



# Friends of ACADIA Journal

Spring 2013  
Volume 18 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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Tom Blagden

Osprey above Somes Sound



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## ADVOCATING FOR ACADIA ALL YEAR LONG

Although spring comes slowly to Acadia, a bit less ice shines on Sargent's dome these days and hiking boots have replaced winter boots outside my mudroom door. This is a wonderful time of year for quieter visits to the park, with the rush of a trailside stream more likely than the sound of traffic, and pedestrians and bikers outnumbering cars on Ocean Drive. It is not, however, a time of rest and relaxation at Acadia National Park's headquarters or the offices of Friends of Acadia.

Many people have asked me: is there a quiet season at Friends of Acadia? The answer I am learning as I come out of my first winter as president here is "no!"

Year-end is of course our busiest time for donations—and for that we are very grateful. We are also helping to plan and hire the many seasonal positions that help make Acadia tick, evaluating the programs we supported through almost \$1 million in grants to the park last year, and thinking proactively about new initiatives launching in the coming months. Our staff is in high demand for workshops and conferences from local rotary clubs to national park groups; we value these leadership opportunities, as well as the chance to learn from others in our community.

Perhaps most importantly, Friends of Acadia's role in serving as a voice for our thousands of constituents and an advocate for Acadia requires constant vigilance, whether spring, summer, winter, or fall. This advocacy role is something that sets Friends of Acadia apart among many other friends' groups around the country.

We often use the word "protected" to describe park lands and resources. While the word implies something completed, all of us at Friends of Acadia know that the work is ongoing and is only accomplished with the active engagement of members like you. A boundary line drawn on a map or a set of regulations within state or federal law will only do so much; the rest is up to us—to stay connected with our parks by enjoying them in every season, and to act on our love for this place by giving back through FOA member-



Friends of Acadia

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ship, volunteering in the park, or speaking up with elected officials.

In February I visited members of Maine's congressional delegation in Washington, DC. I was fortunate to be accompanied by several FOA volunteers who added their voice to the message that Acadia is a natural, cultural, and recreational gem, a source of inspiration for millions of visitors each year, and an economic powerhouse for the people of Maine. I may be biased, but it seemed as if thinking and talking about Acadia was the

high point of that day for many of those officials and staffers!

The messages we were delivering, however, were anything but bright. With flat or decreased funding for parks in recent years and the constant increase in the cost of doing business, Acadia has been forced to downsize—not through one dramatic set of layoffs, but rather by incremental cuts, hiring freezes, and consolidations. Meanwhile, visitation to Acadia is increasing, as are the expectations of visitors.

Just days after my visit, the situation actually darkened when the federal sequester took effect on March first. These mandated cuts affect Acadia at the most basic operational level—they will prevent the park from hiring core positions for visitor services, air and water quality monitoring, and even mechanics and plumbers to keep the systems working. Just as damaging, however, is their crippling impact on the park's ability to plan strategically for projects two or three years out—given the complete unreliability of funding, as the federal budget limps from one "continuing resolution" to the next. As Acadia gears up for the summer season, already the impact of the sequester is becoming painfully evident, as the park extends winter closures of the Loop Road and other facilities and announces cuts in seasonal staffing and ranger-led programs.

It has ever been part of Friends of Acadia's core values that we enhance—not replace—federal support for the park. Still, the inevitable fallout from sequestration will impact the direction and urgency of our work. We will need to be more nimble, more creative, and more focused if we are to help Acadia through this challenging time. The efforts of Friends of Acadia have never been more important, nor has the voice and support of each and every one of our members. Thank you for your commitment to ensuring that Acadia continues to thrive throughout the seasons. 🌲

—David R. MacDonald

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## A PLACE AT THE HEART OF LEARNING

On the summit of Cadillac one day last summer, I overheard a young girl exclaim to her mother, “this place is awesome!” Acadia National Park has a way of making real connections with people and affecting them in ways that create great opportunities for learning.

Acadia is an exceptional outdoor classroom and a wellspring of outdoor, lifelong learning experiences for the next generation just as this amazing place has been for the generations since 1916, when Acadia was first established. Working with Friends of Acadia, we have shaped a series of programs intended to nurture familiarity and love for nature—and cultivate future park stewards. The foundation of our commitment to lifelong learning is a sequence of park-based programs designed to span every age group, from preschoolers to adults. This progression of learning, with a variety of different approaches, is fundamental to developing a sense of personal stewardship for Acadia.

We know that learning begins with individual discovery of things that have meaning to us. Hands-on, discovery-based experiences are important for youth and first-time visitors to Acadia. The Junior Ranger programs and special events like Family Fun Day entice young children and families to experience Acadia in new and meaningful ways. Many ranger-led programs, such as “Stream Team” and “Intertidal Discoveries,” are also designed as introductory discovery programs.

For middle-school students we offer the 3-day residential Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) at SERC, which enables 800 Maine kids each year to discover the wonders of science and nature. For high-school and college students, we have developed paid internship opportunities with help from FOA, including the Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT), the Raptor Internship, Ridge Runners, and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) trail crew. The spectrum continues into adulthood with programs like the Teacher-



Peter Travers

Ranger-Teacher program, volunteer opportunities throughout the park, and our citizen-science initiative.

Personal inspiration is another key element of learning. We offer programs that encourage creative approaches to appreciating this place, such as nature sketching with an artist-in-residence, “Photography 101” with a park ranger, and Wabanaki cultural demonstrations of traditional skills.

For the visitor who is inspired by physical challenge, we offer ranger-led hikes and bike rides and encourage visitors to create their own challenges to match their skills. The experiential scavenger hunt of Acadia Quest offers a framework for self-directed exploration. We are fortunate to have an island of mountains surrounded by a gulf of water, providing endless opportunities to challenge our skills in all types of terrain and conditions.

Discovery and meaningful experiences build emotional ties to Acadia and inspire people of all ages. More advanced and in-depth opportunities challenge the intellect through technology or science. Programs like the AYTT challenge teens to be innovative problem-solvers and to use technology as a tool for connecting people to the

outdoors. The annual BioBlitz builds citizen-scientists who are trained observers and recorders of nature’s patterns and species. Students who participate in the widely acclaimed Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) program get a blend of experiences encouraging discovery, inspiration, and innovation using science and technology.

At the highest level of learning, we aim to build environmental leaders. We work with local high schools to provide park-based programs for service learning, which encourage them to create projects designed “by youth for youth” such as an outdoor science trail at MDI High School. Internships build leadership skills and encourage the development of lifelong skills like problem solving, public speaking, and research-based decision making.

National parks are the real places, with amazing stories and dynamic processes that classroom textbooks try to explain. When kids experience places like Acadia using all of their senses, they see, hear, smell and touch this place and discover how it can be real for them every time they visit. Acadia is able to integrate the beauty and complexity of its natural and cultural resources as a foundation for learning and caring. The park challenges us to find the places and experiences that shape who we are. This is why this national park was built by the people for the people—a place at the heart of who we are as individuals and as a nation. For the last hundred years, Acadia has offered a lifelong legacy of place-based learning and personal discovery that will continue well to into the next century. Just as Acadia inspired that little girl on Cadillac, this national park inspires thousands of people, of all ages, each year. 🌲

*Sheridan Steele*

—Sheridan Steele

### Protecting the Schoodic Jewel

We attended last night's [February 14, 2013] informational meeting about the Schoodic Woods property, the southern portion of the approximately 3,200 acres of undeveloped forest, with more than a mile of shore frontage and including the 15 acre Sargent's Island, on the Schoodic Peninsula adjacent to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park.

We applaud everyone who has played a role in this exciting effort. It is a shining example of what can be achieved by people with the vision of protecting our land and natural resources for today and tomorrow.

Thank you Lyme Timber for purchasing this property with an understanding of its critical ecological value and importance. Thank you Maine Coast Heritage Trust for developing the easement that will ensure this land will remain pristine and available for generations to come. Thank you Coplon Associates of Bar Harbor for planning the use of the property with an understanding of how to maximize its value.

Most importantly, thank you Sheridan Steele, Superintendent, Acadia National Park, and Friends of Acadia, especially Stephanie Clement. Their critical role in keeping the community focused on the

importance of protecting this land was essential. Due to their diligence, the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park will remain a jewel for generations.

—Rosemary and Garry Levin  
Corea, ME

### Advocating for Acadia

I wanted to let you know that I wrote to Senators Angus King and Susan Collins regarding the [sequestration] cuts to Acadia National Park. Acadia is a "money maker" and it does not make economic sense to cut funds for operating expenses which would result in a decrease in "net income." I wonder if all national parks are "money makers."

It would be helpful and might make a positive difference if all the members of Friends of Acadia wrote to the Senators and President Obama.

—Janet Daigle  
Portland, ME

### Wintertime in Acadia

Thank you for the work you do keeping the park accessible in the winter. My mother and I had a FABULOUS time skiing and walking in the park.

—Amelia Hansa  
St. Paul, MN



Pink granite at Wonderland with late winter snow.

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and Surrounding Communities

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

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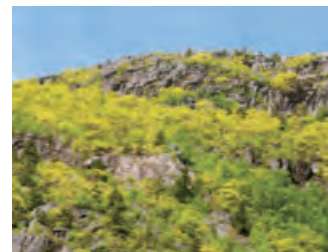
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Spring Foliage, Dorr Mountain by Tom Blagden



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## JOE PAGAN: COMPUTERS, NETWORKS, AND SERVERS FOR ACADIA

**I**t takes many kinds of volunteers to help Friends of Acadia run. Volunteers at events cleaning up carriage roads in the fall, volunteers cleaning up roadsides in the spring, volunteers out on the trails on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays, and volunteers that stuff envelopes. But it takes a special kind of volunteer to do all of the above—and also have the skills and dedication to help maintain Friends of Acadia's computers, printers, servers, and the network that connects them all.

Joe Pagan has been volunteering as Friends of Acadia's go-to computer specialist since he moved to the MDI area ten years ago. Joe has helped FOA through two complete, office-wide workstation turnovers, two new server installations, the building and growth of an office-wide network, printer maintenance, and a myriad of almost-daily computer questions year in and year out. This winter, he put in several weekends and late nights, first helping to shore up a failing server before it crashed, then installing and trouble-shooting the new server system that acts as the brain for Friends of Acadia's office computer network.

In 2003, after the first rebuild of FOA's network, computers, and server, Joe was awarded the "Volunteer of the Year" award at Friends of Acadia's annual meeting. He has never stopped supporting FOA's networking needs since. With his characteristically humble demeanor, he says, "Helping out Friends of Acadia is my way of contributing to the protection of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island. Without Friends of Acadia's computers and servers they would not be able to support our national park with legislation and projects, or track the donations of their generous members. Volunteering my time allows me use my skills and expertise in the field of computers to assist FOA with their computer and server issues, and the various issues that FOA experiences help me to expand my knowledge in the field."



*Joe Pagan enjoying Acadia out on the Dorr Mountain trails.*

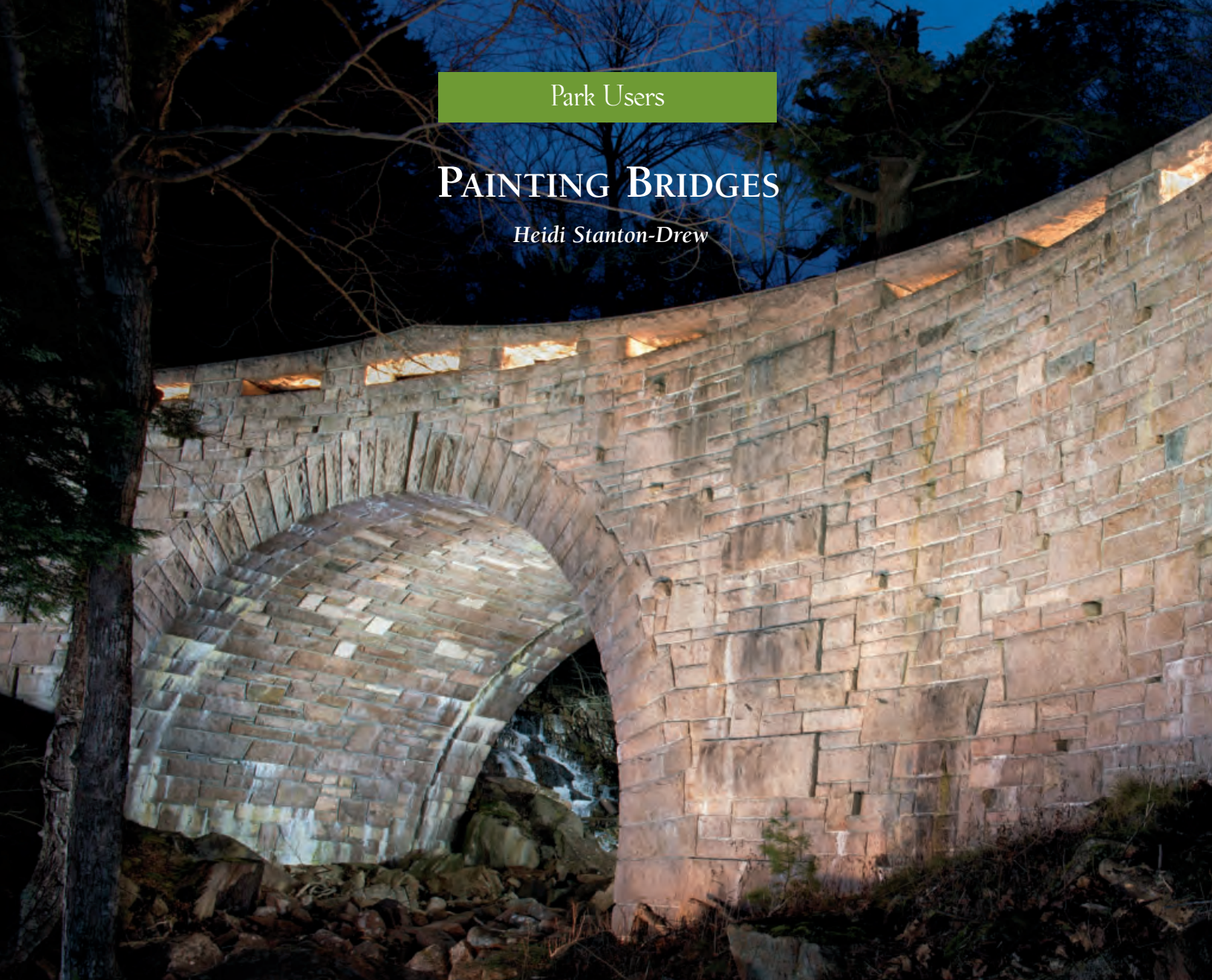
He first started working with computers in his native Pennsylvania, but was drawn to the northeast, where he worked in networking for Canadian banks before coming to MDI, where he is employed as a network administrator for Bar Harbor Bank &

Trust. Joe enjoys hiking in Acadia as well as biking and canoeing, but his favorite way to enjoy the outdoors is scuba diving year-round in the ocean waters surrounding the park. 🐠

—Mike Staggs

## PAINTING BRIDGES

Heidi Stanton-Drew



*The Amphitheater Bridge, painted by 42 volunteers on December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012*

It's 28° Fahrenheit, I'm riding my bike on a carriage road down the west side of Eagle Lake, and my hands are cold—scary cold. I brought the wrong gloves. Did I mention that it's dark—pitch black, in fact—and I'm not alone? There are others—some also riding bicycles and some walking, mostly in silence. All I hear is the wind in my jacket and gravel in my tires. I'm glad I'm biking so I'll get to my car sooner. Just before I reach the parking lot, I stop at the Eagle Lake boat landing and look back down the lake. A sliver of the moon is suspended in a glittery sky. Something catches my eye and I think I see fireflies in the woods...but in November in Maine?! No, not fireflies—just light

painters on their journey home from painting another carriage road bridge. I take a moment, look up at the Cheshire cat grinning in the sky, and can't wipe the smile off my face either.

These adventures began earlier in the summer, after Howie Motenko casually told me about his project of photographing the carriage road bridges in the dark, with an open shutter, while many people illuminated the bridge with flashlights. It sounded cool, but it was the magical image he showed me later that day that made my heart skip a beat and prompted me to exclaim: "I want to be a light painter!"

I am a light painter now, and totally hooked. Every two weeks, we gather at a

bridge that Howie, his wife Brenda Beckett, and some friends have already scouted out. When we arrive, Howie and his friend Tom Lawrence are prepping the tripods (once taping one onto a ladder in the middle of a stream!) and Brenda is greeting everyone, collecting the names of new light painters, and handing out camera flashes and bright dive lights. It's a gentle process; we never feel rushed. Some people know right where they want to hide so they won't show in the image, while others wait for direction. Experienced painters show newcomers how to bathe the bridge with light and how important it is to keep the light moving. A still flashlight creates a hotspot of light in the image. Once we get situated,



topic of conversation.

As darkness shrouds the woods, we wait and wait. Howie is waiting for the special “blue hour” when the camera captures beautiful blue light in the sky at dusk—even though the naked eye can’t detect it. Then Howie calls out that we’re ready for test shots: “Open shutter!” The process is simple: turn on your flashlight, shine it on the bridge, and never stop moving it. About 20 seconds later Howie says “Close shutter!” then reviews the image and asks us to make some adjustments. Brenda runs around and to swap out lights—some are too yellow or too bright. I feel like I’m in a darkroom and part of the image processing. A few moments later we paint again,

and we all assemble for a group photo. These shoots are full of magic moments, but standing in the dark with friends and strangers, under a bridge, with flashlights shining on our faces is pretty trippy. Actually, the whole experience is fabulous and surreal and keeps me coming back for more. Everyone takes pride in their part, and Howie and Brenda see that each person feels a part of the process. That pride is what keeps us coming back...well, that and Brenda’s baking (lemon squares, brownies, apple cupcakes, raspberry bars, snickerdoodles...oh my!).

Howie and Brenda have created a community art project in the truest sense. It feels like a secret society, without the



Howie Motenko x2

*After another successful photo shoot, the light painters pose under the barrel of Duck Brook Bridge—50 volunteers and many, many smiles.*

there’s a symphony of “Howie, can you see me?” We all want to be invisible. He patiently asks us, one by one, to shine our light toward him. He peers at the laptop screen attached to his camera, sometimes assuring that all is well and sometimes suggesting slight position adjustments.

My “paintbrush” is a 200-lumen cycling headlight, which quite came in handy traveling the 2.5 miles from Chasm Brook Bridge that night in November. We light painters have flashlight envy—I had one night of glory when I first brought my awesome new light before being one-upped by another painter at the next shoot! Someone, excitedly, brings a new light to every bridge painting—it’s a hot

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**I see fellow light painters in town or at work and we say “Hey, did you see the photo?” or “Are you going this week?” or, regularly, “I got a new flashlight!” Or we just smile.**

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then again, and again. Then the magic words from Howie: “It’s a wrap!”

Cheers echo in the barrel of the bridge

handshake or the secret. I see fellow light painters in town or at work and we say “Hey, did you see the photo?” or “Are you going this week?” or, regularly, “I got a new flashlight!” Or we just smile. I have met previously-unknown coworkers through this project and now we say “hi” in the halls. I’ve reconnected with old friends and made new ones. Seeing the number of painters grow at each event is a tribute to Howie and Brenda’s vision, their generosity (they give away a “door prize” of a print from the previous week at each shoot), and Brenda’s baking! Believe me, you would walk miles in negative wind chill and stand under a stone bridge that’s stealing your body heat to experience Brenda’s baking.



Howie Motenko

Deer Brook Bridge, painted by 26 volunteers on November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

Seeing the smile grow bigger on Howie's face each time he takes the group photo reminds me of that Cheshire cat moon, that cold night in November when the "fireflies" danced in the woods around Eagle Lake. The park was happy and so were its bridges...even those still awaiting their turn in the spotlight.

I am happy too. It's easy to get too busy

or too tired or too picky about the weather to get outside in the park. These gatherings offer me "reasons" to be in Acadia. At each bridge painting, I marvel anew at the scent of pine needles hanging heavy in the moist air and green moss that glows in the moonlight. Rust oak leaves that chatter in the wind—the last guest to leave the party in the fall. Rushing streams, frozen waterfalls,

granite giants...and those stars. Thank you, Howie and Brenda. 🍄

HEIDI STANTON-DREW lives in Ellsworth with her husband Jon and two Vizslas, Rip and Ruby. She is a College of the Atlantic alumna, an avid gardener, and loves biking the Acadia National Park carriage roads on the mountain bike she bought locally in 1989!

### About the Painting Bridges Project

In July 2012, Seal Harbor photographer Howie Motenko conceived of a community art project utilizing the photographic technique of light painting on the historic stone bridges of Acadia National Park. His idea was to assemble a team of volunteers who, wielding flashlights, would "paint" a bridge with light while he creates a long-exposure photograph. For the next nine months, a grow-

ing cohort of co-artists journeyed at twilight to each bridge on Acadia's 45-mile carriage road system. The project grew organically, with most of the volunteers hearing about it by word of mouth. By spring of 2013, stunning photographs of all 16 historic Rockefeller bridges and both gatehouses had been completed with the help of 150 volunteers. An image gallery and blog about the project can be seen at [www.painting-bridges.com](http://www.painting-bridges.com).

The photographs will be displayed at the Northeast Harbor Public Library during the month of May. Two events are planned at the library to celebrate the images and the community that created them: an opening on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., and a closing reception and presentation on Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at 4 p.m. Prints will be offered for sale; in keeping with the spirit of a community project, all profits will be donated to Friends of Acadia.

## THE COLEMANS AND THE WILD GARDENS

Anne Kozak

Whether it is greeting visitors at the Wild Gardens of Acadia (WGA) at Sieur de Monts Spring, raking paths, moving plants and shrubs needed in the Gardens from his 45-acre property in Lamoine, or building a wattle fence, Doug Coleman, who volunteers in honor of his late wife Bev, takes on whatever task needs to be done. Many WGA volunteers and the visitors welcomed by this 81-year-old docent seldom know that he is a renowned and highly honored scientist.

Doug, whose work at the Jackson Laboratory in the late 60s through the 80s showed that a genetic component was involved in obesity, is the recent recipient of two international science awards. In late March he traveled to Saudi Arabia where he received the King Faisal International Prize in Medicine. In June he will receive the Frontiers of Knowledge Award in Biomedicine from the BBVA Foundation in Bilbao, Spain. He shares these prizes with Jeffrey Friedman of Rockefeller University and the Howard Hughes Medical Institute. Since the 1990s, Dr. Friedman has expanded on Doug's work. Together they showed that chemical and genetic factors—not just will power and eating habits—are involved in appetite control and obesity.

The two scientists received the Shaw Prize, often called the Nobel Prize of the East, in Hong Kong in 2009, and in 2010 received the Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award. In 1998 Doug was elected to the National Academy of Science and in 2005 received the Gardiner Award, an award that recognizes outstanding contributions of medical scientists whose work improves the quality of life.



Bev Coleman (right) and Janet TenBroeck discuss the fern collection at the Wild Gardens.

By the time the Colemans moved from Seal Harbor to Lamoine in 1986, Bev was already a prominent volunteer in the Wild Gardens. She particularly enjoyed working in the Mixed Woods habitat—a habitat that contains predominantly deciduous trees but also a small stand of northern white cedar. In fact, Bev so enjoyed her work in this habitat that the Colemans named their new property “Mixed Woods,” a name that aptly fits the diversity of trees, shrubs, ferns, and wild flowers that grow there.

In a recent interview, Doug said that much of Bev's pleasure in volunteering in the Gardens stemmed from her enjoyment in working with Janet TenBroeck, one of the founders of the Gardens. To Janet's delight, Bev even learned the Latin names of plants—something Janet tried with mixed success to have every volunteer do.

Bev's interest in native wildflowers eventually became a passion—a passion that culminated in her commitment to conservation and her design of a garden of native plants, all of which were labeled with both their Latin and common names. “A walk with Bev through the garden here and the trails we laid out revealed her unbridled joy in her accomplishments,” recalled Doug.

The Colemans' land ethic and commitment to conservation and the education of young people prompted them to put a conservation easement on Mixed Woods to preserve it as a sustainable small woodlot and educational resource. They donated 45 acres across the road from their house to Small Woodlot Owners Association of Maine—land where they had established trails open to the public.

“One of the great pleasures I experienced as a volunteer in the Wild Gardens was the opportunity to work with and learn from exceptional people,” says fellow volunteer Sue Leiter. “From Bev I learned to closely observe the environmental circumstances of individual plants. From Doug I learned how to honor the memory of a loved one.”

ANNE KOZAK has been a member of the Wild Gardens committee since 1972.



Doug Coleman led the rebuilding of this wattle fence, made from native spirea, to separate the work area from the display area of the Gardens.

# ACADIA FIELD SCHOOL: DOCUMENTING THE CARRIAGE ROAD LANDSCAPE

*Tutku Ak and M. Margaret Bryant*



*An array of cultural landscape features inventoried along the historic carriage roads of Acadia National Park.*

Six college students, six measuring wheels and clipboards, and six backpacks with lunches, bug spray, and water: all came together for six weeks in the summer of 2012 to document the historic landscape of Acadia's carriage road system. Wherever they went with their orange vests and equipment, park visitors wanted to know what the "Acadia Six" were doing. As the students explained their mission, visitors were surely pleased to hear that the information being gathered would be used to maintain and preserve the carriage road system into the future.

The Acadia Six were undergraduate and graduate students from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY ESF) in Syracuse, New York. They came to Acadia to participate in a field school providing hands-on experience in park management and cultural landscape preservation, offered through a partnership between the SUNY ESF Department of Landscape Architecture, the National Park Service, Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation, and Acadia National Park. Lodging at the College of the Atlantic, the

students became part of the Mount Desert Island community and got a wonderful opportunity to discover the natural and cultural beauty of the island.

The main objective of the field school was to inventory landscape characteristics and features on the park-owned carriage road system to provide data necessary for a Cultural Landscape Inventory, which is a comprehensive record prepared for historically significant landscapes within the national park system. The first four weeks were spent documenting landscape features built under the direction of John D.

Rockefeller Jr. between 1913 and 1940. A total of 40 miles of road were surveyed and photographed, and every possible detail, including dimensions and the types of materials used, was inventoried using field survey forms designed for uploading into the National Park System GIS (Geographic Information System). In all, the team documented 670 culverts, 474 guardwalls, 184 vista locations, 146 signs, 114 retaining walls, 42 embankments, 28 bridges, 7 gates, and many other cultural landscape features.

During the last two weeks of the field school, the students revisited the carriage roads to examine the historic character of the landscape with a more comprehensive eye. This second trip was about thinking like landscape architects by “reading” the landscape, noting existing conditions, and describing design characteristics. In journal entries, the students drew sketches and recorded impressions, describing what it feels like to be in the landscape and looking for design characteristics such as spatial sequence, light quality, rhythm, vegetation, and so on.

Throughout the field school, the students participated in lectures and discussions on park management and historic preservation and went for site visits where they combined classroom experience with hands-on learning. This gave context for the field work, demonstrating the multi-discipline effort required to manage Acadia and introducing students to staff involved in the management and operation of the park. The team met staff from Acadia National Park, the Olmsted Center, SUNY ESF, Friends of Acadia, and other park partners. These participants offered their time, enthusiasm, and expertise to the students, introducing the complex issues—such as community partnerships and relationships, maintenance, policy-making, and enhancing the visitor experience—involved in preserving cultural landscapes and operating a national park.

Aside from formal lectures and field trips, the students explored both the park and the Island, and discovered the layers of history (e.g., the Rusticators, George Dorr, John D. Rockefeller Jr., and others that followed) that have shaped the landscape. They went on excursions beyond Acadia

National Park to gain a better sense of the role of local landscape architects and other contextual influences on the park. Excursions included a tour of the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Garden and Garland Farm designed by Beatrix Farrand, and a visit to the Asticou Azalea and Thuya Gardens.

Throughout the six weeks, the students also enjoyed recreational activities including whale watching, visits to Sand Beach, and most importantly, hiking the beautiful trails of Acadia. The team completed the more strenuous hikes on the Beehive and Precipice Trails, as well as easier trails such as those on Dorr Mountain and South Bubble. They attended the annual Wabanaki Native American Festival and Independence Day celebrations, tasted the local food and wine, and enjoyed delicious lobster meals. Even if the six weeks felt short, the students took many unforgettable memories with them.

By the end of the field school, the Acadia Six not only had had the privilege of experiencing the beautiful island, but also had a much richer understanding of resource management in the National Park System. They gained experience in inventorying historic resources; a familiarity with park maintenance, interpretation, operations, and community relations; and knowledge of the history of the National Park System and Acadia National Park in particular. They came away from this experience with a better understanding of the importance of every visitor, job, and partnership within the web of Acadia. A major takeaway was that, in a national park like Acadia, not only are the cultural resources as important as the natural resources but the two are interconnected and mutually dependent upon each other.

Since the end of the field school in July 2012, SUNY ESF has continued the work by synthesizing inventory data and using it



*The “Acadia Six” at Jordan Pond, just before an afternoon of field work. Left to right: Charlotte Evanofski, Sara Bonacquist, Benjamin Boisclair, Margaret Johnson, Catherine Ponte, and Tutku Ak.*

to develop graphic maps of the carriage road system that will become a primary part of the Cultural Landscape Inventory (CLI). The final CLI, to be completed in 2013 by the Olmsted Center, will become an important tool for the park in its long-term efforts to preserve and enhance the carriage road system. It will serve the park’s facilities management system, cultural and natural resource managers, and even interpretative programs. For more information on the carriage road Cultural Landscape Inventory, contact the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation at <http://www.nps.gov/oclp/mission.htm>.

TUTKU AK, a Ph.D. candidate in the Environmental Science program, was the student lead in the Acadia summer field school and is completing the GIS maps of the carriage road system during the 2012-13 academic year. M. MARGARET BRYANT, Ph.D. is a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture at SUNY ESF.

The other field school members:

BENJAMIN BOISCLAIR, from Saratoga Springs, NY, is the youngest of the team and is currently in his third year as a Landscape Architecture undergraduate student. SARA BONACQUIST, from Schenectady, NY, is a fourth year Landscape Architecture student and a great athlete. The only Mainer, CHARLOTTE EVANOF-SKI, is from Boothbay Harbor and is in her fifth and last year in the Landscape Architecture program. MARGARET JOHNSON, from Staten Island, NY loves to paint and CATHERINE PONTE, from Woodbridge, NJ, enjoys writing. Both are graduate students completing their Masters of Landscape Architecture.

# SUMMER CONSTRUCTION IN THE PARK

Len Bobinchock

Acadia National Park is a small park but a big draw. On just over 35,000 fee acres, it attracts over two million visitors each year, largely in the summer and early fall. Most of those visitors focus on the Mount Desert Island section of the park, which shares the island with four communities and has many, many access points from state, town, and park roads. Add to the mix the fact that Acadia lies within a couple of days' drive from some of the most populous areas of the Eastern US, and it's easy to see how Acadia might have a parking problem.

Acadia also has a large infrastructure portfolio for such a small park, much of it historically significant. As custodians of this great park, we have an obligation to maintain and occasionally improve the park's manmade features to preserve important resources, protect the public investment, and ensure a safe and quality visitor experience. Unfortunately, the short construction season in Maine generally overlaps with the months of heaviest visitor use at Acadia. This spring and summer, the park will undertake four major projects that will challenge our ability accomplish these important tasks and minimize impacts to our visiting public.

**Bus Stops:** The Island Explorer bus system, established in 1999, has been significantly successful at encouraging car-free visitation to the park. But traffic congestion and roadside and overflow parking remains a challenge. Currently, the park plans to improve six parking areas within Acadia to solve problems that might tend to discourage Island Explorer usage: the Cadillac North Ridge trailhead, Acadia Mountain, Bubble Rock, Bubble Pond, Parkman Mountain, and Echo Lake Beach.

Problems most commonly found at these stops include inadequate turning and pull-off areas for buses, unsafe boarding areas, and the inability to serve some popular



The orange dots represent Island Explorer bus stop projects, purple squares indicate Park Loop Road repaving, and red blocks show the bridges to be repaired on the Stanley Brook Road.

destinations due to these issues; as well as inadequate passenger waiting areas, insufficient signage, and confusing pedestrian circulation. The improvement designs seek to solve these problems while protecting the existing landscape character, vistas, vegetation, and water quality. The process for identifying these six areas and planning the improvements took place over the course of two years and involved representatives of the National Park Service and the Island Explorer operator, Downeast Transportation, with input from the MDI League of Towns and the public. The bus stop improvement project will be funded by a grant from the federally-administered Transit in Parks Program (TRIP), which

supports alternative transportation in America's national parks, wildlife refuges, and national forests.

Plans call for some significant re-working of existing parking lots to accommodate both cars and buses, along with creative solutions to create safe passenger loading areas where none currently exist. For example, the Cadillac North Ridge trailhead will get a short connector trail to a new spot on the Park Loop Road where buses can stop safely. At Echo Lake Beach, new bus turning and passenger loading areas near the lot entrance will save buses from navigating this long, crowded parking lot.

Bubble Pond is a popular destination

and a sensitive natural and cultural area due to the proximity of the parking lot to the carriage roads, Loop Road, and Bubble Pond—a public drinking supply. Buses currently enter the parking lot to board but the parking lot is often congested, causing schedule delays. There are times when the buses cannot pass through the parking lot and must back out to the Loop Road. Buses sometimes board in the travel lane of the Park Loop Road rather than deal with congestion in the lot. The planned improvements will create a bus-only loop around the parking lot, construct a passenger waiting area, and plant vegetation to screen the historic landscape.

Parkman Mountain, a very popular carriage road access point on the east side of Route 198, will receive a similar treatment. The existing lot is often full, and overflow parking occurs on both road shoulders near the crest of the hill on this high-speed highway. The Island Explorer currently cannot serve this site because the buses cannot enter the parking lot and it is unsafe to stop along the highway. To solve the problem, a bus-only loop and boarding area will be constructed outside the perimeter of the existing lot. Bus and car traffic will be separated and no parking spaces will be lost, though some trees will have to be cut to accommodate the construction.

Work on the six bus stop locations will commence early in April 2013 and extend to early July for all but Echo Lake. Work at Echo Lake will continue through the summer and into the fall. Public access to the beach will be maintained all summer; after Labor Day, the area will be closed until construction is complete. Bubble Pond, Bubble Rock, and Parkman Mountain parking lots will be closed to motor vehicles during construction but pedestrian access to trails and carriage roads will be maintained. At the Cadillac North Ridge trailhead, work will be confined to a small area and no closures or restrictions are expected.

**Park Loop Road Paving:** The entire Park Loop Road system will receive a maintenance coat of pavement this summer. The work is planned to begin in mid-May and

finish the work. Park employees will be stationed at closure points and will assist visitors by re-routing them around the construction.



Improvements to the Parkman Mountain parking lot will allow the Island Explorer to stop at this popular park access point.

should be completed by late June. During the construction, there will be lane closures and short delays; parking in the right lane of the loop road will be prohibited during the paving period. Stripes will be painted about a week after the paving is completed. This work will occur at night; the road will be closed from sunset until dawn. The planned work should not have much of an effect on park visitors.

**Carriage Road Resurfacing:** The second third of the carriage road resurfacing project will begin after Memorial Day and continue through June. The first phase, completed in 2011, surfaced the west sections. This year eastern sections will be done with the exception of the Triad Day Mountain to Bubble Pond Parking lot section (in blue on the map). The roads in the Wildwood and Day Mountain area will be done first, followed by the Jordan Pond House area and finally the Deer Brook section. Wildwood Stables will be open for Memorial Day weekend. The carriage roads will be closed in sections to accom-

**Stanley Brook Bridges:** The six little bridges that take the Stanley Brook Road over this meandering stream will also be repaired this summer. The repairs are to protect the historic bridges from water under-scouring their foundations. This is necessary because of increased runoff during heavy storms; in turn, this increase is likely due to development and more road drainage in the area. Unfortunately, the work must be done between July 15<sup>th</sup> and August 30<sup>th</sup> to meet regulatory restrictions for in-stream work. Much of the work will be accomplished from the roadway with large equipment. Given the narrow nature of the road and the lack of road shoulders,

the road will be closed during construction. The only alternative road connecting the Jordan Pond area of the park with Seal Harbor is the town-owned Jordan Pond Road. Residents of this narrow, residential street have voiced concerns about increased traffic on their road due to the Stanley Brook Road closure. Consequently, the Town has elected to open the Jordan Pond Road only to Island Explorer buses during the Stanley Brook construction period, which means there will not be direct access for private autos between Seal Harbor and Jordan Pond.

Given the above projects, some disruption to normal visitor use patterns in the park is likely. The park plans to provide the public with current information at park information stations, through the newspapers, and via the park website and Twitter. In addition, there will be a special phone number with pre-recorded message, updated regularly with the current status of closures. 📞

LEN BOBINCHOCK is the deputy superintendent at Acadia National Park.

# THE APPLES OF ACADIA: CONJURING FORGOTTEN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

*Rebecca Cole-Will, Todd Little-Siebold, and David Manski*

**D**owneast Maine was home to thousands of small, hardscrabble farms from the late eighteenth century forward. This is hard to imagine today in places like Mount Desert Island, where past agricultural landscapes have been replaced by alder, white pine, and spruce thickets for many decades. Land painstakingly wrested from the forest with fire and

axe by generations of settlers beginning in the seventeenth century has quickly, inexorably returned to forest. In this area, farming, as measured by the number of farmers and acres of land, has been in decline since the 1860s, and there is precious little left save foundations of farmhouses or barns and grown-up remnants of the original hayfields.

Most visitors to Acadia probably don't realize that the stunning landscape they love to hike, drive, and bike was previously dominated by farms. Today, Acadia National Park is best known for its natural resource values. However, the park's rich history, including the early agricultural period, is equally of importance to protect and interpret. While the National Park Service does actively manage the Carroll Homestead and the original settlement on Baker Island there are many other valuable historic farm-related resources in the park that are not as well preserved or as well known.

Incredibly, one important legacy of this agricultural past sits hidden in forests, along roadsides, or in old fields throughout the park and the Downeast region. They are the old apple trees and relict orchards that survive here and there. They are a direct connection to the small, diversified farms that were the undergirding of the local communities along with fishing and lumbering. They are a living testament to a different world and they represent a generally unknown source of biodiversity.

As one begins to explore the history of apples in Maine most people are startled to learn that there were more than ten thousand varieties of apples being grown in the state in 1850. The people of Maine had not just the familiar Macintosh, Cortland, Fuji, and the ten or so others commercially available today. They had thousands of varieties from which to choose—some for fresh eating, others for pie or sauce, and still others used primarily for making hard cider. Names like Nodhead, Bare-limbed Greening, Blue Permain, Stone Sweeting, or Marlboro offer plenty to feed our imaginations. How did they taste? What did they look like? Where did they go?

In 1885 Charles Atkins of Bucksport reported that in his area, "In old orchards you will find Yellow Bellflower, Kilham



*Apple tree in bloom at Carroll Farm, May 2011.*

Rebecca Cole-Will/Acadia National Park

Hill, Nodhead, Blue Permain, Mathew Stripe (or Martha Stripe) a very sour winter apple; an old fashioned Russet something like a Roxbury, Hunt Russet, Stone Sweet (a hardy winter sort), Queen's Pocket (winter), Lyscom (September, also known as Mathew, or Martha Stripe), Hightop Sweeting, Williams' Favorite, Golden Russet (early), Leland's Golden Pippin, Bell's Early, and a long list of obscure sorts, mostly unnamed." He quickly added a caveat: "I speak only for Bucksport and other towns adjoining, on the river about its mouth. In the interior of the county they might tell a different story."

This diversity came from thousands of farmers finding promising seedlings along the edges of their fields and stone walls, which they named and then passed along to others. Settlers also brought their favorite varieties with them as they established themselves in northern New England or Southern New France (and maybe even at Basque fishing stations on offshore islands). Because each seed in every apple is genetically unique, varieties can only be propagated by grafting a scion, or a small piece of a branch from a named variety, onto your own tree.

Around 1830, a boom in orcharding in the United States gave rise to thousands of named varieties in Maine alone. Some were known only within one town, like the Marlboro from Lamoine, while others are nationally famous, such as the Black Oxford from Paris, Maine. These commercially grown varieties were shipped away, with hundreds of thousands of barrels being shipped to Liverpool alone from Maine. The scattered relict orchards we see today are the descendents of that commercial boom.

Maine may have one of the highest levels of apple diversity in North America because of its history. At the frontier between French and British colonial holdings, both French and English colonists brought their varieties with them as they

settled Maine in different waves. Then the commercial boom contributed to the explosion of apple varieties in the early state of Maine. Finally, as the family farm declined in northern New England after the Civil War, the orchards, too, were abandoned. But many still may hold the genetic diversity of their history. In other areas that remained commercially active into the mid-twentieth century, orchards were transformed into production units that typically grew only three to four varieties, rather than the dozen or so common in an old Maine orchard.

So too, there are many old orchards on Mount Desert Island and within Acadia

fruit. And on the slopes of Cadillac Mountain, just a few steps off the Park Loop Road, there is an abandoned orchard with over 50 trees. One can imagine that this commercial orchard supplied the many hotels and summer homes of the first wave of summer visitors to the island.

In 2009, Catharina Wehlburg, an intern from Germany, spent six weeks in Acadia working on this project. She interviewed park staff knowledgeable about the locations of apple trees, worked with the park's cultural resources specialist to research the history of historic sites in the park, and assisted COA GIS students to map the Cadillac orchard. The NPS and COA are

now discussing small projects to help protect that orchard by pruning dead wood to promote healthy growth and minimally cutting back surrounding vegetation that is crowding out the fruit trees. This work might be done in partnership with COA students and volunteers interested in learning orchard history and orchard management and pruning.

Other small projects have helped old trees. Volunteers pruned Northern Spy (also known as Northern pie apple) trees near Sand Beach that were part of the agricultural fields of the Satterlee

compound there. The trees were planted by Louisa Morgan Satterlee, the fabulously wealthy daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan. The orchard survived the great fire of 1947, unlike much of the rest of the Satterlee's many buildings and gardens. On Baker Island, the park's fire management program has begun a project to protect the standing buildings and surrounding fields from fire. Careful work to remove large spruce trees around the buildings will also help the last vestiges of orchards to compete against the encroaching forest.

Across the National Park system, park managers have come to recognize the importance of agricultural landscapes and orchards as important cultural landscapes and sources of biodiversity. More than 130 national park areas contain fruit trees



Heirloom apples at the Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association Great Maine Apple Festival.

Rebecca Cole-Will/Acadia National Park

National Park that are part of this story. Researchers from College of the Atlantic, park resource managers, and heirloom apple expert John Bunker from the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association (MOFGA), have begun research to locate the old orchards, identify and document fruit varieties, and connect the history of apples to the larger agricultural history of the island and state. Early findings have revealed, for example, that the Carroll Homestead in Southwest Harbor had a diverse orchard in the 1800s. Luckily, it was documented by interviews with family members who remember the rare Jacob Sweet apple grown there. On Bakers Island, apple trees probably planted by the Gilley and Stanley families who settled the island in the early 1800s still bear

greater than 50 years old. Their significance is elegantly documented in a recent publication, *Fruitful Legacy: A Historic Context of Orchards in the United States* by Susan Dolan. Orchards in national parks are important because they are touchstones for the history that the parks preserve, and protect fruit varieties that are no longer commercially available. For example, at Manzanar National Historic Site, Japanese internees renovated apple and pear orchards abandoned in the 1920s. Mormon settlers studied the technology of irrigation from ancestral Pueblo sites to bring water to Capitol Reef. Today, the orchards there provide opportunities for park visitors to harvest fresh peaches, apples, and pears.

Dolan points out that “Orchards have always been a reflection of societal values and economic and technological realities, and they have been made to fit the changing realities. The many historic orchards in national parks and elsewhere are cultural landscapes that memorialize these events, trends, and eras in American history. As we preserve orchards that are 50 years of age or older and that retain significance and physical integrity, their cultural resource value will continue to grow in importance. Genetic biodiversity conservation combines with visitor education as potential societal benefits.”

The College of the Atlantic has launched an effort to renovate the three old orchard blocks contained in its Beech Hill Farm, which were parts of three different farms there in the nineteenth century. Three years of pruning and care have led to a revitalization of the twenty or so varieties surviving there. The varieties identified include Baldwins, Saint Lawrence, Pewaukee, Famuese, King of Tompkins County, Pound Sweet, Greenings, and several others. The composition of the orchards indicate that they were planted for the late-nineteenth century trade with England. Using this as the nucleus, the



*Rachel Carroll standing in front of the family home at Carroll Farm, showing a now-ancient apple tree when it was young and healthy.*

Acadia National Park archives

College is beginning to plan and undertake fundraising for a Downeast Heirloom Orchard that would include all of the apples, pears, and other fruit that were commonly grown during the region’s agricultural heyday, as well as a wide range of unusual and less known varieties. Framed as a community orchard, it would be a place for school kids, visitors, and community members to learn about the rich agricultural history of the region through fruit.

As one looks out across Mount Desert Island from any mountaintop it is difficult to conjure a landscape dotted with small farms, much less of orchards. Imagine Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, or Otter Creek as farming communities. Farming declined on MDI as agricultural markets, out-migration, and transportation turned the tide against small diversified farms and led to the abandonment of whole areas of the island that had been farms. In fact, lands that would become the heart of the park, geographically, became available for purchase because of the history of farming (and lumbering) in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The old farmhouses

are prized but the landscapes they were linked to have been devoured by development or obscured by the regeneration of forests. As students delve into census records or volunteers prune old apple trees at the Satterlee orchard, first steps are being taken to reconnect to the lost landscapes of the past, which can both inspire future generations with their beauty and fruit and preserve the last fragments of the region’s rich agricultural past.

If you have information about the location or history of apple or other fruit trees in the park and on MDI, please share your knowledge with Rebecca Cole-Will ([rebecca\\_cole-will@nps.gov](mailto:rebecca_cole-will@nps.gov)) or with Todd Little-Siebold ([tlittle@coa.edu](mailto:tlittle@coa.edu)). 🍏

REBECCA COLE-WILL is the cultural resources program manager at Acadia National Park, and an archaeologist specializing in pre-European-contact archaeology of New England and the Arctic. TODD LITTLE-SIEBOLD is professor of history and Latin American studies at College of the Atlantic. DAVID MANSKI is the chief of resource management at Acadia National Park.

## Where in Acadia?



Friends of Acadia

**Where in Acadia?** We thought we'd initiate this new feature with a real challenge. Do you know where in the park this X-shaped hole is located? Or know anything about its history? Email us with your guesses at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:editor@friendsofacadia.org). We'll print the best response along with another "Where in Acadia" photo in the next issue of the *Journal*.

## Friends of Acadia 2013 Calendar of Events

April 27	Earth Day Roadside Cleanup	July 11	Annual Meeting
May 4	"Painting Bridges" Art Opening	July 21	Family Fun Day
May 26	"Painting Bridges" Art Closing	August 10	Benefit Auction
June 1	National Trails Day	September 7	Clean Water, Clean Shores
June 15	Wild Gardens of Acadia Benefit Plant Sale	Sep. 26 – 30	Acadia Night Sky Festival
		November 2	Take Pride in Acadia Day

For more information about events, visit our website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) or call the FOA office at 207-288-3340.

## New Members

*We are pleased to welcome our newest friends. Thank you to these individuals and businesses for becoming a part of our mission to preserve and protect Acadia National Park:*

Suzanne Abramson  
Diane Adlestein and Michael Priester  
Mark and Meg Alberts  
Jonathan Alger  
Julie Allen and Bruce Becque  
Charlene Alling  
Michelle and Eric Allvin  
Steve and Elisa Anders  
Atlantic Boat Company  
Cynthia and Donald Austin  
Jane Avery  
Douglas and Barbara Babkirk  
Candace and Robert Bachorik  
Adrienne Bachrach  
Bar Harbor Teachers' Club  
Patricia and John Barker  
Katharine Bassney  
Terrie and Wesley Beamer  
William and Eileen Berry  
Murial and David Billings  
Beth and Howard Birnbaum  
David and Susan Blanchard  
Susan and Warren Bogle  
Amie Bonner and Charles Wesley  
Katherine Bowen  
Phoebe Boyer and Todd Snyder  
Lauren Brampton  
Helen and Charles Bresnahan  
Edward Bridges  
Lynn Brown  
Mary and Henry Brown  
Sandra Bruner  
Jane Burch  
Sally Tarr Burkholder and James Burkholder  
Kathryn Calibey  
Michael Campbell  
Howard and Sibyl Canaan  
Joseph Capuano  
Michael Cardwell  
Carmody & Torrance LLP  
Aileen and Austin Carter  
George Casey  
Thomas Cesarz  
Samprit and Martha Chatterjee  
Kathleen and John Clapp  
John Clark  
Sam Clark  
Catherine Clinger  
Christine Coddling and John Ricca  
The Columbus Bar Association  
Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park  
Alexandria Cookson  
Mieke and Tom Crider  
Pat Crossland-Smith  
Diana Crosson  
Sarah Curtis  
Marjorie Daggett  
Jill and Christopher Daily  
Susan D'Angelo  
Agnes and Thomas Dodd  
Cynthia and Gordon Donaldson  
Amy Donnelly

Stephen Dootz  
William F. Dow III  
Suzen and Gerald Drogen  
Beverly and George Dryhurst  
Barbara Dube  
Marion and Donald Dyer  
East Hampton Memorial Elementary School  
Delphine and Frank Eberhart  
Ellen Egle  
Milly Elrod  
Byrne Erb  
Timothy Esposito  
Jeanne and Tommy Everngam  
Sheila Farrell  
Libby Feil  
Shirley Fernald  
Anne Lutz Fernandez-Carol  
Georgina and Joseph Field  
Isabelle and Justin Foster  
Mark Fucito  
Garden Club of New Haven  
Diana Gent  
Wendy and Peter Gill  
Carolyn Goodrich  
Virginia Goodwin  
Janet Gordon  
Christopher Graves and Eric Schelter  
Alice Crebase and Jim Gray  
Douglass Gray Jr.  
Joan Guglielmino and Mark Palladino  
Kristen and Bruce Gurall  
Wesley Hamilton  
Greg Hamilton  
Steve Harrison  
Jane and Rick Hays  
Tim Hazen  
Clifton Heaton  
Susie and Larry Hefter  
Chuck and Patty Hegberg  
Martha Henrichs  
Tim and Ellen Herbold  
Jane Heyward  
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Adam Hoffman  
Nancy and Richard Hogan  
Lisa Hontz  
Randy Houser  
Rebecca Houze and Peter O'Leary  
Elizabeth and Kyle Hudick  
William Hudson  
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Ashley Jahrling  
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The JCT Foundation  
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Jacqueline Johnston  
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Brita Lundberg and Robert Horsburgh  
Carli Lyon  
Elizabeth Ann and Ron MacClary  
Nancy Mace  
Maine Society of Landscape Architects  
Kristina Marshall  
Barbara and Peter Mason  
Joan and Franklin McElwain  
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Owen Stoddard  
Jocelyn Strassel and Salvatore Sigleski  
Carol and David Sullivan  
Nancy Swayze and Doug Shattuck  
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October 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013

## SEQUESTRATION CONCERNS AT ACADIA

**F**riends of Acadia President David MacDonald, Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele, FOA Board member Donna Reis, and FOA Advocacy Committee members Ralph and Susan Nurnberger briefed members of the Maine Congressional delegation at the end of February on the anticipated effects of the sequester on Acadia. FOA Board members Hannah Sistare Clark and Gail Clark reinforced these messages on Capitol Hill as part of a team from the Garden Club of America.

The sequester took effect on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Acadia is now implementing the required five-percent cut, equal to \$390,000 of its annual budget. The park has managed pre-

vious budget cuts by reducing travel and training expenses, delaying the start of seasonal employees, and leaving 18 permanent positions vacant (botanist, wildlife biologist, auto mechanic, supervisory rangers, etc.). With this additional reduction, the park has opted to not hire another five permanent employees, cut 12 seasonal jobs, reduce the appointments of 32 other seasonal workers, and delay the opening of the Park Loop Road and other facilities. Furthermore, in late March Congress enacted an additional \$30 million cut to the National Park Service budget; it is not yet clear how this cut will affect Acadia.

Friends of Acadia is very concerned about these cuts and the negative effects they will

have on the visitor experience. The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), a key national ally, drafted a letter for national park gateway community businesses to sign onto in support of preventing further cuts to park budgets. Friends of Acadia and NPCA reached out to local member businesses and to area chambers of commerce, and the letter was delivered to Congress and to President Obama with more than 20 signatories from Ellsworth, Trenton, Mount Desert Island, and the Cranberry Isles. Many thanks to all who signed on. Friends of Acadia continues to work with area chambers of commerce to spread the message that “Acadia is still open” and respond to the local fallout of these cuts. 🍷



*Great Head at low tide.*

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## Updates



A skier enjoying the new snow on the Eagle Lake Loop in early January.

### Winter Trails in Acadia

A heavy snowfall in late December kept the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) groomers very busy at the start of the season. The volunteers logged dozens of hours grooming Acadia's carriage roads for both classic and skate skiing. A dry January kept skiers in high anticipation for the next storm, which came in early February when winter storm Nemo blanketed the park.

The 2012–2013 grooming team includes 18 active volunteers. In addition to their efforts on the carriage roads, the groomers spent the season planning several ski-themed community outreach events geared at demonstrating and encouraging the joy of connecting with nature and Acadia in the winter season. These include a ski demo for kids and their families and a time-trial-format ski “challenge.” These events will be held when conditions next allow—tune in next winter!

### National Trails Day

The public is invited to celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> with the inauguration of the Trenton Community Trail, a 1.8-mile loop (with a short spur trail leading to the Trenton Dwarf Shrub Bog) at the Acadia Gateway Center,

off Route 3 in Trenton. Community partners, donors, and the many volunteers who helped to build the trail will also be invited. A light breakfast will be served, with a hike on the trail immediately following. For more information, visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) or contact Terry Begley at [terry@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:terry@friendsofacadia.org).

### Acadia Quest 2013

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park have revamped the Acadia Quest for the 2013 season. The 2013 “Trail Quest” will challenge teams to “Explore, Protect, and Learn” with a focus on Acadia's trails. Participants will be encouraged to walk, hike, and scramble along local community trails, village connectors, and the park's pond, ocean, and summit trails. The Trail Quest will be a great source of fun and outdoor engagement for kids and adults and even dogs—on leash of course! Friends of Acadia will provide each Trail Quest team with a park map and annual pass along with a Trail Quest card. Teams will be



Hiking on Acadia's historic trail system offers terrific exercise—and fun!—for all ages and abilities.

asked to provide a picture or trail sign rubbing to prove they hiked a particular trail. As in past years, teams must include at least one child under the age of 18 and one adult aged 18 years or older.

Acadia National Park offers many trails perfectly suited to introducing children to the variety of nature's splendors. From easy trails along streams and shorelines to more demanding mountain summits, hiking can play an important role in children's formative years. Kids respond readily to the wonders of nature when they participate in the real thing.

The Acadia Quest program complements First Lady Michelle Obama's "Let's Move!" Initiative, dedicated to solving the problem of childhood obesity by encouraging kids and their families to exercise more. As part of the initiative, the Department of Interior has created "Let's Move Outside!" to encourage kids and their families to take advantage of America's great outdoors by engaging in outdoor activities that gets hearts pumping and bodies moving. Says National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, "National parks are amazing places where exercise is disguised as adventure, and we sneak in some learning, too!"

### Pond House Express Changes

Last summer, Acadia National Park, the Acadia Corporation, and Friends of Acadia provided funding for an experimental express Island Explorer bus route from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center to the Jordan Pond House. The Pond House Express route was designed to alleviate parking

pressure at the Jordan Pond House by giving visitors a midday option for leaving their car (or connecting from other bus routes) at the visitor center and riding the bus directly to the Pond House. Service ran every 20 minutes.

From June 23<sup>rd</sup> to Labor Day, 3,832 passengers rode this route, with the summer peak ridership of 127 passengers per day. In 2013, Friends of Acadia will once again support this route of the Island Explorer, which will be combined with the regular Jordan Pond route. The new, combined service will leave the Bar Harbor Village Green, pick up passengers at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, and then travel to the Jordan Pond House. Although Seal Harbor's Jordan Pond Road is closed to private auto traffic for part of the season due to the closure of the Stanley Brook Road, the Island Explorer will be allowed to use the Jordan Pond Road and maintain normal routes in this area.

Friends of Acadia encourages all residents and visitors to plan ahead and use the Island Explorer when going to Jordan Pond for hiking, biking, or dining. Help prevent resource damage from off-road parking, improve auto and pedestrian safety, and limit the frustration of searching for an open spot. For schedules and information about the Island Explorer, visit [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com).

### Beech Mountain, Valley Cove, Flying Mountain...do you like hiking the Westside?

In fall 2009, an anonymous Friends of Acadia member challenged members to



The view from Flying Mountain, one of several peaceful Westside trails that have benefitted from the Westside Challenge.



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raise \$5,000 to support the rehabilitation of trails on the west side of the island and in November 2010, members met the challenge. These funds helped the park complete work on Canada Cliffs, the Beech Mountain West Ridge Trail, and Flying Mountain. Our Fernald Point friend was so pleased, she issued another \$5,000 challenge in 2011 and we met that goal too. This year she has stepped up again—and again, to receive the challenge money we must raise \$5,000 for from members and donors first.

While trail work hasn't been confirmed for the 2013 season, prospective Westside projects include cribwork along the Flying Mountain Trail directly along Valley Cove; bogwalks along Valley Cove Trail, the Great Notch Trail, and on Long Pond; and log drainage checks on several Westside trails.

To join the effort and make a contribution to be matched, simply mail a check, made payable to Friends of Acadia, and enclose it in the envelope provided with this Journal. Or, if you prefer, call the office at 800-625-0321 or visit our secure website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) to charge your gift. Be sure to note that the gift is for the "Westside Challenge." Happy hiking!

### Big Changes at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)

Friends of Acadia will launch a new, completely redesigned website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) this spring. Featuring beautiful photographs of Acadia in all seasons and new opportunities for user interac-

tion—including a new FOA blog and user-contributed photos—the new site will help Friends of Acadia to stay better connected with members, volunteers, and visitors to Acadia National Park.

Other changes include easier site navigation, improved online donation forms, and the ability for members to update their contact and other information as well as view their giving history online. There will also be a convenient form for submitting letters to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*. Look for the new site in May.

### Greening Friends of Acadia

Friends of Acadia will be making our community events greener in 2013. Starting with the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup on April 27<sup>th</sup>, FOA will stop providing disposable plastic water bottles to participants. An estimated 80 percent of disposable water bottles end up in landfills, where they take thousands of years to decompose, or in incinerators that may release toxic chemicals into the air. Says programs and events coordinator Terry Begley, "Even though we recycled the empty plastic water bottles, the piles of empty bottles at FOA events sent the wrong message to everybody involved. It was clear that a change was needed and we're delighted to be able to make this switch."

Community event participants will receive a sturdy, BPA-free water bottle as a "thank you," and large jugs of water will be available to fill (and refill!) them. These



Friends of Acadia volunteer extraordinaire Bob Sanderson gave a presentation to the Bar Harbor Garden club in January and again to the Bar Harbor Rotary Club in March, about the activities and impact of the FOA volunteer program. Enthusiastic, fun, and very well received, Bob has become the "roving ambassador" of the volunteer program.

Bob Sanderson

water bottles will be provided in place of t-shirts, hats, or similar giveaway items.

In addition to big efforts—like partnering on the Island Explorer bus system and encouraging its use—Friends of Acadia makes many small efforts to “go green.” At the FOA office, we have for years used 100 percent recycled paper for letterhead and general office paper, and in 2011 switched to 100 percent recycled, FSC-certified paper for the Journal and Annual Report.

In 2008 the Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction started thinking green by greatly reducing printed materials, using local foods, composting food waste, and using biodiesel fuel when available to generate power at the event.

Other small efforts add up: printer cartridges and office waste are recycled, including paper, cardboard, and batteries; the office thermostats are programmable to minimize energy consumption for heating and cooling; and paper mailings have been reduced by giving members and volunteers the option to receive materials digitally.

## All the Benefits of Membership

Thanks to a generous in-kind donation from the Bar Harbor Whale Watch

Company, Friends of Acadia Flying Mountain Society members (those who give at least \$100 in a calendar year) will receive a \$10 gift certificate for any of the nature programs that the company offers. This new benefit for 2013 is one of the small ways that Friends of Acadia says “thank you!” for members’ support.

Since 2007, in-kind gifts from Acadia Corporation have made it possible for FOA to give Beehive Society members (\$250) a \$10 gift certificate for the Acadia Shops and Gorham Society members (\$500) a \$10 gift certificate at the Jordan Pond House Restaurant. Friends of Acadia is grateful to these businesses for donating gift certificates so that we can offer them without reducing the impact of member gifts.

Acadia National Park contributes to FOA membership benefits by allowing us to purchase park passes for Beech Society members (\$2,500) at a half-price discount. Park staff also contribute their time and expertise to provide special excursions for Parkman Society members (\$5,000).

Membership benefits are now being mailed when the donation is received, rather than once a year in the early winter.

## IN MEMORIAM

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—Charles W. Eliot, Sieur de Monts Celebration, 1916

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email [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org),

or visit our website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

Thank you for helping to support Friends of Acadia's work  
to preserve and protect Acadia National Park.

This means some members may have received two sets of member benefits in quick succession this year. For a complete list of membership benefits, visit our web-site at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

## New Report Gauges Acadia's Economic Benefit

A new National Park Service report shows that the 2.4 million visits to Acadia National Park in 2011 created over \$186 million in economic benefit for communities surrounding the park. This spending supported 3,000 jobs in the local area.

"Acadia attracts visitors from across the US and around the world who come here to experience its unparalleled scenery and extraordinary recreational opportunities, and then spend time and money enjoying the services provided by our neighboring communities. The National Park Service is

proud to have been entrusted with the care of America's most treasured places and delighted that the visitors we welcome generate significant contributions to the local, state, and national economy," said Superintendent Sheridan Steele.

The information on Acadia National Park is part of a peer-reviewed spending analysis of national park visitors across the country conducted by Michigan State University for the National Park Service. For 2011, that report shows \$13 billion of direct spending by 279 million park visitors in communities within 60 miles of a national park. That visitor spending had a \$30 billion impact on the entire US economy and supported 252,000 jobs nationwide. To download the full report, visit [www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM](http://www.nature.nps.gov/socialscience/products.cfm#MGM) and click on "Economic Benefits to Local Communities from National Park Visitation, 2011."



The Trenton Community Trail behind the Acadia Gateway Center is nearly complete, and students at the Hancock County Technical Center are building the kiosk for interpretive signs at the trailhead. The trail will be inaugurated on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup>.

## A Smart Way to Give

On January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013, Congress passed legislation to avert the so-called "fiscal cliff." The law includes several important provisions that will allow individuals to support the causes they believe in (like Friends of Acadia) using their Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

If you are 70½ or older, you can make a gift of up to \$100,000 to Friends of Acadia from your IRA to meet your annual distribution requirement. By making an IRA charitable rollover gift, you are able to avoid taxes on the IRA distribution while supporting Friends of Acadia's conservation mission.

To make an IRA Rollover Gift in 2013, first contact your IRA custodian. The IRS will treat the amount of the cash gift as if you had made a direct rollover to charity and you can then avoid federal tax on the amount of the gift.

For more information about how you can convert your taxable IRA distribution and potentially reduce your taxes, contact development director Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org).

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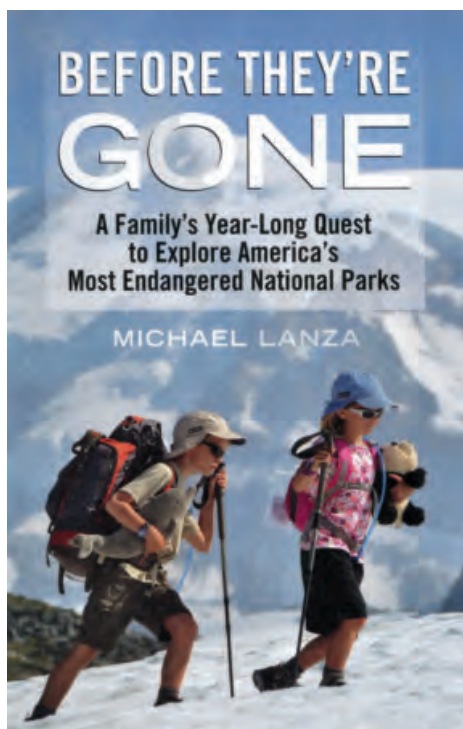
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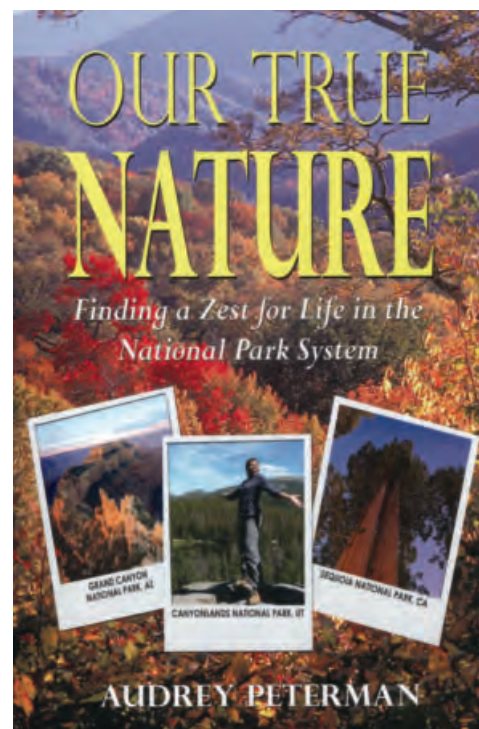


*Before They're Gone: A Family's Year-Long Quest to Explore America's Most Endangered National Parks*  
 by Michael Lanza  
 Beacon Press, 2012  
 224 pp., Hardbound and Softcover

### Before They're Gone

In parenthood there is an irresolvable tension between permanence and loss. On one hand, parents may hope—even expect—that their child will outlive them and thus (as far as the parent knows) live forever. On the other hand, parents may find themselves continually mourning the baby, the toddler, the adolescent, the teenager—the child they once knew so intimately but is now gone. Replaced, it's true, by another beloved version of the child at another wonderful stage of development, but nonetheless gone for good.

Natural places, however, “grow up” according to a different schedule, and the people who love a particular mountain or island or ecosystem may easily perceive it as eternal. But today the stewards of national parks and other natural places are facing



*Our True Nature: Finding a Zest for Life in the National Park System*  
 by Audrey Peterman  
 Earthwise Productions, 2012  
 242 pp., Softcover

the reality that global climate change is causing changes as significant and irreversible as the change from sweet toddler to graying, middle-aged adult.

This new reality motivates Michael Lanza's year-long project to visit ten national parks with his two young children, chronicled in *Before They're Gone: A Family's Year-Long Quest to Explore America's Most Endangered National Parks*. Throughout, Lanza's concern for his kids parallels his concern for the parks they explore. It's hard to tell which he's more worried about—he imagines the kids carried off by bears, swept into the sea, falling off a cliff—you name it. As a seasoned outdoor adventure writer, he emphasizes the thrill of the journey—even if it's a journey safe enough for a seven-year-old toting a stuffed panda.

Lanza tells a good tale, and it's entertaining to read.

Interspersed with the adventures are reflections on each park's grim ecological future and interviews with park scientists who have studied and watched the effects of global climate change. The threat is made tangible by focusing on specific places and resources in each park—waterfalls in Yosemite, Joshua trees, named glaciers in Glacier and Glacier Bay, wetland wildlife in the Everglades—that will disappear or be irrevocably changed in his children's lifetime. He is careful to note that these places will still be beautiful in 100 years' time, but there will be no returning to the place they once were.

I couldn't help feel that to call these ten parks the "most threatened" is to do a disservice to the peril all natural places face from climate change. These are places Michael Lanza personally cares very deeply about. But, does a Shenandoah park lover mourn its dead hemlocks any less than Lanza will mourn the Joshua trees when they're gone? Is Acadia's iconic coast any less threatened by inundation than the Olympic Peninsula?

---

**"...it's a journey safe enough for a seven-year-old toting a stuffed panda. Lanza tells a good tale, and it's entertaining to read."**

---

Last weekend, my winter-booted daughter waded a tidepool at extreme low tide at Wonderland and declared that she will return this summer to swim in it. That tidepool may be forever underwater by the time her children visit the spot, and that precious point of land may be dramatically changed by rising sea levels. Michael Lanza's book is a clarion call for all of us, to take the time to share precious natural places with the next generation—to celebrate both the places and the children before they're gone.

—Aimee Beal Church

## Our True Nature

Audrey Peterman is a force of nature. Anyone who meets her, reads her books, or receives her emails can't help but be swept up by her enthusiasm for life and her desire for all Americans to know and be inspired by our national parks. Peterman's new book, *Our True Nature: Finding a Zest for Life in the National Park System*, is a testament to her passion and a terrific resource for anyone hoping to plan a visit to a national park.

*Our True Nature* is divided into sections including a wonderful introduction providing context for the book, a chapter on preparing for your national park visit, chapters on 23 national parks organized by state, and concluding chapters that give Peterman's suggestions for favorite park visits and highlights of parks she'd like to visit next. She gives helpful hints for each park, including how to get there, where to stay, and what to do. She accompanies each park description with beautiful photographs highlighting park features.

The chapter on Acadia is slim and accurate. The most endearing aspects of her book, however, are the personal stories she peppers throughout her descriptions—everything from seeing a roadrunner followed by a coyote while traveling between parks in Arizona to encountering a Buddhist monk on the trail in Rocky Mountain National Park while discussing spirituality and the Dalai Lama with a friend. Peterman gives guidance that makes the reader feel excited about a possible visit, intrigued by the stories and experiences the park offers, and knowledgeable enough to be comfortable in forging ahead with plans.

Audrey Peterman describes her life in terms of "BP" and "AP": before she discovered the national parks and afterwards. I'm thankful for her "AP" life—for her joy in sharing how national parks affirm her existence and encourage her to live life to the fullest. *Our True Nature* is a wonderful guide for the novice and seasoned park visitor alike.

—Stephanie Clement

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## ACADIA FOREVER

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Preserving and protecting those things you hold dear—the integrity of Acadia's natural wonders, the park's unique opportunities to connect with nature, the loving care of Acadia's matchless trail and carriage road systems—is a wise investment. The easiest way to leave a lasting legacy for the benefit of Acadia National Park is to include Friends of Acadia in your will.

**It's simple. Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:**

- I give, devise, and bequeath \_\_\_\_\_ % of the remaining assets of my estate to Friends of Acadia, a Maine charitable corporation, for its charitable purposes...
- I give, devise, and bequeath the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to Friends of Acadia, a Maine charitable corporation, for its charitable purposes...
- I give, devise, and bequeath the following property to Friends of Acadia, a Maine charitable corporation, for its charitable purposes... [Description of property].

You are strongly urged to discuss your gift intentions with Friends of Acadia at an early stage in your planning. Please call us at 1-800-625-0321, or have your attorney or financial advisor call, if you have any questions or require additional information. Your gift, regardless of size, will be both welcome and important to Friends of Acadia. Thank you.

If you have already included Friends of Acadia in your estate plans, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development, at 800-625-0321 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org) to document your plans and be recognized as a member of the George B. Dorr Society.

## NOW, MORE THAN EVER

For more than a quarter century, Friends of Acadia has been a valuable partner to Acadia National Park in the ongoing effort to preserve and protect this special place. It is abundantly clear that now, more than ever, Friends of Acadia is important and relevant for our beloved park and the experience of visitors in Acadia.

It seems that we are in a historic time where concerns about national debt will lead to deep constraints to federal budgets including the funding available to Acadia National Park. At the same time, cultural and economic forces are making national parks an ever-more-popular destination. More is needed and less is provided.

Acadia has known budget shortfalls in the past—in the 1970s and 80s dollars were so tight that the historic trail and carriage road systems were significantly deteriorating for lack of maintenance. One of Friends of Acadia's earliest advocacy successes was in helping to convince federal powers to allocate funding to Acadia at a level that would allow it to care for those cultural treasures. We also helped extend those federal dollars by matching them with private philanthropy members like you. Those who remember the eroding trails and overgrown roads of that period do not wish to see Acadia National Park return there.

But now, more than ever, varied forces are at work that threaten Acadia's natural and cultural heritage. These include: global climate change bringing everything from invasive insects to destructive storms; air pollution limiting visibility and impacting native species; increased ambient light fading the brilliant night sky; and increased visitation including unprecedented surges



Friends of Acadia

from cruise ships. Each issue will require an individualized approach to fix it, mitigate its effects, or work around it, as appropriate.


One thing is certain. Friends of Acadia, with the support of our members, volunteers, donors and staff, will work with the park and our other partners

to assure that Acadia is well cared for. We will continue the successes of the past and invent and put in place the successes of the future. Need is the mother of invention, and now, more than ever, the need is great.

This is the time of year that we reach out to all our members and ask them—you!—to continue to be a part of Friends of Acadia's ongoing success for the coming year. Please renew your membership by giving as generously as you are able to ensure that now, more than ever, your membership dollars are used to preserve and protect Acadia for current and future generations. A recent survey of park friends' groups and similar partners revealed that the renewal rate of first-time members at FOA is 6 percent higher than the average for these organizations, and 17 percent higher than the national average for all nonprofit groups. Friends of Acadia's large and committed membership is an important source of our operating dollars and an important symbol to donors, foundations, businesses, legislators, and others of the great value we place on Acadia National Park. Thank you for being a part of Friends of Acadia's vital work to preserve and protect this magnificent place! 🌲

Edward L. Samek

—Ed Samek



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My labs who love the trails  
Steven O'Connell

"Our visit in August 2012"  
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October 1, 2012 – January 31, 2013

## In Memoriam

### TRISHIE SCULL



Trishie Scull at the Wild Gardens of Acadia

**Patricia "Trishie" Scull:**  
**A Friend for All Seasons**  
**July 25, 1918 – October 1, 2012**

In the early 1980s, the National Garden Club's Landscape Design Council held a Landscape Design School on MDI and recruited me to find gardens to study for the course. Knowing Patricia Scull's outstanding garden, both in design and plant materials, I asked her about opening her garden. She most graciously and enthusiastically said "yes" and similarly welcomed the students. This forged a lasting friendship for more than 30 years.

Trishie's gardening knowledge could only be respected and the results admired. Pink granite paths led one through garden rooms. Throughout the season roses, peonies, lilies, and native plants highlighted her flower garden, which complemented a lovely raspberry patch and healthy vegetable garden. Her garden was extraordinary—remarkable, in part, having a 200-year-old apple tree with a lower limb bowed to the soil, producing a second, connecting tree. She fondly called the old tree her "Hop-Along" apple. The coniferous woods area featured native mountain laurel and other rhododendrons, mosses, and granite steps down a slope leading to the

lawn and to sparkling *Somes Sound* beyond—what a perfectly pastoral scene.

Her love for the coniferous forest stretched from her home in Northeast Harbor to the Wild Gardens of Acadia at *Sieur de Monts*, where she served as habitat adviser for the coniferous woods habitat. Trishie spent 30 years volunteering at the Wild Gardens. She regularly brought friends and Garden Club of Mount Desert members to visit and to volunteer. Her roses, Kensington ivy, and propagated native plants were perennial favorites at the plant sales to benefit the Wild Gardens.

In the off season, Trishie propagated plants and often lectured locally about our native *Iris setosa* (Hooker's iris), *Mertensia maritima* (sea mertensia), and *Lobelia cardinalis* (cardinal flower). When complimented on her success with propagation and growing achievements, she modestly replied, "They just want to grow!" Through her donations to the plant sales and her generosity in sharing with friends, there is surely a touch of Trishie and her gardens in locations all across the Island.

She was always up for an adventure. One of my fondest memories of Trish was exploring the north woods of Maine by float plane, searching for plants. She didn't think twice of climbing into a float plane to find access roads to the coniferous forest below where the rare native orchid, *Calypso bulbosa*, flourishes. Landing at Haymock Lake, our hosts took us to the mossy coniferous area where we found the *Calypso*. Driving on the Golden Road, nearing dusk, we met with 25 or more moose from mile to mile who were licking the salt from the road and had no intention of letting a vehicle pass. It was indeed a memorable day!

Trish lives on with our many good memories of her friendship and graciousness, as well as her gardens and plants, which I look forward to visiting this spring in the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

—Becky Brush

# CARRIE WITT



Kim Wieler

Caption: Carrie and Tom Witt (here with Bill Wieler, left) knew where each trail and carriage road led, and were an immeasurable resource to Acadia newbies.

**Carolyn Sue "Carrie" Breen Witt**  
January 12, 1962 – December 23, 2012

I lost a dear friend, and Acadia a strong advocate, late last year when Carolyn Sue Breen Witt died at her home in Hamden, Connecticut after a courageous battle with breast cancer. Carrie and her late husband Tom both fell in love with Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park on their honeymoon in October 1995 and they subsequently returned every year, purchasing their Bar Harbor home in 2004.

They loved the outdoors and spent as much time as they could biking, hiking, and snowshoeing in and around the park or sitting quietly with a picnic lunch and a book at Otter Point. They shared their love, knowledge, and stories of Acadia with many family and friends. My husband, Bill, and I were introduced to Acadia by Tom and Carrie and we will forever be grateful for the hospitality and knowledge they shared.

Their favorite time of year was fall, taking walks around Echo Lake and Jordan Pond

or hiking to the top of Gorham Mountain. Carrie and Tom joined Friends of Acadia and started attending the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit. They made many special friends through the August event and their time spent in the park.

During the difficult time since Tom's passing in 2010 and battling the return of cancer, Carrie's love for Acadia never diminished. Carrie's only thought was to be well enough to spend as much time as she could in Acadia with her dog, Morgan. She found peace, strength, and endless courage in the quiet trails and majestic vistas of Acadia.

When she would start her return trip south to her work as the Executive Director of the New Haven County Bar Association and Foundation of the New Haven County Bar, she would cross the Trenton Bridge, already planning her next trip to Acadia. Carrie's final trip to Acadia was last October and she was within a week of her return to welcome the New Year when she passed away. Carrie will always be known for her community service, support of the arts, and her love of Acadia National Park.

—Kim Wieler



Kim Wieler

Carrie Witt at Hunters Beach

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## SEEING ACADIA FOR THE FIRST TIME—AGAIN

*Dolores Kong*

The first time my nieces Sharon and Michelle visited Acadia, we shared the wonder of Wonderland, the mystery of seagulls feeding, and the magic of fog lifting to reveal Sand Beach and the Beehive behind us. When my mother April made her initial trip—and my nieces their fourth—we picked wild Maine blueberries, took in the grand views of Cadillac, and crossed at low tide to Bar Island together.

By seeing the park through the eyes of new visitors, I myself experience it anew. The joy of sharing Acadia with first-timers is one reason I'm a Friend of Acadia, to help support and preserve the national park for generations of visitors to come and to spread the passion.

"Do you want to be in the Library of Congress?" That's how I invited Sharon and Michelle to visit Acadia for the first time, in March 2010. My husband, Dan, and I were asked to update our Acadia hiking books, and we thought it would be great to have our nieces help us walk the trails again. Then ages 15 and 12 and growing up in Brooklyn, NY, they probably didn't fully understand what the Library of Congress was, let alone Acadia.

But over the last three years, Sharon and Michelle have come to know Acadia. They've been challenged by the Beehive and South Bubble, and struck by the stars over Sand Beach. And they've learned to trust their instincts, as when they doubted a tourist's "sighting" on Ocean Path of a whale feeding (we walked over to Otter Cliff to verify that it was a rock ledge exposed by the tide), and when we did a little unintended bushwhacking on McFarland Hill.

Asked to choose her favorite park activities, Sharon, now 18 and finishing her freshman year in college, said, "I like everything." Michelle, who'll be turning 16 in July, agreed. "It's fun. I like how it's so pretty."

Last year, with the publication of the second edition of our hiking books—featuring contributions by my nieces!—we decided to do a "book tour" of sorts, introducing their grandmother (my Mom, April) and their father (my brother, Thomas) to Acadia. Among the sites Sharon and Michelle wanted to share in their first time showing someone around: Thunder Hole, Cadillac Mountain, Bass Harbor Head Light, the Bubbles, and Jordan Pond.

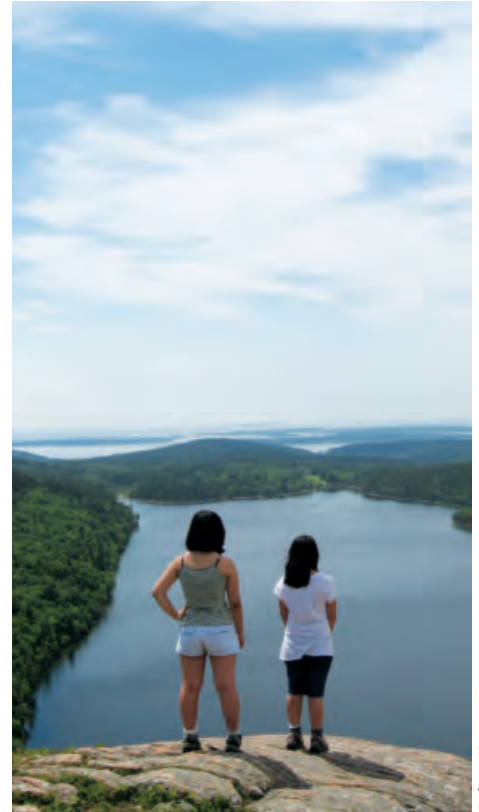
They took their grandmother on her first-ever low-tide walk, to Bar Island. April was astonished at the seas parting as if she were Moses. And we were amazed at how she found the perfect walking stick along the trail to the top of the island, making her trek an easy one at age 71. "Everything was new and interesting," said April. "And I like having family together."

We're already planning our next family trip this July. Perhaps we'll hike Flying Mountain, and visit the Wild Gardens of Acadia. Or maybe we'll watch the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks from the top of Cadillac and hope the fog won't roll in as it did for my nieces and me a couple of years ago. That would be a nice birthday present for Michelle, who'll be celebrating her sweet 16<sup>th</sup> that week.

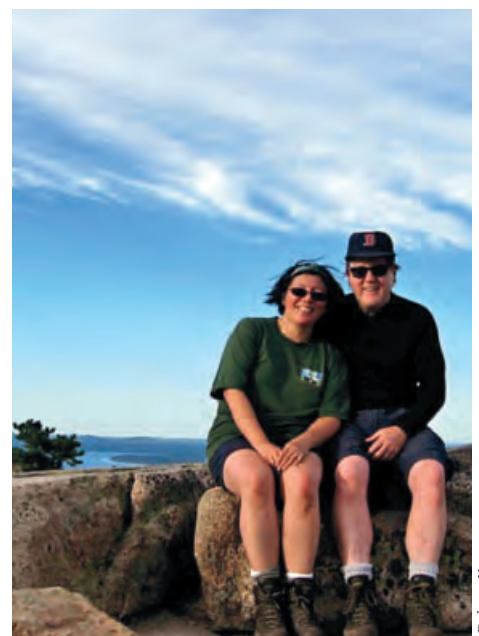
And we'll certainly walk Wonderland again. Sharon wants to bring her boyfriend Eric, a first-time visitor from Texas, to the edge of the Atlantic Ocean there.

With each shared experience with a new visitor, and with every repeat trip, we deepen the bond with family and friends—and with Acadia. 🌲

DOLORES KONG is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional and senior vice president at Winslow, Evans & Crocker, Inc., a member of FINRA / SIPC / NYSE Arca, in Boston. She and her husband Dan Ring are co-authors of *Hiking Acadia National Park* and *Best Easy Day Hikes, Acadia National Park*, available at [www.fourthousandfooter.com](http://www.fourthousandfooter.com).



*Sharon and Michelle appreciate the view from South Bubble.*



*Dolores Kong and Dan Ring atop Champlain Mountain.*

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The only US national park created entirely by private donations of land, Acadia today is protected and enriched by the members of Friends of Acadia. Our 3,574 members from all over the world help fund essential park projects and new initiatives.

From the cobblestone beaches to the spectacular night skies, and on every inch of the historic hiking trails and carriage roads—all of Friends of Acadia's accomplishments start with the dedication of members like you.

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*Bald eagle in an oak tree, overlooking Somes Sound.*

## 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.