

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

Summer 2013  
Volume 18 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

## PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

Whether driving, walking, bicycling, or riding the Island Explorer through the park, we all must pay the entrance fee. Eighty percent of all fees paid in the park stay in the park, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

The Acadia National Park \$20 weekly pass (\$10 in the off-season) and \$40 annual pass are available at the following locations:

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~ Acadia National Park Headquarters (Eagle Lake Road)

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~ Hulls Cove Visitor Center  
~ Thompson Island Information Center  
~ Bar Harbor Village Green Bus Center  
~ Sand Beach Entrance Station  
~ Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds  
~ Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops

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### — PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK —

Since 2002, L.L.Bean and Friends of Acadia have partnered to preserve and protect the park through scientific research, youth education programs and the Island Explorer bus system.

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## LESSONS FROM CADILLAC

As I swung my bike off the Park Loop and onto the Cadillac Summit Road, I entered a cool pocket of shade. The road narrowed here and the hemlock trees grew taller. The gurgle of a stream reached my ears from the dense woods on either side of the winding road. I inhaled the smell of the morning dew and clicked down a gear for the long climb ahead. It had been more than twenty years since I'd last ridden my bike to the top of Cadillac, and I was already regretting that fact within the first few minutes of my ascent. On this early May morning, I was enjoying sights, smells, and sounds that I'd completely missed during my countless other trips up by car.

Yet my celebration of the rare peace and quiet on this stretch of road was tempered by the realization that many people would not be able to enjoy Cadillac on this sparkling spring day, because of the delayed opening of the Summit Road to vehicles under the mandated federal budget cuts known as sequestration.

Cadillac Mountain is an Acadia icon, with the park's highest elevations, famous first light at sunrise, panoramic views, and spectacular sunsets—all widely enjoyed by the public thanks to the unparalleled accessibility provided by the motor road to the top. On the job here at Friends of Acadia, one of the questions that I have heard most often is: *What are you going to do about the situation on Cadillac?* Most often, the concerns behind this question involve crowding at the summit, challenges posed by tour buses that are too big for the narrow road, and the swelling number of cruise ship visitors. These questions helped inspire a series of meetings between FOA and park staff over the winter to help articulate a preferred vision for Cadillac's future and begin discussing some new approaches to balancing the growing numbers of visitors with appreciation for and protection of what makes the summit so special.

This spring, however, the questions about Cadillac abruptly shifted from over-use to not enough use, as the park was forced to delay opening some motor roads as one of several



Friends of Acadia

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**...if there was ever any doubt about the vital economic importance of Acadia to our surrounding communities, the ripple effects of the sequester should remind us of the need to care for and speak up for this park as the natural and financial treasure that it is.**

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strategies necessary to find nearly \$400,000 in budget cuts, as mandated by Congress under the sequester. This decision was unpopular among many visitors and residents, in particular local merchants trying to expand their business into the shoulder seasons of spring and fall. Now the question had become: *How are we going to get Cadillac open?*

The Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce did an admirable job promoting the car-free roads to bicyclists with "Bike Acadia Month"—and cyclists did come from all over the northeast. FOA and the Chamber also collaborated on a volunteer work party on Cadillac, which helped the park open the

summit to vehicles a week earlier than originally forecasted. But overall, far too many people concluded that without all motor roads open to cars, "Acadia was closed," and many businesses and visitors lost out as a result.

I wrestled with all of this as I wound my bike toward the summit on that May morning. The views had opened up, and a sea breeze was coming off the Atlantic—and I still had not seen another soul. The empty parking lot at the summit and the stunning vistas of Frenchman Bay illustrated the paradox. This had been my most enjoyable trip ever up Cadillac, and yet I wished that more people could have experienced it (although nearly 500 bicyclists and pedestrians were counted that day enjoying the car-free Park Loop Road).

I resolved to look for new ways that FOA, the business community, and the park could work together to help Cadillac open on time next year. At the same time, I concluded that we need to build public understanding of the many experiences beyond driving up Cadillac that make Acadia and MDI unique. In particular, we should explore better and safer opportunities for bicyclists on Acadia's motor roads; the rave reviews from Bike Acadia Month remind us of the many benefits of pedaling in our park. Finally, if there was ever any doubt about the vital economic importance of Acadia to our surrounding communities, the ripple effects of the sequester should remind us of the need to care for and speak up for this park as the natural and financial treasure that it is. With the involvement and support of our members and partners, Friends of Acadia will work to ensure that the lessons from Cadillac and the sequester will give us tools to meet the steep challenges that still lie ahead. 🍂

*David MacDonald*

—David R. MacDonald

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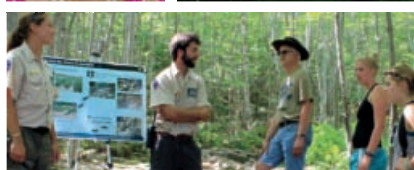
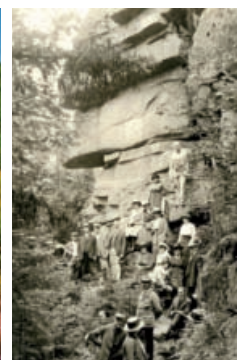
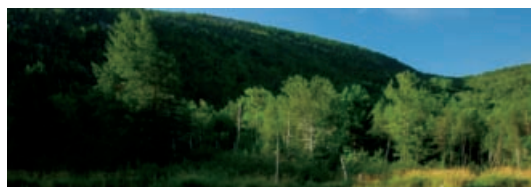
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# Friends of ACADIA Journal

Summer 2015  
Volume 18 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities



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## ACADIA'S PARK RANGERS: A VANISHING BREED?

“Welcome to Acadia National Park,” said the friendly ranger in the iconic flat hat. “How can I help you?” Whether at the Sand Beach entrance station or the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, park rangers are eager to help visitors enjoy their experience in Acadia—one of *their* national parks. Park rangers are there to help visitors discover new ways to explore Acadia, from sand sleuthing on Sand Beach to watching raptor migrations on Cadillac to becoming an amateur botanist, birder, or photographer at Sieur de Monts. Annual polls from the Roper Center for Public Opinion consistently demonstrate that the public respects and admires the uniformed park ranger and appreciates all they do to serve the public and protect our nation's heritage for future generations.

Contrast the above welcome with the following scenario: You drive into Acadia and pay the entrance fee by swiping your pre-paid pass or credit card, then stop at a kiosk with several computer terminals where you can input questions or obtain other information online. Your tour of the park is provided on a recording in your car or through an application on your smart phone. Instead of taking in a free, ranger-led hike or campfire program, you pay a fee for commercial activities outside the park.

Unfortunately, future visitors to Acadia will encounter fewer uniformed park rangers as they visit the park and there will be fewer ranger programs and other public services. As federal budgets continue to decline, we are left with only the hard choices. Should we reduce daily hours in all park facilities or shutter less-visited facilities? Should we stop providing ranger-led programs for schools or summer programming for kids? Should we charge a fee for all ranger-led programs and park publications? Should we stop hiring life guards for Sand Beach and Echo Lake or cut resource protection efforts? These are just a few examples of the difficult choices that lie ahead.

Sequestration is a permanent reduction in our annual operating budget with real con-



Peter Travers

sequences. This reduction comes *in addition* to previous losses in our buying power over the last few years. Acadia's operating budget has gone from \$8.4 million in FY10 down to just over \$7 million this year—a decline of \$1.4 million. And yet visitation continues to increase. Spring arrives earlier each year, and with it the visitor season to Acadia and the surrounding communities. Fortunately our staff and volunteers are still dedicated to making visits to Acadia enjoyable, meaningful, and safe.

For millions of park visitors each year, an important part of their experience has been exploring with park rangers. Something about our rangers' flat hats and welcoming smiles beckons kids big and small to join us in the outdoors. Take a hike to a mountaintop with us for that bird's-eye view. Join us for a boat cruise to remote Baker Island or through scenic Somes Sound en route to the historic Islesford Museum. Explore the intertidal life of Acadia's tidepools and ecology of Acadia's forests. Some seven thousand kids interact with park rangers each summer and become Junior Rangers—one of our most popular programs. Our rangers love to provide that personal touch and customized response to visitor questions and needs, to help people find meaning and

inspiration in Acadia—truly one of our national treasures.

I really worry about the second century of Acadia National Park—that visitors will come to Acadia and never see a “friendly park ranger.” I believe their visit will be less meaningful and less enjoyable. More than twenty years ago, forward-thinking leaders at Acadia and at Friends of Acadia saw the need to rehabilitate the severely deteriorated carriage roads in the park. Friends of Acadia raised money for an endowment that now provides annual funding for ongoing maintenance, and park management developed a comprehensive, long-term management plan. Instead of finding eroded carriage roads marred with potholes and safety hazards, thousands of bikers, runners, and walkers today enjoy a historic and beautifully maintained system of carriage roads and stone bridges. Following that success, ANP and FOA established a similar plan and endowment for trail maintenance and today the 130 miles of hiking trails are safe and enjoyable for the hundreds of thousands of hikers each year.

Today it is the meaningful, fun, and free ranger-led experience that is in danger of deteriorating or disappearing. Here at Acadia, we are looking at ways to ensure that the flat hat and all the youth programs and internships that it represents are protected for Acadia's second century in order to help engage the next generation of park stewards. The coming centennial celebration presents a great opportunity to support the hardworking and enthusiastic park rangers that inform, educate, and inspire visitors, guide people toward appropriate and safe activities, and otherwise help illuminate Acadia's natural and cultural wonders for you and your children and the coming generations. 🌲

*Sheridan Steele*

—Sheridan Steele



### Thanks, Volunteers!

On behalf of the City of Ellsworth, please accept and pass along a big Thank-You for the [Earth Day] Roadside Cleanup of Route 3, Myrick Street, and Beckwith Hill area by your volunteers. Your efforts truly help make Ellsworth a better place to live, work, and play and it is very much appreciated!

—Michelle Beal, City Manager  
Ellsworth, Maine

### Thumbs Up for Acadia Quest

I have to tell you my husband and I are not very active or we weren't very active. We have already completed two of the small trails or easy trails with the kids. Not a ton of people and it was perfect for them to run. This is a fantastic thing.

—Molly Baker  
Bar Harbor, ME



Pemetic Mountain in the fog.

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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.

The *Journal* is published three times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome. See <http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/> for guidelines.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

#### EDITOR

Aimee Beal Church

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Mahan Graphics

#### PHOTOGRAPHER AT LARGE

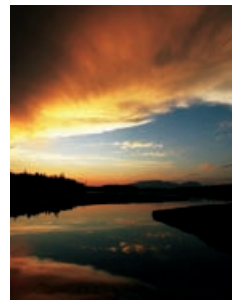
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#### PRINTING

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Bass Harbor Marsh, July sunset by Chris Kasprak



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## BARBARA MCLEOD: FROM BYLAWS TO POPOVERS

It takes many different people with many different skills to make a strong and effective organization. Friends of Acadia relies on a huge range of volunteers to do its essential work in and around Acadia, from a scouting troop raking the carriage roads in the rain to a board member checking the wording of an internal document for legal compliance. The former mostly requires enthusiasm; the latter needs both enthusiasm and some highly specialized skills.

For the past six years, Friends of Acadia has been extremely fortunate to have Barbara McLeod on the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, checking those documents and doing much more. Barbara moved to Bar Harbor from Washington, D.C. in 2006, when her husband, David Hales, was hired as president of the College of the Atlantic. A lawyer and a lifelong environmentalist, she had most recently been director of Environmental Protection Agency's Office of International Environmental Policy in Washington. Her long career with the EPA included work on such varied issues as enforceable environmental provisions in US trade agreements, protecting water quality in the Great Lakes, the patterns of mercury pollution in air and water, and fish consumption advisories to protect children and pregnant women from toxins. Clearly a great match for Friends of Acadia's mission, she joined the board in 2007 and quickly became a key member of the just-formed Governance/Nominating Committee.

Governance may sound less exciting than raking carriage roads, but it's an essential component of a highly functional nonprofit. Governance entails making policy and strategy decisions, overseeing and monitoring organizational performance, and ensuring overall accountability. In fact, governance is



Friends of Acadia

speaks, you know it's going to be something worth listening to. Her legal writing is clean and unambiguous. Those who have worked closely with her commend her intelligence, focus, and willingness to work toward group consensus. As Mike Siklosi, former committee chair for the Governance/Nominating Committee, reflected: "Why it's been such a pleasure to serve on this board is that people exhibit good leadership, good followership, and above all, civility. And Barbara exemplifies those things."

In July, Barbara rotated off the Friends of Acadia Board after completing two three-year terms, and her expertise, balanced outlook, and warm smile will be missed. Perhaps this summer she'll have a little more time to enjoy Acadia in her favorite way—on foot—especially up Beech Mountain when it's hot (to end with a swim) or the Cadillac South Ridge on cooler days. Other favorite trails are the Jesup Path and others around Sieur de Monts—"Living history!" she exclaims. "However," she'll unhesitatingly add, "any hike that ends with popovers at the Jordan Pond House is clearly the best." She has generously agreed to remain in the Friends of Acadia "family" as a resource for governance issues. Should the board have any questions about the Friends of Acadia bylaws or other documentation in coming months, they'll know where to look first. 🍌

—Aimee Beal Church

the central role of the board, and the Governance Committee's task is to develop and review the policies and documents that guide a board in governance. The bylaws are one such document. When Barbara joined the committee, she, together with fellow board member Emily Beck, undertook a deep and comprehensive review of the bylaws to ensure that they were consistent, appropriate, and (most importantly) in compliance with federal and state laws regulating nonprofit organizations. Emily noted what a pleasure she was to work with, remarking that "Barbara's formidable intelligence allowed the project to go quickly and smoothly; her humor and perspective made it—rather against the odds—fun!"

When Emily moved off the Governance Committee, Barbara became the board's go-to person for bylaws. Her work experience also made her a valuable voice in the strategic planning process and on the Natural Resources Protection Committee.

She is quiet but thoughtful—when she





Charlie Jacobi / Acadia National Park

**Where in Acadia?** This photo was taken within sight of a park road. What is it, and where is it? Email us with your guesses at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:editor@friendsofacadia.org), or use the *Journal* submissions form at [friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions](http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions). We'll print the best response along with another "Where in Acadia" photo in the next issue of the *Journal*.



### Spring 2013 Where in Acadia

A good number of readers were able to identify this engraved cross as located on Cadillac Mountain's North Ridge Trail; more than one had heard the myth that it was carved by Samuel de Champlain's exploration party in 1604. In fact, it has a much more recent origin. David Goodrich of Brooklyn, NY, sent a detailed history of the cross, explaining that it is "a surveyor's cross, measuring about 13

inches across. It is one of four similar crosses marking the corners of an 89-acre parcel of land known as the 'Mountain Lot' that included the summit of Cadillac Mountain, and perhaps more pertinent to its origin, once included the Mountain House hotel." The crosses were most likely carved around the time the property was conveyed to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, in 1908, perhaps obliterating previous, smaller marks, Goodrich explained:

In 1866 Daniel W. Brewer, who owned a large tract of land that included the southern half of Cadillac Mountain, built a buckboard road to the summit over a route created by the U.S. Coast Survey a decade before. He also opened a hotel at the summit. The history

of this hotel and its operators is well documented in Peter Dow Batchelder's book, *Steam to the Summit*. However, the operators of the hotel did not own the land. On August 18, 1868, Daniel W. Brewer carved out the "Mountain Lot" from his holdings and conveyed it to two of his brothers, Porter Brewer and Perry H. Brewer and their brother-in-law, Orient H. Carpenter. Porter Brewer moved away from Mount Desert Island and Daniel W. Brewer reacquired his interest. In 1883 the three owners leased the Mountain Lot to the Green Mountain Railway for a term of 20 years. In addition, they sold a strip of land for the railroad track 6 rods wide to the railway.

*Story continued on pg. 27*



## KATHRYN DAVIS: A REMARKABLE LEGACY

Friends of Acadia lost a dear friend and visionary supporter when Kathryn Wasserman Davis died peacefully at her home in Florida this past April. As tributes from around the world have poured in during recent weeks for her role as a global philanthropist, educational leader, and champion for peace, we have reflected here at Friends of Acadia on how fortunate we are to have had Mrs. Davis apply her unique blend of passion and generosity to this corner of the Maine coast, and the island and park she loved so well.

Mrs. Davis was absolutely dedicated to the protection of Acadia and was steadfast in defending the park against threats to its future. From the earliest days of Friends of Acadia in the mid-1980s up until her final stay here in Maine last summer, she followed our work closely and played an active role in many of our key initiatives.

Mrs. Davis always stepped in early to support bold projects, beginning with FOA's first major capital drive to help fund the restoration and long-term care of Acadia's carriage roads, and continuing through Acadia Trails Forever and our efforts around transportation, including the Island Explorer bus system and the Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton.

Her enthusiasm was contagious, and it cannot be overstated how many others she helped inspire through her leadership. She believed in being an active and visible member of Friends of Acadia, and was extremely loyal in showing her support by turning out for public meetings, receptions, and the Annual Benefit. Her support of the Benefit took many forms, including donating one of her own paintings (usually a landscape of MDI) each year. Of course, assigning an estimated value to these works was impossible—and we were never disappointed in the bidding that always ensued for these prized works!

What I admired most, however, about Mrs. Davis was her remarkable curiosity and hunger to learn more about Acadia, conservation



*Kathryn Davis at the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit. Her presence, as well as her artwork, was always a special part of that event.*

issues, and our organization's plans for the future. Whether a phone call or meeting or field trip, she had always done her homework in advance and would typically have a list of questions to review with me. I got the sense that her body and mind, as well as her heart and soul, were 100% engaged in Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park whenever she was here—an example we all might benefit from following in this day and age.

All of us at Friends of Acadia feel honored to be able to continue the remarkable legacy of Kathryn Davis, as her impact on our work will be felt for generations to come. 🌿

—David MacDonald



## New Members

*We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:*

Debby Adkins  
 Esther Akeley  
 Sharon and Edward Ashworth  
 Mr. and Mrs. Julius Atkins  
 Beard Family Charitable Trust  
 Carolyn Becker  
 Ashley and Jason Bernhard  
 Dorothy Blanchard  
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 Janet Rousseau  
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 Jeannine Gonyon and Dan Wester  
 Deanna Whitmore  
 Kim and Bill Wieler  
 Fred Woskoff  
 Jong H. Yang

February 1 – May 31, 2013



*Purple bladderwort (Utricularia purpurea) in bloom in Acadia.*

Tom Blagden



# A LOVELY PLACE TO WALK IN TRENTON

Terry Begley

Six years ago, a wide-ranging partnership was bringing pieces together for an off-island welcome center and transportation hub for Acadia National Park, MDI-area towns, and the Island Explorer bus system. In December 2007, Friends of Acadia purchased 369 acres at Crippens Creek in Trenton, and the next year sold 152 acres adjacent to Route 3 to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), for what is now known as the Acadia Gateway Center.

FOA kept the 217 acres of interior woods and wetland, wanting to make it available to the people of Trenton for trail-based recreation. In autumn 2009, Friends of Acadia invited residents to join a “Trenton Trail Committee” and a non-monetary grant from the National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provided a hands-on trails consultant, Burnham Martin, to help on all aspects of trail planning. With Martin’s guidance, the committee conducted public outreach activities, explored the property, discussed potential uses for it, and began mapping potential trail routes.

It soon became evident that the property had a *lot* of wetland. To minimize impacts and permitting requirements, the trail would need to be carefully routed and constructed to lie lightly on the land. In addition, the first portion of the trail, along with the access road and trailhead parking, would be on the land FOA had sold to the MDOT. This included a 54-acre wetland mitigation area intended to compensate for wetlands impacted during the Gateway Center’s construction. Restrictions on the mitigation area allow pedestrian-only trails but they must be designed to minimize wetland impacts. Using the deed restrictions as a guide, Friends of Acadia and the Trail Committee planned, designed, and mapped a looped, 1.8-mile footpath traversing the two conserved properties.

From the beginning, the trail’s purpose was to provide environmental education, contact

with nature, and outdoor exercise for area residents and visitors to the Acadia Gateway Center. By the late fall of 2011, the Trail Committee had a trail route in place: a lovely footpath through a variety of forest communities in different stages of forest succession, with a spur trail to a boardwalk and viewing platform overlooking a dwarf shrub bog. This boardwalk and viewing platform are an important part of the trail, providing access to an unusual natural feature while eliminating potential impacts (including barriers to natural water flow and trampling) on the delicate wetland. The trail also features a series of bog bridges and seven interpretive signs describing the geology, botany, wildlife, and history of the land the trail traverses.

Lester Kenway of Trail Services was hired to construct the structures on the trail route; however, the driving force from conception to completion was the hundreds of enthusiastic volunteers who put in thousands of hours on this trail in partnership with Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the Trenton Village Connector Trail Committee. Volunteers represented a diverse group: young and old, and from all walks of life and geographic locations. Volunteers handled administrative tasks and planning, developing the trail vision and gathering community support and interest. Then began work in the field, exploring the 369-acre property and mapping the best trail route—a sometimes a thankless task, as volunteers struggled through thick vegetation, temperature extremes, wet and muddy terrain, and occasional clouds of Maine blackflies. Finally, construction began. Volunteers cleared the footpath, limbed trees and cut brush, and hauled more than a thousand logs and boards used to construct the bog bridges, boardwalk, and viewing platform. Volunteers worked on both content and installation of the interpretive panels, with expert input from Downeast Bird and Nature Tours and design by Z Studio, as well as the directional signs and trailhead kiosk.



Friends of Acadia

*The Trenton Community Trail was inaugurated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and guided hike on June 1<sup>st</sup>, National Trails Day. Here, inauguration attendees walk the boardwalk out to the viewing platform.*

One hundred percent of the trail’s costs were paid by grants from Davis Conservation Fund, Friends of Acadia, Nature Valley, National Parks Conservation Association, and the Yawkey Foundation. In-kind donors provided a whole range of services, from images for the interpretive signs, to snacks and water for the volunteers, to delivery of the kiosk.

Since the trail’s inauguration in June, it has received high praise from area schools, community organizations, Trenton residents, and local hikers who appreciate the educational opportunities and the unique recreational experience the trail provides.

For more information about the Trenton Community Trail, visit [friendsofacadia.org/what-we-do/trails-and-carriage-roads/trenton-community-trail](http://friendsofacadia.org/what-we-do/trails-and-carriage-roads/trenton-community-trail). See page 28 of this *Journal* for a list of volunteer committee members and donors. 🐾

TERRY BEGLEY is the programs and events coordinator at Friends of Acadia.

## ACADIA AS THE EMBODIMENT OF A JAPANESE GARDEN

Cora L. Olgyay, ASLA

As a child, my parents brought me to the coast of Maine where I imprinted on the scents and sights of the sea, rocks, and forests. As a landscape architecture student, I became bewitched by the subtle stroll gardens of Japan, where movement reveals the richness, complexity, and essence of the landscape. At Acadia, I have found a landscape that intertwines these two passions.

### Similarities between Japanese Gardens and Acadia

Both Mount Desert Island and Japan are forested, mountainous islands. The abundant rainfall fosters lush vegetation, which pro-

vides a sharp contrast with stone outcroppings. These characteristics are just the beginning of the similarities between the two.

At the core of the Japanese garden is a profound reverence for nature. Its focus is on revealing and highlighting natural patterns and processes of the particular site, rather than imposing an external logic or order. The Japanese garden does not homogenize the landscape (unlike the lawns that characterize many modern gardens), but rather highlights what is most essential in the landscape's character. Idiosyncratic irregularities are celebrated: rock outcroppings, runnels to call out the pathway of water, little pockets of moisture that nurture moss, dry and shal-

low bedrock areas that support small ferns and shrubs, the little microclimates that foster a special plant community. The aged, the irregular, and the weathered are valued.

The Japanese garden is built upon an idealized nature: a simplification of essential forms. The mature forest is characterized as calm, quiet, dark, aged, mysterious, and reflective. It is expressed with upright, linear trees—lower limbs often removed to mimic an older forest and accentuate the reach for sunlight—with moss and ferns in the limited, dappled light below. In contrast, the open, sunlit landscape is accentuated with rounded, mounded forms and long views. The Japanese garden is managed to emphasize the



*This moss-covered footbridge provides continuity of materials to unify and simplify the landscape. At Saiho-ji Temple in Kyoto, Japan.*

Cora Olgyay



contrast between the shaded, quiet, and calm forest and the light, active, and open landscape. At Acadia, these planting systems exist because they are a direct reflection of the varied landscape, from closed moist forest to dry rocky coast. In this way, the Japanese garden recalls the landscape of Acadia because Acadia is the idealized natural form.

### Characteristics of a Japanese Stroll Garden

When I hike the trails of Acadia, I am reminded of Japanese stroll gardens. In a Japanese stroll garden, the path is carefully orchestrated to create a specific sequence of spatial and sensory experiences. The topography, planting, and pavements are designed to literally and figuratively direct the visitor's progression and elicit a response. Steep slopes and raised, irregular stepping-stones require concentration. Your eyes focus down, on the ground plane, on your next step, and on the intricate detail. In contrast, wider and more regular paths are easier to navigate. Your eyes rise to take in the larger landscape, a grander scale, broad patterns, and distant views. The stroll garden heightens these contrasts to emphasize patterns and strengthen the sensory experience. Trees and shrubs compress to enclose space and create a sense of intimacy; then the planting opens to an expansive view. Views are hidden, then revealed, and you are beckoned to explore. This contrast of "hide and reveal," dark versus light, intimate detail versus grand vista, and slow versus fast progression, reveal the landscape's character.

### The Path as Narrative:

#### Acadia's Wonderland Trail

Trails can tell a story, and the best of trails can reveal much more. This narrative can be one of discovery, views, geology, topography, ecology, emotion—and in Acadia, it is all of these. I have walked my favorite trails scores of times, and while I may anticipate the experience around the next corner, the adventure is always fresh. The sequence always surprises and delights me.

One of my favorite trails is Wonderland: a seemingly simple path, but rich in contrasts. The trail traverses various environments, each evoking different experiences and emotions. The hike starts through lowlands enclosed with dense thickets of vegetation. It feels intimate and dark. The path is irregular, with some wet and

some rocky areas, so you have look down to watch your footing. Damp depressions, tannin-stained wetlands, and rich pockets of moss and bunchberry reward the eyes. The path gently rises and opens up to a flat, rolling expanse of exposed bedrock. You have arrived at the high point. Vistas extend in 360 degrees, to reveal rolling shrubs and stunted trees. A vast yet intimate landscape is before you. The expansive views contrast with a complex mosaic of mosses and lichens on the ground, snipits of plants trying to grow in the shallow crevices in the rock, searching for tiny bits of moisture and soil to support their simple lifestyle. (Note that the park has just installed temporary barriers to protect this beautiful and fragile ecosystem.) The contrast of long open views and the detail of the ground plane is mesmerizing.

The trail leads south, the bedrock dips and disappears and the path narrows again. Shrubs push in, and the intermittent rock creates irregular steps. You have to look down to secure your footing. Again, your view is focused to the mosses, lady's slippers, and low bush blueberry. The gentle roar of breaking waves and the salty scent of sea air hint that you are arriving at the water's edge well before you can see it. Again, there is the play of "hide and reveal." You are enticed and are eager, yet your progress is slow. The final transition is a tight squeeze between dense thickets of aromatic and prickly *rugosa* rose.

The roses finally part and the defined path gives way to the ocean and massive granite ledges. It is a world of sharp contrasts: water and rock, soft and hard, fast and slow, fluid and stationary. Yet each of these shapes the other: the stone is sculpted and softened by the waves and tides, and the water's flow is directed and interrupted by the granite. This reminds me of the Japanese tradition of integrating nature and architecture, contrasting



Cora Olgay



www.hikenwengland.com

*Sequences and gateways create a sense of mystery and discovery, of views hidden and then revealed. Top: Sento Goshō (Imperial Garden, Kyoto, Japan). Bottom: The Valley Trail on Beech Mountain.*

the linear and curvilinear, hard and soft, natural and manmade, and thus heightening the experience of each. It is a very powerful and moving contrast.

### Beech Mountain Trail and Shugaku-in

At Beech Mountain, the hike to the overlook reminds me of the progression at Shugaku-in, an imperial garden outside Kyoto. At Shugaku-in, the path starts in the open terraced rice fields at the base of the mountains. The gently sloping path changes into a series of steep and rocky steps, sharply enclosed by tall hedges. You need to look down to watch your step, and cannot see beyond the tight shrubs. As you emerge at the top of the climb, the hedges turn and direct you, and the grand vista of the Villa's grounds is revealed, along with the rice field below and the distant urban pattern of Kyoto.

The sequence of a gentle introduction and steep enclosed climb with revealed views is repeated in many places in Acadia. The Beech





Cora Olgyay

Mountain sequence starts on a forested path, rising up gently to the east. The path is easy so that you can look up and enjoy the filtered views through the relatively open forest. The forest density increases, and the path becomes rockier. You literally have to squeeze through and scramble up steep rock outcroppings—and this requires your attention and concentration. When you emerge at the top, the trees part, the bedrock creates an open plaza, and the vista expands to reveal Echo Lake, Southwest Harbor, and the mouth of Somes Sound beyond. Again, the principles of “hide and reveal” and contrasting spaces heighten the richness of the landscape.

### Acadia as a Garden

The Japanese garden is complex. It looks simple, but it is not. It looks natural, but it is not. In walking the paths of the garden, you feel as if you were the first to discover this sequence of experiences, yet you are not. The Japanese garden is designed and carefully crafted to appear natural.

The trails at Acadia elicit similar responses. The landscape patterns and processes are natural, but revealed by very carefully placed paths and sequences. The rustic paths, meandering trails, and gracious carriage roads were attentively designed to reveal and highlight the rich environment of Acadia. The sensitive approach of Acadia’s many path and road builders is now continued by the National Park Service and Friends of Acadia. We are fortunate. 🌲



Tom Blagden

*A meandering streambed captures the essence and calm of the deep forest glade. Top: Shugaku-in Imperial Villa (Kyoto, Japan). Bottom: A mossy glade in Acadia.*

CORA OLGAYAY is a landscape architect on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design, where she teaches plants and design, landform grading, water management, and circulation systems. In her private practice, she works with non-profit organizations to create landscape plans that can be sustainably implemented over time. Cora is a seasonal resident of Southwest Harbor.



## PAYING OUR REGARDS TO THE EARTH

Alycia Wilson

**M**y name is Alycia Wilson and I am a student at Mount Desert Island High School, just finishing my sophomore year. I consider myself an outgoing young adult who strives to succeed. This spring, I seized the opportunity to participate in Friend of Acadia's Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. While this was a great way to earn some community service hours, I was astounded by the quantity of intolerable litter I found in my three hours of collecting stray bottles, bags, cigarettes, etc. by our very own Mardens, in Ellsworth, Maine.

Being the busy teenager I am, I was fortunate to sleep in a bit on Saturday morning and made my way to the Ellsworth Chamber of Commerce where I met Terry Begley, the Friends of Acadia Events Coordinator. She supplied my sister and me with orange traffic vests, a roll of trash bags, and a pair of gloves. My mother drove us to the starting point just past the last stoplight heading south on Route 3. It would be a productive three hours, to say the least.

As I picked up the first piece of trash, I couldn't help but think how good it felt to be doing something so beneficial, and how those passing by in cars would nod in appreciation and respect. Once I took a look into the woods, however, I soon realized the passing cars wouldn't be seeing me for a while. The puddles on the green lawn separating the road from the Mardens parking lot were crowded with plastic bags and fast food wrappers. Back in the woods just past the lawn was so much trash I cannot even begin to describe how chaotic it was. Dispersed throughout were numerous styrofoam coffee cups, soda cans, empty chip bags, liquor bottles, wrappers, boxes, and more. I literally had to take a stray stick to lure in the litter that had drifted in the swampy area of the woods.

I must admit that spending my three hours on a small stretch of lawn and woodland was not what I had envisioned and it was a bit upsetting. Starting off, I had the set the goal



Alycia Wilson (left) with her sister Karlianne, volunteering for the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup along Route 3 in Ellsworth.

of collecting garbage on each side of the road from Mardens to Pat's Pizza. Be that as it may, I specifically recall the moment in which I knew this would not be possible in the time frame. Such recognition went to prove to me how much of an issue discourtesy has become. Had we been a group of ten people for these three hours, clearing the area a satisfying amount would have been possible. However, I can't be upset about the twelve bagfuls my sister and I accumulated.

Performing a good deed to impact the society that provides me the privileges of my everyday life fills me with content. I have always been taught that when something is handed to you as a privilege, you must return it in better shape than it was when you received it. Unfortunately, it would appear the inhabitants of our Earth are doing just the opposite. However, it is an important ethic to have enthusiasm for the life you live. I know

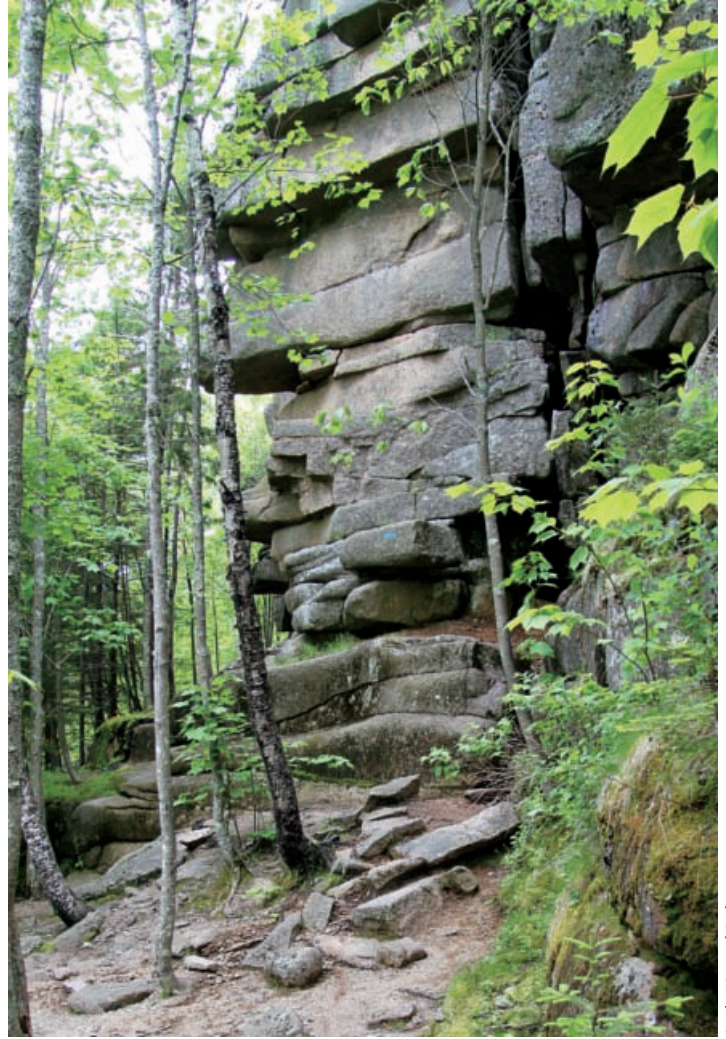
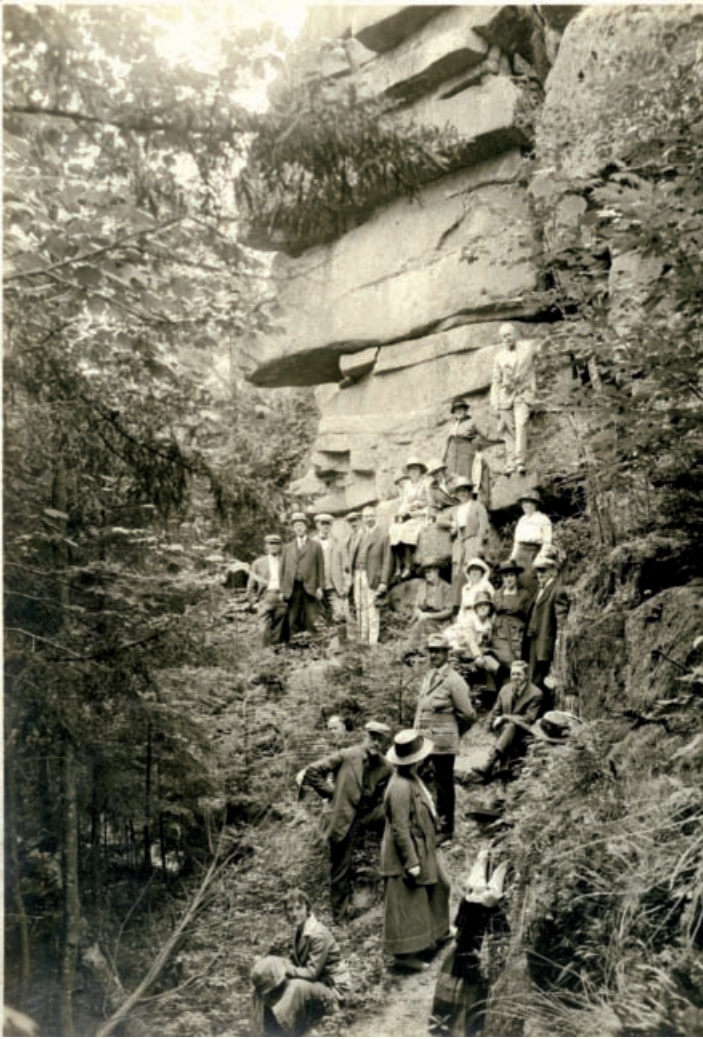
for certain we are not seizing the opportunity for an Earth we are proud of like we seize the opportunity to snatch a burger and get rid of the wrapper when it gets inconvenient. We as young people, and as a community, should take every opportunity that we can to pay our regards to the Earth that grants us our life. Let's change our mentality to steer our lives in the direction we choose to live. We act by choice, not chance. Each choice we make for the well being of our Earth has the potential to lead to a more exquisite world. 🌱

ALYCIA WILSON is a student at Mount Desert Island High School. She enjoys extracurricular activities such as cross country and softball, reading and writing, and most of all, hanging out with her family "because they are most definitely my rock. I cherish the laughs, the cries, and those memorable moments with them that last a lifetime."



## THE CASE FOR A “WILD ACADIA”

David Manski



Acadia National Park

Visitor impacts at Cadillac Cliffs on Gorham Mountain. Note the differences in extent of vegetation and bare soils. Left: circa 1920; right: 2013.

Acadia National Park encompasses one of America's most beautiful landscapes. Yet the condition of some of the park's natural and cultural resources is not the same as it was when Acadia was established in 1916. Although ecosystems are naturally dynamic and change over time, a century of development and recreation have degraded some of the park's natural communities and cultural landscapes. While we have been working to stop this degradation from continuing, much more work is needed to restore some of the features of Acadia that have suffered the most. To this end, we have begun planning of a dedicated effort to return to a

“Wild Acadia”; not the same as it was in 1916, but a more intact and more functional natural and cultural landscape, where people can come and be inspired for the next 100 years and beyond.

Here are four examples of important park habitats that are in critical need of restoration or rehabilitation:

**Streams:** The park's 200-plus miles of trails and roads cross many crossings and tributaries. Nearly 70% of these waters have poorly designed or poorly functioning culverts that restrict passage by fish and other aquatic organisms because they are too small or steep, cre-

ate impassable waterfalls, or otherwise obstruct movement. These culverts cut species off from habitats important for spawning, foraging, and avoiding predators. Many culverts in the park are also undersized and during heavy rains cause serious flooding and erosion. With climate change increasing the intensity of rain events in our area, we must replace problem culverts with ones that are larger and fish friendly.

**Forests and wetlands:** Exotic and invasive species are degrading the integrity of many natural communities in the park. For example, eight non-native plants (glossy buckthorn,



Japanese barberry, oriental bittersweet, bush honeysuckle, Canadian and bull thistles, purple loosestrife, and Japanese knotweed) are well established and are outcompeting and threatening our native flora. An invasive insect common on many parts of Mount Desert Island is the European red fire ant. Through competition and predation, this species reduces native insect biodiversity in the park and may be harming ground nesting birds and small mammals. Perhaps of most concern, many invasive forest insects are rapidly moving closer to Acadia each year, threatening to kill many of our native trees. The emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle have now invaded New Hampshire and Massachusetts, respectively. The hemlock wooly adelgid has been found on landscaping plants in a couple of locations on Mount Desert Island. If any of these invasive forest pests become established in Acadia, our magnificent forests could be devastated.

**Soils and Vegetation:** Fragile sub-alpine vegetation on Cadillac Mountain, an iconic destination in Acadia, is severely trampled and damaged from millions of human footsteps each year. As much as 16% of the summit vegetation and soil has been damaged. In 2008, we identified 335 different visitor-created trail segments on the summit, totaling nearly 1.5 miles. These social trails result in the loss of vegetation and soil from the summit. Other popular trails and destinations in the park show similar signs of trampling and overuse.

**Cultural Landscapes:** At Acadia, we have numerous iconic cultural landscapes, such as the carriage roads and Park Loop Road, which evoke the history of the park and local communities. Unfortunately, vegetation succession has deteriorated the appearance and integrity of several important historic landscapes. For example, the Carroll Homestead today looks nothing like the original farm where four generations of Carroll family lived, worked, and played from 1825 to 1917. The disappearance of the past agricultural landscape represents a loss of the area's cultural heritage. Similarly, the landscape features at Sieur de Monts have dramatically changed from George Dorr's original design. Baker Island and Dorr's Old Farm property are other examples of landscapes of cultural importance. While not, strictly speaking, an aspect of "Wild Acadia," the

restoration of cultural landscapes is an important part of restoring Acadia to historic conditions. In order to protect and celebrate Acadia's history, we must identify key landscape features and devise and implement management plans for each.

With the approach of the park's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, I believe it is time to focus attention on restoring the integrity and vitality of Acadia's disturbed natural habitats and cultural landscapes. With Friends of Acadia's assistance, we have already started to address some of our priority restoration needs: we are managing invasive plants, rehabilitating the historic cultural landscape on Baker Island, and replacing problem culverts. It will take much more effort and funding to finish this important

restoration and rehabilitation work, to repair the park's important natural and cultural landscapes for Acadia's second century.

This is both an opportunity and a responsibility for all of us who care for Acadia. We have the chance to ensure that future park visitors will be able to experience a more "Wild Acadia." A more Wild Acadia will not only better protect the park today, but enable the park to be resilient to the global changes that it will face in the future and inspire future generations of park visitors and local residents. 🌲

DAVID MANSKI is chief of resources at Acadia National Park.



*Culvert replacement on the Stanley Brook tributary off Wildwood Stables Road. Before restoration (top), the corrugated metal culvert is perched above the stream and poses a barrier to fish passage. After restoration (bottom), the concrete open-box culvert allows unimpeded fish movement and accommodates greater stormwater flow.*

Acadia National Park



# HIKING IN THE GREAT OUTDOORS WITH KIDS: AN ADVENTURE IN THE MAKING

Sylvie Piquet



*The descent offers a chance to savor your accomplishment and enjoy the views.*

If you're thinking of taking a hike with kids, here's some advice: never, ever, call it a hike. You are going on an adventure, exploration, or wilderness scavenger hunt! There are many ways to excite and get youth out on Acadia trails with some planning, preparation, and the right frame of mind.

Directing an outdoor education and recreation center, it is my job to connect youth with nature. Despite being an outdoorswoman, as a child I despised the proposition of a 'hike' because it usually meant a group of adults slowly walking along a path, jabbering away. If the adults had said, "let's embark on an exploration to track wildlife," that same trail—with those same slow-as-molasses adults—would have had me bounding outside and eagerly scouring the trails.

It's important to create a positive experience when adventuring into the natural world with youth—often their only time away from the ever-present digital screens. This break from electronic living offers an opportunity

for kids to be more aware of their thoughts, interact face-to-face with their family or peers, and (re)learn all that nature has to teach us.

Before embarking on the next trail outing with kids, consider the following tips for planning and preparing for your adventure!

## Planning

- Enthusiasm is contagious—get excited about the trip you are planning even if it's a hike you have done a dozen times. If you are looking for it, you will notice something new.
- If possible, plan a loop so you explore a different trail coming back.
- Set ground rules for your trip: always stay on marked trails; never get out of visual sight from your hiking partners; if you come to a fork in the trail, wait for the group; if confused or feel that you're lost, stop and wait—do not venture forward.
- Break out the map to introduce your kid(s) to the trail and other natural elements you may

encounter, and to plan an adventure activity!

- Adventure activities are a great way to offer a goal for the trip. Consider packing a picnic to eat at the summit, bringing a swim suit and a towel for a mid- or end-of-hike swim, or carry a fishing pole and tackle along if your trail will take you by a pond, lake, or stream. With a goal for the walk in the woods in mind, it will establish both a reason for the outing and a sense of accomplishment at the end of day.
- Involve kids in planning! There is no better way to engage youth in an activity than to give them a leadership role. What trail looks best on the map? What activity will this adventure include? What supplies do we need?

## Preparing

- Preparation is a great opportunity for kids to take an active role and teaches youth about important practices and essential equipment for exploring the outdoors.



- Always pack: extra water and snacks, clothing layers (temperatures can drop at the top of a mountain, on the ocean, or with changes in the weather), a first aid kit, and a cell phone (for emergencies only).
- Check the weather report. Planning with the weather—rather than against it—is a great ingredient for a successful adventure. If you know rain is in the forecast, choose a wooded trail for natural cover. If the sky will be clear, choose a trail with a view.
- Recommended trails in Acadia National Park for youth: Beech Cliffs, Beech Mountain, The Bubbles, Day Mountain, Flying Mountain, Great Head, Jordan Pond Nature Trail, Kebo Mountain, Ship Harbor Nature Trail, and Wonderland.

### On the Trail

- Turn off your electronic devices and commit to keeping them off.
- Assign everyone a role: the Navigator carries the map; the Trail Guide hikes in front, stops at every split in the trail, and calls water/snack breaks; the Caboose hikes in back and decides when a break ends and it is time to continue moving; you could add a time-keeper if your adventure is time-sensitive.
- Stop and listen to the sounds around you—can you hear the sound that is the farthest away? The closest?
- Tree ID game: Can you guess what this tree is named? Investigate the leaves, needles, and bark to find white pine, red pine, oak, maple, and more! Visit the Acadia National Park bookstore to find tree identification books and brochures.
- Color hunt game: It is amazing how many colors of the rainbow you can find along a trail—especially if you're looking for them. You can use props for this game, or not. Collect paint color swatches next time you are in a hardware store and bring them along to match to colors along the trail. Or simply keep tally of how many different colors you see. Colors can be found in anything natural: on trees, the forest floor, rocks...the sky is (literally) the limit!

Camp Beech Cliff (CBC), an outdoor education and recreation center located on MDI, propels hundreds of youth into the woods and waters of Acadia year-round. CBC

Outdoor Skills Counselor, Ryan, shares his thoughts on hiking with kids: "It's a good time to get away from screens and open their eyes to nature." His favorite thing about hiking with kids is "witnessing that spark ignite when a kid is first captivated by the natural world."

If you want one of the sweetest natural rewards, set your alarm clock, ready your headlamp, and time your adventure to reach the summit for the first burst of sun over the horizon. Recently a CBC alumni visited camp and was flooded with many wonderful memories. One stood out in particular:

"One of my counselors took five or six of us up Cadillac Mountain one Sunday morning to watch the sun rise. I think we were about twelve. We arrived in the dark and while we waited he gave us some advice. He said the secret to watching the sunrise is not to anticipate a particular moment, or to constantly search the horizon for the first ray of direct light, or be the first to shout 'There!' He said it was about being calm. About all the moments that lead up to that first kiss of sun. About taking in all the subtle shifts of color and light, of movement in the world around you, and letting their magic play in your heart and mind. He said it was about letting someone else shout 'there!' and hoping they hadn't missed the best parts. And he taught us it was about holding the whole experience close even as you went about the rest of your day."

In *Last Child in the Woods*, author Richard Louv cites a study from Stephen Kellert of Yale University about the long-term effects of wilderness-based education programs on youth. Kellert reports that "learning to cope in wilderness and outdoor settings can enhance emotional and affective development...including increased self-confidence, self-esteem, optimism, independence, and autonomy...fostering various interpersonal abilities including enhanced cooperation, tolerance, compassion, and friendship." Louv's extensive research reiterates this same message in many findings. Interaction with nature



This group from Camp Beech Cliff enjoys the views from the Beech Mountain fire tower—a fantastic (though only occasionally open) destination!

Camp Beech Cliff

has a profound positive effect on all people and plays an important role in the development of youth.

Engaging youth in the outdoors develops their interpersonal and intrapersonal skills, attention and observation, and strengthens their appreciation for the Earth and its resources. Connecting youth with nature turns passive bystanders into passionate naturalists. I invite you to identify one or many young people in your life and plan, prepare, and embark on an adventure. You won't regret it. You may even make a habit of it. ♣

SYLVIE PIQUET is the camp director at Camp Beech Cliff, the only ACA-accredited day camp in the region. She is a graduate from Bowdoin College, a registered Yoga Teacher, Mindful Life Training Coordinator, and especially enjoys working with campers during the flagship summer camp program to inspire wonder, excitement, and connection with each other and the natural world.

Camp Beech Cliff is an independent nonprofit located in Mount Desert whose mission is to enrich the lives of people of all ages through its summer camps and year-round outdoor education and recreation programs inspiring personal growth, connections among people, and an appreciation of the natural world. Camp Beech Cliff is a partner with Friends of Acadia on Family Fun Day and other youth-oriented programs. [www.campbeechcliff.org](http://www.campbeechcliff.org)

### Plan Ahead and Prepare

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- Schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Visit in small groups when possible. Consider splitting larger groups into smaller groups.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.
- Use a map and compass to eliminate the use of marking paint, rock cairns, or flagging.

### Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

- Durable surfaces include established trails and campsites, rock, gravel, dry grasses, or snow.
- Protect riparian areas by camping at least 200 feet from lakes and streams.
- Good campsites are found, not made. Altering a site is not necessary.

#### *In popular areas:*

- Concentrate use on existing trails and campsites.
- Walk single file in the middle of the trail, even when it is wet or muddy.
- Keep campsites small. Focus activity in areas where vegetation is absent.

#### *In pristine areas:*

- Disperse use to prevent the creation of campsites and trails.
- Avoid places where impacts are just beginning.

### Dispose of Waste Properly

- Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your camp site and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter.
- Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep, at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
- Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes and use small amounts of biodegradable soap. Scatter strained dishwater.

*Continued on next page*

## LEAVING NO TRACE IN YOUR FAVORITE PLACE

Charlie Jacobi



Friends of Acadia

*Don't do this! Two Ridge Runners spent a couple of hours demolishing 133 rock piles at Cadillac Mountain's Blue Hill Overlook. Before being moved by the person(s) who built the piles, many of these stones had been retaining pockets of fragile alpine soil that is likely to wash away without the stones' support.*

Do you remember the line from the movie *Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid*: "Who are those guys?" Those guys, of course, were mostly "the Law." But with them is a sharp-eyed Native American who effortlessly tracks Butch and the Kid over the flaming red, slickrock canyon country of the desert southwest. Frustrated, they cannot shake him. Butch repeatedly asks his partner the same fruitless question until they jump off that cliff into the raging river with an adrenaline-filled yell. How could they be so easily tracked?

They left a trace.

We too, leave a trace in Acadia and everywhere we go—and often, much more than a trace. We are sometimes culpable for a multitude of physical and social impacts on the environment and our fellow visitors.

Take only pictures, leave only footprints. That's a good start—but did we disturb wildlife to get that perfect picture or cause soil erosion with that footprint? Seven Leave No Trace principles (see box), based in research and tested in every environment and for all outdoor activities tell us how to avoid the avoidable impacts and minimize the inevitable ones if we have the skill and the will.

The skills can be "simple" skills, like following a trail. This is often easier said than done in Acadia, where the first rule of hiking should be to *pay attention* and look up for the blazes and cairns that mark the trails. Other skills can be acquired through repeated quizzes in the school of outdoor hard knocks, like reading the weather and understanding your own limits (test them, but not by too much). But skill without will is like Aunt Jemima pan-



cakes without her syrup, or, in today's vernacular, a smart phone without the smart apps. All the skills in the world won't do a darn bit of good for the great outdoors without the *will* to practice them.

Leave No Trace (LNT) is also a code of ethics, and ethics are a set of moral values, in our case directed at the stewardship of the gift of Acadia. Someone somewhere once said ethics is what you do when no one else is looking. Are you walking through that muddy spot in the center to avoid widening the trail? Are you wearing the proper footwear to do this? Is your dog on a leash? Are you digging a cathole to dispose of human waste properly (yep, now you really hope no one else is looking)? You have to dig inside yourself first before you dig that cathole.

I have heard people say the LNT principles are just plain common sense. But it's surprising how uncommonly they are applied. Every outing is different. Did it rain yesterday? Is this a more sensitive environment? Do I have everything I need? How many people are in my group? What's my destination on this hike (hint—it's probably your car)?

What principle deserves the most thought? Hands down, it's *Leave What You Find*. It's the most challenging principle by far. If I add a rock to this cairn won't it help other hikers? This flower is beautiful—it would look great in my hair. How cool would it be to take home that rock, that feather, that whatever. The essence of the Acadia experience and every great place is the sense of discovery. *Leave What You Find* asks us for restraint, so others can have a chance at the same dis-

coveries we made. I too, have some natural treasures collected from some near- and some far-flung geography, but it's from my pre-LNT days. I don't bring things home anymore, because we all have to share what's out there.

But please don't get the idea that Leave No Trace is all hands off. We need to have hands on at times, responsibly, especially with children. That's partly how all of us developed our own love for nature. If your kids are collecting, be sure to follow the guidelines established by each landowner, or think about taking a picture of it and leaving it for others to enjoy. (OK, even I bring *blueberries* home from the park...)

Any outdoor adventure might be described as a successive, perhaps sporadic, series of dilemmas, even if we don't know it. How we handle each one of them makes a difference. No one takes a perfect Leave No Trace hike—certainly not Charlie—or makes a perfect escape—just ask Butch and the Kid. But I aspire to that perfect LNT hike and I'm always thinking about it and trying to do better the next time, because Leave No Trace is all about our attitude and awareness. You can learn the principles and develop outdoor skills, but always cultivate that ethic, that *will* to practice them every time out. And when you are faced with your next Leave No Trace dilemma, here is the question you should ask yourself: "What would Charlie do?" Then go do it. 🐾

CHARLIE JACOBI is a natural resource specialist for visitor use management at Acadia National Park.

## Leave What You Find

- Preserve the past: examine, but do not touch cultural or historic structures and artifacts.
- Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
- Avoid introducing or transporting non-native species.
- Do not build structures, furniture, or dig trenches.

## Minimize Campfire Impacts

- Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use a lightweight stove for cooking and enjoy a candle lantern for light.
- Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires.
- Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand.
- Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely, then scatter cool ashes.

## Respect Wildlife

- Observe wildlife from a distance. Do not follow or approach them.
- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife damages their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.
- Protect wildlife and your food by storing rations and trash securely.
- Control pets at all times, or leave them at home.
- Avoid wildlife during sensitive times: mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

## Be Considerate of Other Visitors

- Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Be courteous. Yield to other users on the trail.
- Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock (such as horses or mules).
- Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.



Ridge Runners Larissa Lee (left) and Jared Garfield offer trailside education on LNT principles to hikers heading up the Beehive.

Friends of Acadia

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## Updates



The Island Explorer's "virtual traffic jam" now stretches 2,890 miles, from Acadia all the way to Texas! This represents how much auto traffic has been averted by the Island Explorer since its start in 1999.

### On the Way to Five Million!

Each year, Friends of Acadia estimates a virtual traffic jam that would be created by placing front-to-back all the cars and RVs that Island Explorer passengers chose not to drive. This annual figure is then added to a cumulative total (since 1999) to see how far the traffic jam stretches. In 2012 the Island Explorer carried 439,053 passengers. We estimated that another 342 miles would have been added, taking the traffic jam 2,890 miles from Acadia National Park south past Freeport, to Long Key Park in the Florida Keys, back up the west coast of Florida, past Yankeetown, then west through Apalachicola National Forest, on to Freeport, Florida, then along the Old Spanish Trail to Pensacola, through Mobile, Alabama, past Diamondhead, Hancock County, and New Orleans, Louisiana through Sorrento and past Baton Rouge and Beaumont. On still to Houston, San Antonio, past Wildwood and Comfort, to just beyond Junction, Texas!

The free and propane-powered bus service, now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year, is funded by the state and federal government as well as grants from L.L.Bean, Friends of Acadia, local towns, busi-

nesses, and passenger donations. The Island Explorer hopes to transport its five-millionth passenger in the fall of 2013. In order to reach that milestone, the service needs to transport 10,000 more passengers in 2013 than it did in 2012. So park your car and hop on!

### Evaluating Youth Programs

Friends of Acadia is undertaking a new effort this year to evaluate three of the organization's youth programs and investments. The Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) is a group of interns working with two leaders to brainstorm, implement, and evaluate technology projects designed to improve the Acadia visitor experience and connect younger generations to the park. Park rangers will be using two of the team's ideas this summer: 1) the Digital Media Interpretation Kit, a television screen hooked up by adapter to a spotting scope to show the peregrine falcon chicks more easily to visitors, and 2) the mobile iPad lab, a group of iPads outfitted with specific applications that enhance ranger-led birding and botany tours. This summer, the team will



work with the AYTIT evaluation fellow, Sara Greller, a recent graduate of Antioch University New England with a Masters of Science in Environmental Studies, to observe visitor and ranger behaviors and record comments (with proper warning to the visitors) at the Peregrine Watch and on selected ranger programs. The goal is to determine whether the technologies are enhancing or detracting from the visitor experience.

Friends of Acadia will also be evaluating Family Fun Day, a summer event intended to introduce families and young people to activities that they can enjoy in Acadia National Park. From rock climbing to riding horses, young people are exposed to outdoor adventures as well as fun educational opportunities about park resources. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> year of Family Fun Day, presenting Friends of Acadia with rich opportunities to survey current and past participants about whether the day influenced their future activities in the park and/or encouraged greater connections to environmental stewardship.

Similarly, FOA will undertake an evaluation of Acadia Quest, the "experiential scavenger hunt" designed to encourage multi-generational teams to explore, learn about, and protect Acadia National Park through a series of self-directed outdoor activities in the park. This year, the program is focused on

hiking. Team participants must document their hikes on twelve trails in at least four trail categories (community/connector trails, trails by lakes and ponds, moderate summits, difficult summits, oceanside trails, and trails at Schoodic or Isle au Haut). Friends of Acadia will analyze participation statistics and will survey participants to determine their motivation for participating and whether the Quest fostered greater connections to Acadia.

Through evaluation, Friends of Acadia will be better able to gauge the effectiveness of its youth investments, change programs as needed, and work with the park successfully to engage the next generation of park stewards.

### APPL Presentations

Friends of Acadia staff members Lisa Horsch Clark and Stephanie Clement and Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) intern Audyn Curless were invited to give presentations at the 2012 Association of Partners for Public Lands (APPL) conference this spring in Portland, Oregon. The APPL conference brings together partner organizations and agency representatives for the U.S. Forest Service, the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and other state and federal land management agencies.



The Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers held their annual plant sale on Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup> at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church in Bar Harbor. Twelve organizations and commercial nurseries donated plants for the sale, as well as several estates and many Wild Gardens friends and volunteers. The sale brought in more than \$3,334, which will help pay for maintenance of the garden and educational brochures. Thank you to all the donors and volunteers who helped to make the sale a successful event.



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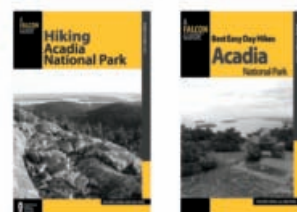
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Lisa participated in a panel discussion regarding accountability to donors and teamed up with staff from the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy to deliver a session on "Comprehensive Fundraising: The Bridges between Membership, Events, and Major and Estate Gifts." Stephanie and Audyn joined forces to share the AYT model. Their presentation, "Youth-Powered Think-Tanks: Exploring Innovative Technology Uses," featured the AYT's projects and the evaluation process to determine their effectiveness in improving the visitor experience and ranger program delivery. Most importantly, however, Stephanie and Audyn included recommendations on how to adapt the AYT model for other public lands across the country. Acadia National Park Ranger Ardrianna McLane was scheduled to present the park's perspective, but could not attend due to budget cuts associated with the federal sequester. All presentations were warmly received.

### Acadia Park Pass Art Competition Winner



Left to right: Acadia National Park ranger Ryan McKelvey, Dawson Burnett, Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald.

Dawson Burnett, a student at Mount Desert Elementary School, was the winner of the 2013 Acadia National Park Pass Competition. Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald and Acadia National Park Ranger Ryan McKelvey announced the award at the MDES Awards Assembly on Wednesday, April 3, and presented a check for \$50 and a park-themed gift bag to Mr. Burnett. His artwork will appear on the ANP annual pass window decals for

the coming year (see inside front cover).

Every year, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia co-sponsor the competition, selecting a winner from among hundreds of designs by local elementary school students to be featured on the annual park pass. The \$40 annual pass is good for one year from its month of purchase. Eighty percent of the fees collected through park pass sales stay in Acadia, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

### New Web Presence for Friends of Acadia

Friends of Acadia launched a new website in May, at <http://friendsofacadia.org>, and we couldn't be more pleased! Site features include:

- An improved online donation platform
- The *Cobblestones* blog, with news, insights, and stories from FOA staff and volunteers
- Information on Friends of Acadia events, volunteer schedules, ski grooming conditions, and more
- Resources for planning a park-friendly visit to Acadia
- "My Acadia," a slideshow for members and park visitors to share their photos of Acadia National Park
- Tools to help Friends of Acadia supporters interact with us, including a volunteer information request form, Journal submission forms and information, businesses sponsorship information and spec sheets, and more
- Online event registration
- Photographs of Acadia in all seasons.

The new website offers something for everyone with an interest in Acadia, from the first-time visitor to the dedicated Friends of Acadia member or volunteer. FOA staff worked with Integra Strategic Technologies Consulting, a web firm based in Portland, Maine, to design and develop the site.







Jake Simmons

*"Team Simmons" proves that Acadia Quest is appropriate for all ages as they set out on their "Challenge" hike along the Kane Path. In fulfilling the challenge requirements, the team noted wild Maine blueberries, a yellow water lily, and a frog all living at the water's edge*

## Acadia Trail Quest a Hit

More than 150 teams have already registered for the all-new 2013 Acadia Quest, which challenges kids and their families to "Explore, Protect, and Learn" with a focus on Acadia's trails. The new Quest format sends participants out to walk, hike, and scramble along local community trails, village connectors, and the park's pond, ocean, and summits trails. Teams take photos or trail sign rubbings to document their adventures, and "Challenge" activities add an intellectual or other twist.

Teams are invited to post photos to the Friends of Acadia Facebook page, at [www.facebook.com/friendsofacadia](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofacadia). By all appearances, some great hikes are being had and wonderful connections to Acadia being made along the way. The Quest runs through early November, so there's plenty of time to join the fun! Visit the Friends of Acadia website at <http://friendsofacadia.org> for details and online registration.

## Volunteers Needed for Community-Based Invasive Plant Management

In celebration of National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park invite community volunteers to help manage invasive plants on the Great Meadow Loop or the

Schooner Head Path in Bar Harbor. With the support of Nature Valley and the National Park Conservation Association, Friends of Acadia has hired a volunteer liaison to work with volunteers in the communities surrounding Acadia to manage and raise awareness about invasive species and their threat to the natural ecology of this area. The volunteer liaison is working in the field throughout the summer and planning community outreach events focused on education and volunteerism. To register, or for more information, please contact Terry Begley at [terry@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:terry@friendsofacadia.org).

## Acadia Night Skies Festival

The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Acadia Night Skies Festival will be held September 26–30, in and around Acadia National Park. Events are still being planned, but highlights include a "Bioluminescent Night Paddle," night sky photography workshops, star parties at several Acadia locations, and the ever-popular "Picnic with the Planets" on the Bar Harbor Village Green.

Last year, more than 3,600 people participated in the Festival. Friends of Acadia has been a co-sponsor of this event since its inception, working with the planning committee and helping to staff some events. For event descriptions and other information, visit [www.acadianightskyfestival.com](http://www.acadianightskyfestival.com).



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

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





Friends of Acadia

Friends of Acadia Field Crew Leader Ben Dunphey

## A Score of Seasonal Staff

Friends of Acadia has hired a record number of seasonal staff for the 2013, some returning and some new. Together, they bring an impressive range of abilities and experiences for the benefit of Acadia National Park.

Ben Dunphey is the new field crew leader. Ben is a 2012 graduate of SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry. He has experience working with the Student Conservation Association (SCA) and the US Forest Service, working on trails, leading groups, and working with youth. He joins field crew leader Anna Adams in coordinating and leading the Stewardship Volunteer Program on the trails and carriage roads of Acadia.

Jeanne Kannegieser is the summer events coordinator in the FOA office. She has worked in a variety of natural resource-based organizations including the Arnold Arboretum, International Paper, and the Maine Department of Conservation. Jeanne's experience with database management will help the Development team keep track of the many events FOA will host this summer.

Chris Kasprak is the seasonal communications assistant, based in the FOA office but spending a lot of time out in the field. A 2012 graduate of Colby College, he has held internships at the Pittsburgh Post-Gazette's photo and multimedia departments, and worked as the Okemo Mountain Resort snow reporter. Chris is producing videos for the Friends of Acadia website to highlight different FOA events and programs. He also manages social media and the new FOA blog, *Cobblestones*.

Hilary Krieger, a graduating senior from

Colorado State University, will work with park staff as the Environmental Compliance/Recreation Management Intern. She will help the park's trail and carriage road programs with environmental compliance documentation and will assist resource management with tracking visitor usage at Anemone Cave and monitoring vehicle numbers at the Hulls Cove visitor center during the busiest season. This is a one-year position.

Other seasonal employees are Ari Gillar-Leinwohl, the new Exotic Plant Management Team Volunteer Liaison; Geneva Langley, veteran Wild Gardens of Acadia head gardener and Noah Sawyer, the Wild Gardens intern; returning Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) leader Kevin Tabb, the new AYTT evaluation fellow Sara Greller, and the team's six interns, David Anderson, Audyn Curless, Sophia Krevans, Liam Torrey, Tyler Wood, and Nicholas Wray; four Ridge Runners, Kristin Dillon, Jared Garfield, Allison Kuzar, and Moira O'Neill; and Recreation Technician Abby Seymour.

In addition, Friends of Acadia supports the hiring of more than 130 seasonal employees serving Acadia, including the teens of the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Island Explorer bus drivers, park trails and carriage roads maintenance workers, and many others.

## Mike Siklosi Honored at Annual Meeting

More than 225 members, volunteers, and supporters of Friends of Acadia gathered in the Bar Harbor Club's ballroom on July 11th for the Annual Meeting. Remarks by FOA board chair Ed Samek, Acadia National Park superintendent Sheridan Steele, FOA conservation



Friends of Acadia

Mike Siklosi (left) accepts the Marianne Edwards Award from FOA president David MacDonald at the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting.

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-Frank Lloyd Wright



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director Stephanie Clement, and FOA president David MacDonald all celebrated the many accomplishments of 2012, while emphasizing the need to look ahead and find creative and big-picture solutions to new challenges arising for Acadia as the park nears its 2016 centennial.

A highlight of the event was the presentation of the Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award, Friends of Acadia's highest honor, to outgoing Friends of Acadia Board of Directors member Mike Siklosi. While making the presentation, David MacDonald noted Siklosi's mission-focused sensibility, his appreciation for governance issues, and his "generous concern for the people and relationships that are the heart of this organization's culture and tradition of success." Siklosi had served on the board for nine years, during that time chairing the Governance/Nominating Committee. The Marianne Edwards Award is named for the organization's late founder.

Other awards given at the meeting were the Conservation Colleague Award to the Trenton Marketplace IGA and owner Kim Murphy for longtime support of Friends of Acadia activities in Trenton including the Island Explorer, the Trenton Community Trail, and the Earth

Day Roadside Cleanup; the Distinguished Public Service Award to David Manski, ANP Chief of Resource Management, for more than two decades of dedicated partnership with Friends of Acadia for the benefit of Acadia's natural and cultural resources; and the Community Conservation Award to photographer Howie Motenko for his inspired community art project, "Painting Bridges."

## Ridge Runners and Rec Tech Study Trail Use on Sargent Mountain

Acadia's bald granite summits, offering expansive views in all directions, are one of the many things that visitors appreciate about Acadia. Unfortunately, visitors often wander off the trails to pick blueberries or seek out a better view or quieter lunch location. Frequently this results in trampling of alpine vegetation and the creation of social trails. Friends of Acadia and the park have partnered for sixteen years on the Ridge Runner program, intended to educate visitors about ways to enjoy the park without harming summit vegetation.

This year, the Ridge Runners and Recreation Technician are assisting the University of Vermont and Utah State University on a special study at Sargent Mountain. The goal of the study is to understand visitor use patterns at the summit under three study scenarios: 1) contact from a Ridge Runner encouraging visitors to practice Leave No Trace principles, which recommends staying on the trail or hiking on durable surfaces; 2) signage encouraging Leave No Trace practices; or 3) no signage or contacts (the control). Visitor use patterns are tracked using Global Positioning System (GPS) units that are handed out and collected on the trails pre- and post-summitting. Researchers will determine which, if any, methods of education produced statistically significant differences in visitor behavior. Data collection will be complete by August.

The second portion of the study is to inventory the ecological conditions using photos of a defined summit area of Sargent. Together with information on visitor travel patterns, the park will be able to determine the best ways to encourage hiking that does not harm summit vegetation. Pending the outcomes of the study, the park may be able to apply this research methodology and/or knowledge gained to other summits in the park.



After the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting, attendees enjoyed a convivial reception outside on the Bar Harbor Club patio.

Friends of Acadia



The railroad only operated from 1883 through 1890 and was liquidated in 1893.

On October 26, 1908, the then owners, Perry H. Brewer, the estate of Daniel W. Brewer, and Marian H. McFarland, a sister of the Brewers who apparently acquired the interest of Orient H. Carpenter after his death in 1898, conveyed the Mountain Lot to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, subject to the rights, if any, of the Green Mountain Railway in the strip 6 rods wide. The money used to purchase the Mountain Lot was a gift from John Stewart Kennedy. This was the fourth property obtained by the Trustees, after the Beehive and Bowl, the Champlain Monument, and the summit of Barr Hill. The holdings of the Trustees of course ultimately became Acadia National Park.

The four crosses most likely were chiseled into the rock by a surveyor in connection with the conveyance to the Trustees, as earlier documents do not mention them. Crosses such as these were frequently used by surveyors and there are reputedly others in the Park. Interestingly, the 1868 deed states that the letter "B" was marked on the rock at three of the corners. I have not seen these and believe they were obliterated by the crosses. But there is a stone post boundary marker further down the north ridge with the letter "B" carved on each side.

ANP volunteer coordinator Jonathan Gormley added a personal encounter:

Back in 2007, when discussing the engraved rocks in the park, Mike Blaney [ANP land resource specialist] and Charlie Jacobi [ANP natural resource specialist] both mentioned an engraved cross on Cadillac. In late October of that year, while planning a weekend hike, I asked Mike for directions. "Down below the paved path," he said. I also asked Charlie. "Just off the North Ridge Trail." Hmmmm. Could there be two? We decided to look for Mike's first. We eventually found the cross overlooking Dorr Mountain. The cross was surrounded by bear berry and would have been covered had someone not kept the plant trimmed. We also noticed a nearby footprint in some mud. It had rained heavily the day before so the footprint was less than 24 hours old.

We were well off-trail, on a precipitous slope, during a quiet time of year and yet someone had been here recently. And someone came here regularly. This was not a secret spot.

The search for cross number two was easier, As Charlie said: just off the North Ridge Trail. And like the first cross it had an iron rod or bolt driven into the rock nearby so it was easy to spot from a reasonable distance. So now there were two.

---

**We were well off-trail, on a precipitous slope, during a quiet time of year and yet someone had been here recently. And someone came here regularly. This was not a secret spot.**

---

But Mike Blaney knew differently. He said that Albert Cunningham [a former Bar Harbor Bank & Trust president and a trustee of the Bar Harbor Historical Society] told him the crosses were boundary markers dating from the 1880s and that there were more. Eventually a letter surfaced that referenced the deed describing the property. There were four on Cadillac. Using the measurements provided by the hundred-year-old deed, allowing for some shifting of magnetic north and using a "fuzzy factor," Karen Anderson (the park's GIS specialist) produced a map showing the likely locations for the next two crosses. The next summer, I located cross number three off the South Ridge Trail and Charlie Jacobi found number four in a dense stand of cedars in October. All four crosses, and their iron sentinels, have now been photographed, GPSed and added to the park's database of its resources.

The story does not end here. According to the deed there are two more crosses: one on Kebo Mountain (probably east of the trail near the north summit) and one on Dorr ("on the crest of the southern ridge"). They have yet to be found. Who will find these last two and get GPS coordinates for the park? 🐾

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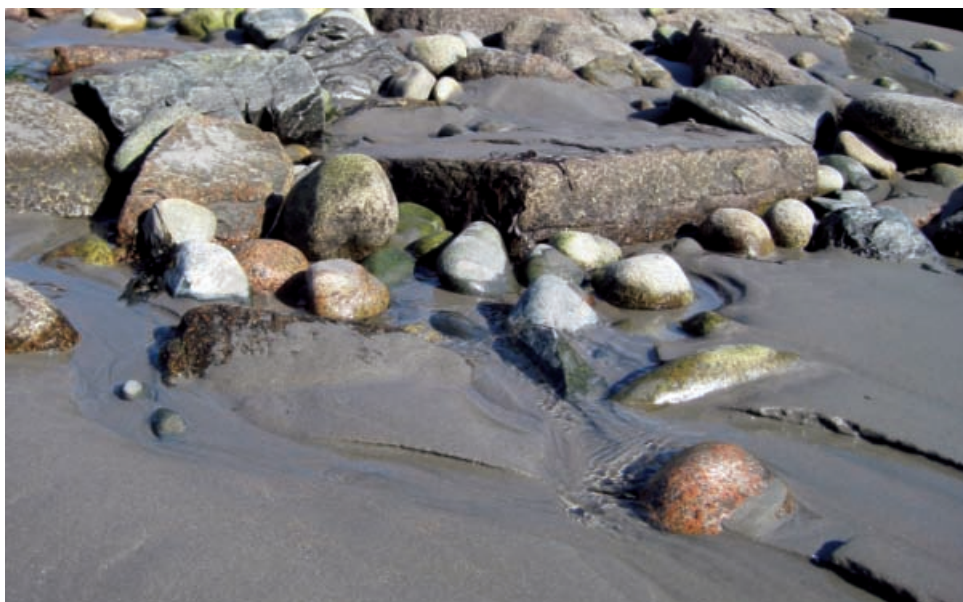
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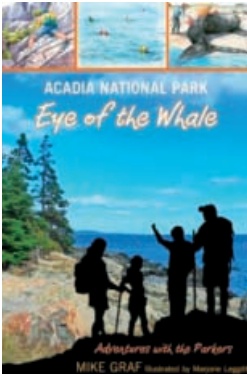
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Rocks and sand patterns on Bracy Cove Beach



## Book Review



*Acadia National Park: Eye of the Whale*  
by Mike Graf  
FalconGuides, 2013  
96 pages Softcover

*Acadia National Park: Eye of the Whale* by Mike Graf is an exciting, informative, and engaging book about a family visiting Acadia National Park from California and the many adventures they encounter. Throughout the book you follow the Parkers (the family vacationing in the park) through Acadia. They hike their way from the Beehive Trail to the

Jordan Cliff Trail, all the way to the Precipice. They see everything from sightseeing on the *Sea Princess* to the beautiful land and views on Isle au Haut. Following the Parkers through their adventure you not only learn about everything you can do in the park but you learn about the rich cultural and natural history. Some of the vocabulary could be challenging for a younger reader. I'd recommend the book for ages eleven and up and I'd strongly recommend it for a family read. The book is a great story of all the activities and experiences one can have in the park. 🐻

EMILY SOSA is a sophomore at the University of Tampa, Florida, and currently working with the Student Conservation Association in Acadia National Park. She lives in Trenton.

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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.




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February 1 – May 31, 2013

## Advocacy Corner

### EXAMINING PARK FUNDING FROM ALL ANGLES

**F**riends of Acadia's Advocacy Committee has been active in two areas this spring. In March, FOA president David MacDonald attended a summit in Washington, D.C., organized by the National Parks Conservation Association, National Parks Hospitality Association, and the Bipartisan Policy Center. The summit focused on sustainable supplementary funding ideas for national parks. Speakers included former and current members of Congress, former Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture, and leaders of the conservation and recreation community. Funding ideas discussed included raising and earmarking a penny of the gas tax to fund public land management agency roads, transit systems, and maintenance; surcharges on commemorative coins and stamps to fund park resource protection and projects to enhance public enjoyment; guest donation efforts in gate-

way communities; use of a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps, similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps; investment in alternative energy to reduce costs and/or generate revenues; and many more. Members of the FOA Advocacy Committee analyzed the funding ideas for applicability to Acadia and will provide suggestions to the national level about the most promising ideas.

The Advocacy Committee has also been working in conjunction with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, Acadia National Park, and local businesses to address impacts of the federal sequester on the park. The group held several meetings in the spring and are looking at partnerships to raise additional funding for the park, as well as grassroots advocacy work to encourage additional Congressional funding for national parks. 🐻

—Stephanie Clement

### Friends of Acadia Fall 2013 Calendar of Events

September 7	Clean Water, Clean Shores
September 26–30	5 <sup>th</sup> Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival
September 28	Community-Based Invasive Plant Management Event
November 2	Take Pride in Acadia Day
Ongoing through November 2	Acadia Trail Quest

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.



## 100 YEARS, 100 NEEDS, 100 WAYS...

A milestone birthday deserves a grand celebration, and a grand celebration takes advance planning. So it won't be a surprise when I tell you that Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are teaming up to "do it right" for the park's centennial in 2016, and we've been thinking a great deal about what it means for Acadia to reach its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday and what it will take continue to preserve and protect the park and its visitors' experience for its second century.

Many of today's challenges are, of course, different from those faced by George B. Dorr, John D. Rockefeller Jr., Charles W. Eliot, and other park founders a century ago, and different from those faced by Friends of Acadia's founders back in 1986—and, yet, some challenges are the same, too. Insufficient federal funding takes many forms but it's been an issue since Dorr agreed to serve as park superintendent for \$1 per month in order to get federal protected status for this magnificent place. Global climate change is a new, or newly understood, problem and it is an enormous one. Auto congestion in such places as atop Cadillac Mountain, at Jordan Pond House, and at Sand Beach could not have been imagined by Dorr and his contemporaries. Sometimes it seems that for every problem solved, two new problems arise. This year, Friends of Acadia has more than 35 separate programs that help meet critical needs at Acadia, including both large programs primarily supported by grants and smaller programs driven as much by volunteer effort as by dollars. Without thoughtful focus, difficult decisions made and strong partnerships formed, there could be a hundred programs, or more—perhaps too many to do each well. FOA is in the final steps of assuring that our future priorities will be guided and focused on programs that most significantly protect and preserve the park and the visitor experience—programs that truly "move the needle" and are at once, significant, relevant, and important. We will do this being mindful and respectful of our past commitments and with a clear focus on outcomes that earn our attention and your support.

In a little more than 25 years, FOA has significantly benefited the park. We have navigated obstacles, found creative solutions, envisioned improvements and seen them come to pass, all thanks to the dedicated support of our donors, members, volunteers, and partners—each giving what they can in appreciation and recognition of all Acadia gives to them and others. There are easily a hundred ways to give back to Acadia, or maybe a thousand, or a million—such as: volunteering your time on trail maintenance or at Take Pride in Acadia Day, bringing a child to Family Fun Day, becoming a Friends of Acadia member, renewing your membership at a higher level, riding the Island Explorer, becoming a Wild Gardens of Acadia docent, joining the FOA Advocacy Network, telling a friend about Friends of Acadia, taking a hike and exemplifying Leave No Trace, thanking a volunteer or Acadia Youth Conservation Corps member working in the park, purchasing an annual park pass, attending the FOA Annual Benefit, passing along this copy of the *Journal* when you've finished reading it...and so many other ways that are important, creative, and part of this glorious patchwork of many hundreds of people expressing their love for Acadia in hundreds of ways—all together, greater by far than the sum of their parts.

These efforts put forth by Acadia's many friends, under the aegis of Friends of Acadia, have made an important difference in the preservation and protection of Acadia. As we approach the milestone of the first 100 years of Acadia National Park, I can see and feel their continuing enthusiasm and commitment to assure that Friends of Acadia continues its history of significance, importance, and relevance as we continue to make a difference for Acadia in its next century.

With deep appreciation for all you do and with love for Acadia National Park,



—Ed Samek

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## PRESERVING OUR ISLAND RELATIONSHIPS

Tom Savage



Tom Savage

*Tom Savage's tree service business takes him to many beautiful settings outdoors in the communities around Acadia.*

While organizing my thoughts about why I'm a Friend of Acadia, I found myself drawn toward the philosophy that a local resident will find success in balancing a business with the beauty of Acadia. The preservation of Acadia can blossom entrepreneurial avenues, and embracing the preservation can be a cornerstone in the long-term health of the residential and business community. My mindset was developed as an adolescent and grew into a lifestyle as an adult.

My Acadia connection is that of a local with descendants that go back to the late 1700s. My earliest ancestors settled on the same land that I now live on and made a living as many of us do today, by capitalizing on the popularity and beauty of Mount Desert Island. My great-great-grandfather recognized the economic potential when developing the Asticou Inn at the head of Northeast Harbor. Later generations would feel the instability of such endeavors as tourism dropped in the 1950s and 60s, leading to the inevitable loss of the Inn. However, financial loss gave rise to beauty. My great-uncle, who had lost the Inn, designed the Azalea and Thuya Gardens.

It was a creation that blended tourism with the natural beauty of Acadia and continued a family history of balancing nature and economics.

This rich, living history was not lost in me growing up in Northeast Harbor. I lived across from the formerly family-owned Inn and our house bordered the Azalea Garden. Our neighborhood was filled with relatives—aunts, uncles, cousins, and grandparents. With all of them a stone's throw away, everyday life was filled with building blocks for the future. As an

adolescent, I watched family members make the most of the opportunities that arose from this popular and beautiful place. It was more than enacting philosophical ideals; it was a means to financial survival. I grew up in a family of teachers, with both grandparents being educators as well as an aunt, uncle, mother, and father all teaching in the local schools. With the influx of residents during the summer months, these salaries would be supplemented by working in the tourism industry. My father ran a fuel delivery business from our back yard—a business that had originated with his father—while running a boat charter business from the local marina in Northeast Harbor. My mother tutored a summer family's children and my sister was on the infamous "Animal Cracker" babysitter list before her days as a deck hand on local schooners. My grandfather, great-uncle, and aunt all drove in the family taxi business, and everyone took advantage of an empty room or house by renting to visitors.

I, on the other hand, being the youngest of six cousins in the neighborhood, got off lucky in the summers of my youth. I'd start my day pestering the Azalea Garden workers as I used the walking paths as a bike course,

and then I'd grab my fishing pole and explored the brooks and streams that poured from Acadia. As my curiosity grew, I would find myself at Upper Hadlock Pond, Harbor Brook, Thuya Garden, and even an occasional walk to Jordan Pond on those daily fishing trips. In the evenings, I would walk up to my aunt and uncle's stables where riding classes were ending. With a little more pestering and a lot of manure shoveling, I sometimes got up in the saddle for a trot with my cousins on the carriage roads.

It was a blessed childhood, to live within Acadia. I understood that hard work and balancing the opportunities that Acadia and the surrounding communities provided were the key to enjoying life on MDI. My Friendship was founded in those childhood years and was developed through an entrepreneurial spirit after college. I was determined to work and live here, and I believe that embracing all aspects of the Island is the key. It's my hope that my involvement in Friends of Acadia enlightens those of that coexistence. I'm a Friend because I feel it's an obligation as a parent, business owner, descendent, and community member to support the preservation of the Island's residential and business communities and Acadia National Park all as one being. ♣

TOM SAVAGE is a licensed and certified arborist, and the owner of Savage Forest Enterprise, and co-owner of Asticou Connections Gallery in Town Hill. He coaches the MDI High School girls' soccer team and is an active member and past president of the MDI Lions Club.

**Would you like to share why you're a friend of Acadia?**

See <http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/> to learn how to submit your story.



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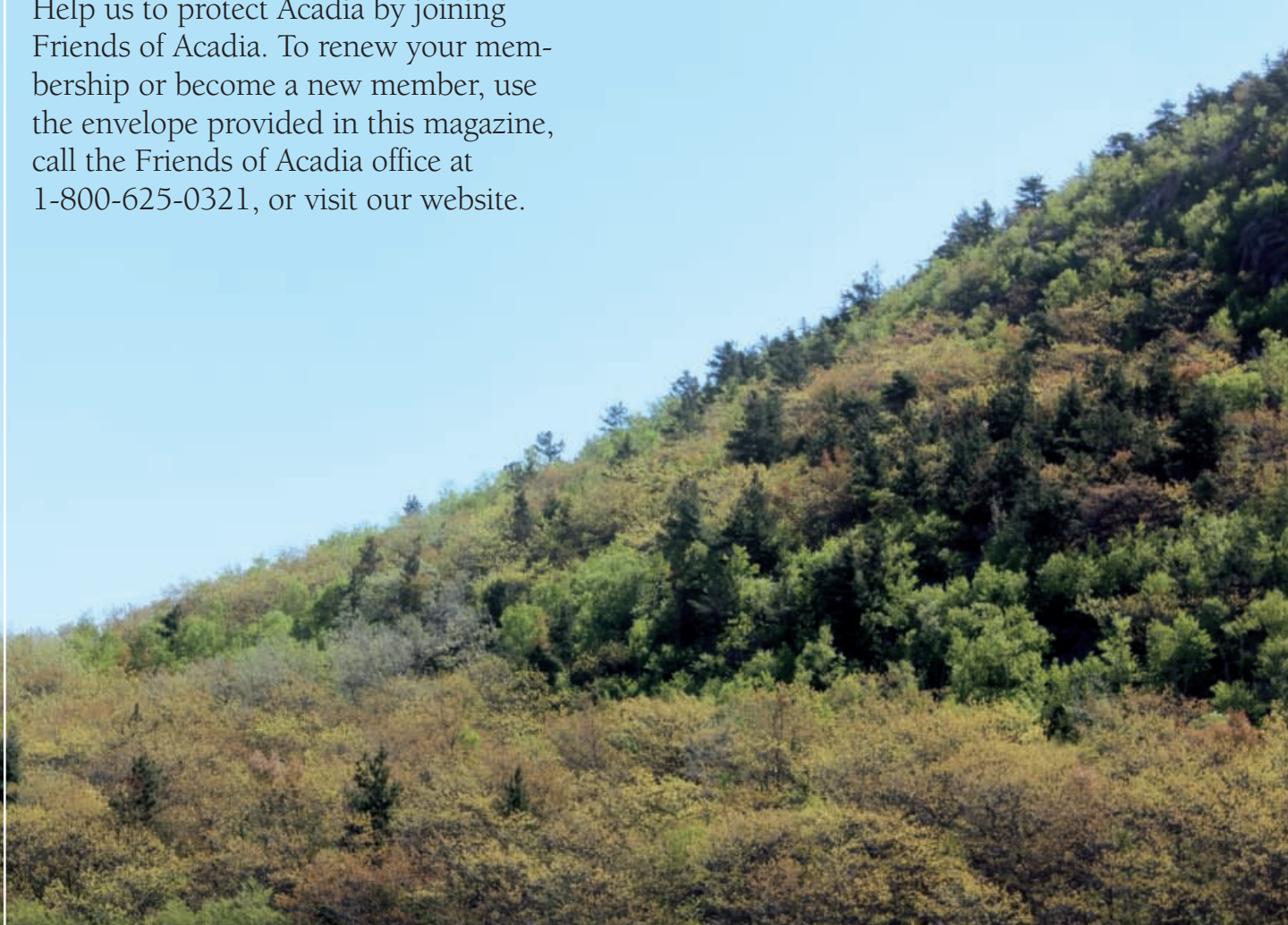
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