Explorer Bus System 9%
- Acadia Land Legacy 7%
- Wild Acadia Initiatives 7%
- Acadia Youth Internships 5%
- Volunteer Program 2%

TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES $3,013,925

- Program Expenses 75%
- Fundraising Expenses 18%
- Management and General Expenses 7%

FUNDRAISING EXPENSES AS A PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL REVENUE* 12%

- Total revenue does not include investment interest, dividends, or gains

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
Friends of Acadia is a nonprofit, tax exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, a publicly supported organization as defined by Section 170(b) A-6. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

An independent auditor’s report is available upon request.
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.

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