

Friends of ACADIA Journal

Fall/Winter 2013
Volume 18 No. 3

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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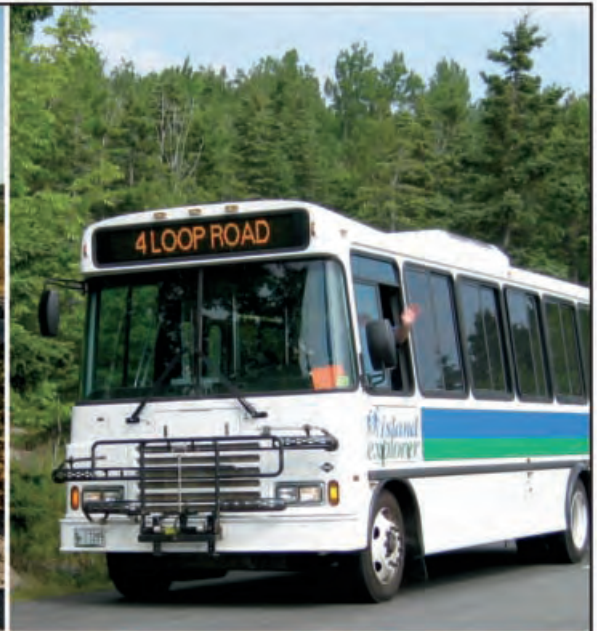
The Acadia National Park \$40 annual pass and \$20 weekly pass (\$10 in the shoulder seasons) are available all winter at the Acadia National Park Winter Visitor Center at Park Headquarters on the Eagle Lake Road in Bar Harbor.

In addition, annual passes are offered for \$20 each in the month of December only at these locations:

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SHUT DOWN BUT NOT OUT

"I'm sorry," the Bar Harbor resident told Acadia's chief ranger Stuart West at a public forum during the government shutdown that forced Acadia's closure in early October, "but I can't stay out of the park. It is part of who I am." She continued, "I am not taking my daily bike ride out of disrespect for you or the law. I am not making a political statement through an act of civil disobedience. I just need Acadia to make me whole as a person, as a mom, and as a teacher."

Yes, the shutdown caused confusion, frustration, and real economic impact here in our community during the two-week period that saw our trailheads, parking lots, and motor roads gated off while the autumn foliage peaked under brilliant sunny skies.

But it was also a time of rare and vivid clarity as to the importance of Acadia to many people's lives and livelihoods.

Another community member wrote on Facebook: "Thank you George Dorr! With the government shut down, I can now imagine what this wonderful island would feel like if you and your colleagues had not purchased all that private land that would become ours, in the form of Acadia National Park. We would never have such easy access to the shoreline, the mountains, the lakes and streams of Mount Desert Island. Thanks, too, to our National Park Service stewards and Friends of Acadia, who have provided access to Acadia for nearly a century."

Here at Friends of Acadia, one of the advantages to being an independent and nonprofit organization was that none of our employees were furloughed—in fact, our office ranks swelled as we provided extra desk space for several of FOA's seasonal employees who could not report for their usual duties within the park.

But at a critical time of year for wrapping up fieldwork, planning and budgeting for the coming year, and serving the visiting public during the increasingly popular fall season, it was impossible to do our jobs



Yes, the shutdown caused confusion, frustration, and real economic impact here in our community But it was also a time of rare and vivid clarity as to the importance of Acadia to many people's lives and livelihoods.

fully without our essential partners at the National Park Service.

The skeleton crew of a dozen or so rangers who stayed on duty to ensure public safety did an exemplary job in the unenviable task of politely asking people to stay out of their beloved park. They interpreted the orders from Washington with a healthy dose of common sense, respect for the surrounding communities, and appreciation for what makes Acadia so unique. I heard from many visitors who reported enjoying their time in the park more than ever during the shutdown, due to the absence of motor vehicles and a quieter, more peaceful atmosphere in which to enjoy Sand Beach or Otter Cliffs—as well as the satisfaction from having to work just a bit harder to get there!

While several meetings, events, and visits were cancelled, one important gathering did proceed on schedule. On October 7th, Friends of Acadia convened an initial conversation among 50 or so local residents and organizations concerning how to help celebrate Acadia's centennial in 2016. On a dark and drizzly morning during the height of the political standoff in Washington, we were overwhelmed with the energy and ideas in the room, the creativity and optimism, and most importantly, the sense of pride and ownership that our community feels for Acadia. Stay tuned and look for opportunities to join the planning for what should be a historic celebration of Acadia's first one hundred years, and the launch of a second century of conservation and inspiration.

A few weeks later, that same palpable sense of community stewardship was evident at our annual Take Pride in Acadia event. The park was open by this time, and while the shutdown was barely mentioned if at all, there was a sense of increased appreciation for the magnificent setting in which the nearly 400 volunteers worked, as well as a collective but unspoken message to the carriage roads, to the park founders, and to the park staff: Don't worry, we've got your back.

And as the first snowflakes fall on Acadia this week and our volunteers shift their attention from raking the carriage roads to grooming them for cross-country skiing, all of us at Friends of Acadia want to express our appreciation for the commitment and support that all of you provide to make our work possible. 🍂

—David R. MacDonald

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Acadia's Night Sky Rediscovered

Curious visitors to Acadia sometimes ask, "How big is the park?" The straightforward answer would be nearly 48,000 acres, but you could also say it's as big as the universe—just look up on a clear night. For decades, the scenic beauty of Acadia's landscape has attracted visitors, but in recent years the night sky has received increasing attention.

Once just a backdrop, the National Park Service (NPS) now considers the night sky an integral part of the park and is taking steps to preserve and interpret this rediscovered resource. The current NPS management policies, adopted in 2006, state for the first time that "the Service will preserve, to the greatest extent possible, the natural lightscapes of parks, which are natural resources and values that exist in the absence of human-caused light."

Protecting Acadia's night sky is particularly important because it is the only national park in the Northeast that, like more remote national parks in the West, provides the opportunity to enjoy natural darkness and a high-quality night sky. Visitors can be awed by outstanding views of the thousands of stars of the Milky Way arching over the park from horizon to horizon, a sight that two-thirds of all Americans cannot see at home due to light pollution.

As development continues to increase in surrounding communities, Acadia's night sky is threatened. Over the past seven years, we have made an effort to measure, promote, and protect the quality of the night sky, working with gateway communities, local businesses, and other partners including Friends of Acadia. The forecast for increased light pollution is alarming, yet there are identifiable solutions and a growing number of success stories in protecting and restoring night skies. Unlike many resource management challenges at Acadia, light pollution is one of the easiest environmental problems to fix, and the natural night sky is 100% recoverable.

As with other park resources, an inven-



Peter Travers

tory is the critical first step toward sound, science-based decisions. We measured light pollution throughout the park to provide a baseline; currently, Acadia's night sky ranges from a Class 3 to 4 on the Bortle scale (a measure of the night sky's brightness, ranging from 1 to 9, with Class 1 being the brightest and least impaired).

Recognizing that Acadia's night sky has no boundary line, we then worked with the surrounding communities to develop an understanding of the night sky's value and ways to preserve it. As a result, in 2008 the Bar Harbor Conservation Commission led the town to adopt new outdoor lighting standards in its land use ordinance. Mount Desert and Tremont soon followed with their own lighting ordinances. All three ordinances require that outdoor light fixtures be "fully shielded" or "full cut-off" so that all light is directed downward, greatly reducing light pollution.

We then partnered with FOA, the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and many other businesses and organizations in 2009 to inaugurate the Acadia Night Sky Festival, a five-day "community celebration to promote the protection and enjoyment of Downeast Acadia's stellar night sky as a valuable natural resource through education, science, and the arts." Held each Sep-

tember, it offers more than 40 programs for all ages and interests, including stargazing programs, lectures, films, hikes, and art exhibits. It is steadily attracting more and more visitors to the area during the fall shoulder season: this year, around 4,600 people from New England and beyond participated in the 5th Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival. Many were excited to see the Milky Way in its full splendor for the first time.

Another important step is to retrofit outdoor lights on park facilities to reduce light pollution. In 2009, the NPS received a grant from the National Park Foundation to assess the park's outdoor lighting and complete a demonstration project. That summer, Christine Kercell, an intern from Slippery Rock University, inventoried all 829 outdoor lighting fixtures in the park and determined that 340 (or 41% of total) met the desired lighting standard as fully shielded.

This was followed by generous donations from Musco Lighting (an outdoor lighting company) and the Yawkey Foundation through FOA to replace more than 40 non-compliant lights at Blackwoods campground, with Musco Lighting providing fully shielded light fixtures and technical support, and the Yawkey Foundation funding their installation. When the project is completed next year, visitors will enjoy a markedly more starlit camping experience.

With the great cooperation of partners and surrounding communities, we are making significant strides to slow—and in some cases reverse—the impacts of light pollution. The next time you are in Acadia under a clear dark sky, don't forget to look up—the park is bigger than you think. ☼

—Sheridan Steele

Family Fun Day Fun

We had a nice day walking the bog path. We stopped at the glacier station, my son had his photo taken, and we continued along the boardwalk. We saw three owls in the trees with Ranger Joanie. What a great day to experience the great outdoors!! Thanks to all who volunteered to make our vacation such a wonderful time in Acadia National Park.

—Laurie Bernard (via Facebook)

A Bridge of Appreciation

Gratitude to the trail folks for so quickly and beautifully putting a new bridge in over Kebo stream, at the entry to the “new” path—so named as it was the last and newest link on the Great Meadow Loop.

My dog Sylvie and I use this path almost daily and appreciate its beauty and its directness to both the GML and all our walks in the park every early a.m. I’m sure countless folks are grateful!

—Sandy Haggett
Bar Harbor, Maine

Making the Best of the Shutdown

Our Sierra Club Service outing was supposed to camp in Blackwoods and work in Acadia National Park the week of 9/30–10/4. We did work Monday; Ben Dunphey and Ari Gillar-Leinwohl, two of your seasonal employees, worked with us. Jonathan Gormley, volunteer coordinator for Acadia National Park, worked the telephones and got us other arrangements due to the government shutdown. We went to work for and with Billy Helprin, regional steward at Maine Coast Heritage Trust on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. He also worked the telephones and found us private camping at no additional charges. Ben and Ari continued to work with us. There are two nice young men, sharing and enthused about their work.

Our service outing was a success thanks to the good communicating and organizational skills of Jonathan, Billy, Ben, Ari, Michelle (our Sierra Club leader) and others. Thank you!

—Anne F. Berlin and Robert T. Bell
Germantown, Ohio

A Great Quest

Thanks so much for another great FOA activity. Acadia Quest: a vacation with a purpose! Seriously—we loved it all, even missing the tide timing on the way back from Bar Island, a memory that will go down in family history.

On to next year and another great Quest. With many thanks for all you do for our best place on Earth—

—“Team Bennett”
Andy, Beth, Ethan, and Fiona
Walnutport, Pennsylvania

Thank you for organizing this program [Acadia Quest]! It was such a fantastic way for us to come and explore Acadia. We really appreciated the hiking guide and just had an amazing experience. Acadia’s now one of our favorite places! We definitely plan to participate next year. Thanks again!

—The “Daring D’s”
Sarah Dirndorfer
Mt. Airy, Maryland

Taking Pride

Thank you so much for hosting our students on Saturday [Take Pride in Acadia Day, November 2]. Bringing all those people together from all over the state is a monumental task. Add in a government shutdown and that equals a load of stress.

Our students love to visit Acadia, and I love to put them to work! The weather was perfect. The food was great. And they had a great time. Thank you for organizing a great event!

—Lisa Morin, Coordinator
The Bodwell Center for Service
and Volunteerism
University of Maine
Orono, Maine

Correction

In the summer 2013 issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal, a contributor was incorrectly listed in the Table of Contents, page 2. The author of “Acadia as the Embodiment of a Japanese Garden” is Cora Olgvay and her correct profession is landscape architect. We regret the error.

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A Magazine about Acadia National Park
and Surrounding Communities

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

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

DESIGN
Mahan Graphics

PHOTOGRAPHER AT LARGE
Tom Blagden

PRINTING
Penmor Lithographers

PUBLISHER
David R. MacDonald



Jordan Pond and Sargent Mountain by Tom Blagden



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Priscilla and Jack Hirschenhofer: Building Bridges of Friendship in Acadia

Ask Jack Hirschenhofer about his favorite volunteer job on the trails of Acadia National Park and he will reply with a smile, “Rebuilding trail bridges—because the results are very tangible.” But Jack will also tell you that as a volunteer in Acadia he does whatever is needed, including routine tasks like raking leaves from ditches along the park’s carriage roads. “It may sound dull, but we know the work is important because it’s part of water management, and managing the flow of water is one of the most critical aspects of taking care of Acadia.”

Jack and his wife, Priscilla, are among the volunteers who resolutely devote thousands of hours to Friends of Acadia and the park each year. The couple live in Wyoming, PA during the winter but are always eager to return to their summer home in Hancock. Both began volunteering to work on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads in 2005. When Friends of Acadia created a volunteer membership table program in 2007, Priscilla was one of the first to sign up and she has continued to volunteer every summer.

Priscilla and Jack say it was the enthusiasm and commitment of other volunteers that convinced them to come aboard. Ac-

ording to Jack, “We volunteered for Take Pride in Acadia Day in November 2004, and I especially enjoyed working with people who turned out to be leaders of volunteer trail crews in the park. They took me under their wing and told me about the opportunity to volunteer in the park on a regular basis.” Jack began volunteering the following year, and four years later he took on the responsibility of being a volunteer trail crew leader.

From June through October, Jack and other crew leaders direct the work of volunteers who help with outdoor projects in the park. Anyone who is interested can join the crews each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, for one day or for the entire summer. Trail volunteers may find themselves cutting back vegetation along the trails and carriage roads, rebuilding rock retaining walls or drainages, maintaining historic vistas, or closing “social” paths to preserve natural areas. A favorite project is “flossing Mr. Rockefeller’s teeth”—clearing vegetation around the granite coping stones that line the carriage roads, affectionately named for John D. Rockefeller Jr, who gave Acadia its carriage road system.

For Priscilla, the new membership table was a welcome opportunity to continue volunteering when physical challenges began to make trail work difficult. With her warm welcome and friendly smile, Priscilla usually finds a common interest with visitors at the membership table at Jordan Pond House, whether they are from Moscow, Micronesia, or Machias. She explains how they can help preserve the park by joining FOA and quite often they decide to join on the spot.



Priscilla at the FOA membership table at the Jordan Pond House.

Priscilla and Jack agree that there are two compelling reasons why they volunteer in the park: their love for Acadia and the close friendships they have formed with other volunteers.

“Every time I’m in the park, it’s an inspirational experience,” Jack says. “Volunteering in Acadia gives me a sense of ownership and I feel like I’m part of the park.”

Priscilla adds that although she grew up in Gardiner, ME, she had only visited Acadia once until she and Jack started spending their summers in Hancock ten years ago. Now she and Jack make numerous round-trips between Hancock and Acadia each summer to volunteer in the park. To moderate their use of vehicles, Jack usually carools; Priscilla rides with other volunteers to the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, then takes the Island Explorer bus to the Jordan Pond House.

Both enjoy the wide spectrum of people they have come to know as volunteers: Acadia and FOA staff, other crew leaders, regular volunteers, and spouses. “We have made many friends,” Priscilla says, “and they are lasting friendships.”

To anyone who is considering volunteering, Jack says, “Go try it!”

—Sharon Broom



Jack (left) working on Acadia’s trails with the Hirschenhofers’ children, Kim and Kurt.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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June 1–September 30, 2013



Great Meadow in autumn.

Friends of Acadia/Amee Beal Church

Calling All Artists and Graphic Designers!

Entries are invited for the ACADIA NATIONAL PARK CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION LOGO CONTEST

ACADIA'S CENTENNIAL:
Celebrate our past! Inspire our future!

In 2016, Acadia National Park will be celebrating its Centennial. The park's 100th Anniversary will be promoted and celebrated throughout the park and surrounding communities starting in the fall of 2015. Acadia National Park's Centennial will encourage people to celebrate Acadia National Park's rich natural and cultural history, and inspire people to make a personal connection with the park and work for the best possible future for this national treasure.

In order to put those plans in motion, a logo is needed for educational, promotional, and marketing pieces. To that end, the Acadia Centennial Task Force, which includes Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and other partners, is sponsoring the Acadia Centennial Celebration Logo Contest.

Prize: \$3,000 for the winning design

Deadline: February 28, 2014

Entry Fee: \$30 for up to three designs by one entrant

Judging: The contest will be judged by a panel of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park staff. Entries will be reviewed anonymously.

Restrictions: Board, staff, and immediate family members of Friends of Acadia may not enter the contest. Employees and immediate family members of Acadia National Park may not enter the contest. Entrants must be 18 years old.

For complete rules, creative brief, and entry form, visit

<http://friendsofacadia.org>

Questions?

Contact Friends of Acadia at info@friendsofacadia.org.

Where in Acadia?

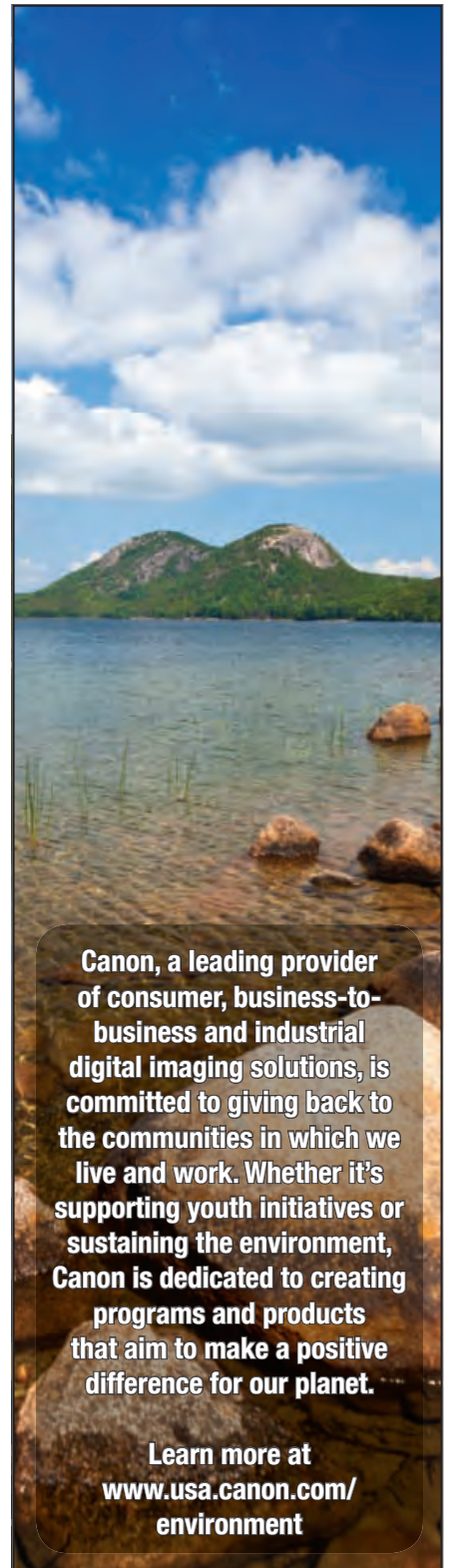


Where in Acadia? This is not a hidden spot, but you might not recognize it from this unusual angle and covered with ice, as it tends to be in the colder months of the year. If you know where this is, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory from this place if you can! We'll print our favorite response along with another "Where in Acadia?" photo in the next issue of the *Journal*.



Summer 2013 Where in Acadia? Your summer 2013 edition has a picture of what we locals call Jimmy's Wharf. It is actually located in Otter Creek about a five-minute walk from my house. It was a pier for the quarry stone that was mined from the ledges not far away, which are still evident today. As kids we would swim from the pier on incoming tides as the water would be much warmer from the sun beating on the mud flats. It is still a place that I visit today.

—Rick Higgins, Otter Creek, Maine



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Exciting Partnership with Canon U.S.A. Enables Inaugural Projects for a Wild Acadia

By Lisa Horsch Clark

If Mr. Dorr were coming to your house for dinner tonight, what would you tell him about Acadia National Park? Certainly the deep forests, clear waters, and beloved trails he knew still exist, but clearly the park isn't the same as it was almost one hundred years ago. With an increase of 540% in park visitation during his lifetime, George B. Dorr likely knew that visitors to the new park would have a dramatic impact on its resources. But he and other park founders couldn't have predicted climate change and the impacts it would have on the water, air, and land of Acadia. The 21st-century Acadia is still enchanting but it is different, due primarily to these two significant factors: visitors and climate change.

Acadia is one of America's most visited national parks, drawing more than 2.4 million visitors each year to its relatively small 35,000 acres. Friends of Acadia recognizes the fine balance the park staff maintains between providing access to these millions and protecting the spectacular natural and cultural resources of Acadia.

In the last issue of the *Friends of Acadia*

“Our company commitment to the environment is an integral part of our corporate philosophy,” said Kotaro Fukushima, senior director and general manager, Corporate Communications Division, Canon U.S.A. “We are excited to be partnering with the Wild Acadia program so that future generations can enjoy the Park and its beauty for years to come.”

Journal, David Manski, former chief of resources at Acadia National Park, discussed the case for *Wild Acadia* and shared the goal of “a more intact and functional natural and cultural landscape, where people can come and be inspired for the next 100 years and beyond.” As we approach the park's cen-

tennial in 2016, we—park staff and FOA leadership—constantly ask ourselves, *How can we best prepare Acadia for the next 100 years?* While strategic goals are still being defined, at the heart of preparations is resource protection—for what is Acadia without public access to the land, native

plants and trees, and clean air and water? To this end, Friends of Acadia and the park established *Wild Acadia*, a set of restoration, outreach, and research initiatives that will ensure the park is protected for today's visitors and the many millions who will visit in the years to come.

These protection measures come at a cost. Happily, Friends of Acadia had the great fortune early this year to establish a new partnership with Canon U.S.A., Inc., a leader in digital imaging solutions. Canon was eager to make a significant and lasting difference for natural resource protection in Acadia, and stepped up to help the park to tackle two of *Wild Acadia's* most pressing issues: invasive species management and water-quality monitoring. A fitting partner for resource protection, Canon identifies its corporate philosophy as that of *Kyosei*, which they define as “all people, regardless of race, religion, or culture, harmoniously living and working together into the future.” Their dedication to *Kyosei* guides their tradition of commitment to protect and preserve our most precious of resources and landscapes.

Invasive Species Management

As time and conditions allow, certain exotic plants will take over landscapes, wiping out native flora and with them the complex community of life dependent on those native plants. With Canon U.S.A.'s generous funding, Acadia National Park expanded the 2013 exotic plant management team (EPMT), enabling the park to treat 27 of the most highly aggressive exotic plant species that threaten natural habitats and alter natural scenes in Acadia. The team protected the park's biodiversity, restored wetlands and other important habitats, and improved the visitor experience by enabling people to enjoy native park landscapes.

This year's achievements of the EPMT



The exotic plant management team, led by Frank Archuleta (on right), worked with several volunteer groups to remove a 2-acre infestation of bush honeysuckle in Acadia.

were beyond all expectations. The team treated more than 97 acres and surveyed an additional 305 acres for invasives in Acadia National Park, documenting the plants removed, number of acres restored, and methods of management for use as a historical reference and also to share with other parks managing invasive species. The team updated the exotic plant management plans for all 27 major exotic plant species and the team leveraged 200 volunteer hours to maximize efficiency, leading volunteers in the (non-technical) hand-pulling of invasive plants on 17 acres of park land. All efforts led to a more natural, wild ecosystem.

Water-Quality Monitoring

Integral to ecosystem health, the waters that dominated the landscape of Acadia also provide a variety of recreational pursuits including fishing, sightseeing, canoeing, and swimming. Protection of the health of Acadia's lakes, streams, and wetlands, and their use as a source of public drinking water, were significant factors in the park's establishment in the early 1900s.

Jordan Pond, the clearest lake in Maine, has been experiencing decreasing clarity in recent years. The cause and—more importantly—the effect on the broader ecosystem and what can be learned about climate change and visitor impacts, is unknown. Canon U.S.A.'s partnership enabled Acadia to establish a formal, continuous water quality monitoring program at the lake in 2013. This automated monitoring will produce a more comprehensive picture of water conditions, which will enable park staff to better understand these troubling changes and make better decisions about lake protection measures. It quickly became clear in project planning that without the funding opportunity offered by Canon's partnership this important monitoring program simply could not happen.

Acadia's resource protection staff built their capacity by partnering with University of Maine scientists Dr. Jasmine Saros and Dr. Courtney Wigdahl to select, launch, and monitor a NexSens CB-400 data buoy moored at the heart of Jordan Pond. The data buoy was synced with a weather station installed at the Jordan Pond House, both transmitting near-real-time data via phone line to the project computer.



Courtesy: Wigdahl

Dr. Courtney Wigdahl (left) and ANP employees Alyssa Reischauer (right) and Bill Gawley (hiding behind) prepare to launch the new water-quality measurement buoy in Jordan Pond.

The outcome was an exponential increase in water-quality measurements. More than 7,700 measurements were taken with the new monitoring system from July through September 2013 compared to the 219 measurements taken in Jordan Pond since 1942 using the old monitoring system. The more robust measurements enabled the partners to join the Global Lake Ecological Observatory Network (GLEON), an international coalition documenting changes in lake ecosystems. Dr. Wigdahl presented a project overview and preliminary findings at the public meeting of the Acadia Advisory Commission and hopes to present at the 2014 meeting of GLEON, to be held in Montreal in October.

Friends of Acadia is fortunate to be partnering with Canon U.S.A. The company's gifts to preserve and protect Acadia enable growth in capacity and good, data-driven decision-making. We look forward to continuing and growing our partnership with Canon U.S.A. to tackle additional challenges facing Acadia. "Our company commitment to the environment is an integral part of our corporate philosophy," said Kotaro Fukushima, senior director and general manager of Canon U.S.A.'s Corporate Communications

Division. "We are excited to be partnering with the *Wild Acadia* program so that future generations can enjoy the park and its beauty for years to come."

Restoring Acadia's landscapes and watersheds to a *Wild Acadia* standard would benefit the long-term health of the park under even the best of circumstances. However, we now know that climate change will bring sea level rise, larger and longer storm events, and changes in temperature. These factors heighten the stresses on Acadia's living systems. We have hope that a more natural habitat—a *Wild Acadia*—will allow them to endure these changes. 🌿

LISA HORSCH CLARK is the director of development and donor relations at Friends of Acadia.

Videos, blog posts, and links to additional resources for the inaugural *Wild Acadia* projects can be found on our website: <http://friendsofacadia.org/what-we-do/wild-acadia/>.

Rehabilitating the Sieur de Monts Spring Pool

By Rebecca Cole-Will and Judy Hazen Connery

If George B. Dorr visited Acadia's Sieur de Monts area today, he might be justifiably confused by his surroundings. Sixty-nine years after his death, Mr. Dorr's beloved Sieur de Monts has changed considerably. The great fire of 1947 burned through, sparing only the spring canopy and the Abbe Museum. The National Park Service rebuilt the Nature Center in 1949, the Wild Gardens were created in 1961, and new access roads altered circulation patterns in the early 1990s.

But Mr. Dorr might soon be able to see the Spring Pool looking very close to his original design. Constructed shortly after he acquired the property in 1909, the Spring Pool was a central feature of Dorr's designed landscape. Early photographs show the rock-lined pool in the center of an open, grassy glade, surrounded with low-growing plantings.

But over time, shrubs and exotic invasive plants formed a tall, dense screen, completely obscuring the historic pool. Freezing and thawing dislodged some of the stones ringing the pool, and they slipped out of place into the water. The pool filled with leaves and silt, burying gravel spawning beds of brook trout. And with those gravels buried, abundant native brook trout that once delighted visitors became a rare sight in the Spring Pool and under the canopy.

One of the first steps in managing the Spring Pool was to understand its significance and context. The National Park Service's (NPS) Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation (OCLP) provided this information in the form of a cultural landscape inventory (CLI) of the Sieur de Monts area in 2009. The CLI is a critical management tool for cultural resource preservation. It inventories and documents landscape characteristics, including the condition, integrity, and character-defining features that make landscapes historically significant (and thus eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places). For Sieur de Monts, the



George B. Dorr holds a cup of spring water in front of the Sieur de Monts Spring Pool, ca. 1917.

CLI research process documented the significance of the Spring Pool to Mr. Dorr's plans for the designed landscape and provided baseline information of changes over time. The CLI determined that the period of historical significance for Sieur de Monts was from 1909 to 1949, spanning the period from the land acquisition to rebuilding after the fire of 1947.

The CLI also recommended rehabilitation as the appropriate treatment. For cultural resources, the distinction between rehabilitation and restoration is important. Cultural resources managers seldom choose restoration for preservation treatment of historic properties because it implies that the resource would be returned to the exact conditions when it was first created. Cultural landscapes are incredibly dynamic places and it would be nearly impossible to "turn back the clock," in this case to 1909, when the pool was constructed. Rehabilitation, by definition, means that the property is repaired, historic character is preserved, and changes made over time may be re-

tained. For the Sieur de Monts Spring Pool, this means that changes made between 1909 and 1949 would be identified and preserved. For example, the Dorr memorial plaque and plantings around it, installed in 1947, would be retained.

Of course, Acadia's cultural resources are complexly intertwined with its natural resources, and any rehabilitation project requires close attention to its potential effects—both positive and negative—on the associated natural landscape. Rehabilitating the spring pool gave managers an opportunity to improve wildlife habitat—specifically, replace fish spawning gravel—as well as remove exotic invasive plants and replace horticultural varieties with native plants similar in form and flower but with less impact on habitat.

In 2010, the park's exotic plant management team began removing Japanese barberry, Oriental bittersweet, Japanese knotweed, and glossy buckthorn that had invaded the Spring Pool and surrounding forests, as well as tall winterberry bushes that obscured the



In 2010, the pool was choked with overgrown and invasive plants, and the stones ringing the pool had slipped out of place.

Pool. In 2011 and 2012, in addition to continued exotic plant management efforts, two seasonal gardeners, supported by NPS project funding, weeded the historic plantings around the Dorr Memorial, Spring Pool, and Nature Center, and installed silt fencing and wood chips to protect the stream from siltation while the next phase of work was planned. An NPS arborist evaluated trees for hazards and removed several large, defective branches that posed a threat to visitors and staff. Meanwhile, in consultation with environmental protection staff, including FOA's environmental protection intern, Hilary Krieger, plans were drawn that protected natural and cultural resources during rehabilitation, and wetland permits obtained for the work that was to come.

By this summer, the park's trail crew was eager to begin the work resetting the historic stones around the Pool. With years of experience as master stoneworkers, trail crew staff bring a deep understanding of history, respect for resources, and a light touch to their rehabilitation work. Trails foreman Gary Stellpflug and work leader Chris Barter consulted historic photographs and plans, and met on-site with Judy Hazen Connery, a natural resource specialist, as they outlined the next phase of rehabilitation work. Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff salvaged historic plants—perhaps some that came from Mr. Dorr's own garden—saving them to be replanted along the pool after the

heavy stone work was completed.

Timing is important for work in and around water. To protect aquatic organisms, such as fish, and their habitats, by law in-stream work may be conducted only between July 15th and October 1st. Immediately before the work began after Labor Day, park wildlife biologists Bruce Connery and Bik Wheeler electro-shocked brook trout and released them downstream from the work area. The trails crew of David Schlag and Brad Ryan, led by Jeff Chapin, had a narrow work window that was almost immediately shortened by heavy and sustained rains in September. With help from the park's

fire engine operator, Fred Mason, both the Spring and canopy pools were drained, requiring generators, pumps, yards of hoses, more silt fences, and sand bags. A crane was set up and fencing was placed to secure the work site and protect visitors and staff.

Working in earnest to reset the stones before the October 1st deadline, the crew closely followed the historic photos, matching the shapes and alignments of massive granite boulders much like a jigsaw puzzle. They leveled stone stairs and removed a set of granite steps added sometime in the recent past, and made other adjustments to slope and angle to ensure that the rocks would not again slip down into the pool. The upper banks were stabilized, and the lawn extended to minimize future maintenance and match the original plan. And on September 30th, the day before the government shutdown, the equipment and dams were removed, water-level restored, and this second phase of the project was completed.

The final step, if funding can be found to support the work, will be to replace historic and appropriate native plants such as ferns, blue flags, and marsh marigolds. Perhaps by Acadia's centennial in 2016, Sieur de Monts will look as it once was intended—a fitting monument to George B. Dorr, "Father of Acadia." 🌿

REBECCA COLE-WILL is the cultural resources program manager at Acadia National Park. JUDY HAZEN CONNERY is a natural resources specialist at Acadia National Park.



The ANP trails crew reset the historic stones around the pool.

My Summer as a TRT

By DeLene Hoffner

I never imagined what an amazing world of discovery would open up when I applied to be a Teacher-Ranger-Teacher at Acadia National Park! I pinched myself every day I was at Acadia, thinking, “Is this really happening? Am I really here, doing all this?!” It brings tears to my eyes to think of the ways Acadia National Park has filled my heart with wonder and enriched my world of teaching.

My TRT experience surpassed all my expectations, in so many ways. As a child, I visited many national parks but I had never attended a ranger-led program. Can you believe that? My first ranger-led program was “Super Sand Sleuths” on Sand Beach.

I’ll never forget the first time I saw the view of Sand Beach from the top of the stairway leading to the beach. The bright blue sky contrasted with the sparkling gray ocean and the fascinating rocks hugging each side. The beach was bare except for a few visitors; then, our group of rangers and teachers headed to the sand for our class. Learning on the beach? I have to say, as a landlubber, I was bedazzled with excitement. I rarely get to be on a beach by the ocean and have never been trained on a beach. Alongside more than 15 children, we became detectives working to uncover the mysteries of Sand Beach. This was my first experience hearing a national park ranger give their interpretive program. I was surprised by the finely tuned components of her hour-long lesson. We had games, made models, and created our learning with the ranger’s guidance. My favorite discovery was that the sand is not only rock bits but tiny pieces of shells, urchins, green mussels, and crab shell. I didn’t know that and probably would not have figured it out on my own. “Taking a closer look to discover more” became my theme for the summer. What fun!

Now I have attended more than fourteen ranger-led programs. I was impressed with the incredible ANP interpretive rangers and enjoyed working with them. I discovered the high caliber of training, research, prepara-



Friends of Acadia

DeLene Hoffner at Acadia this summer.

The TRT Program has changed my view of national parks, inspired my use of the natural world as my classroom, and transformed my teaching with rich, new ideas.

tions, and work involved in bringing Acadia’s natural resources to life for visitors. I learned so much from many rangers. I want to thank them all for sharing their knowledge and talents with me.

Our TRT supervisor, Cynthia Ocel, was an exceptional leader who set up many phenomenal experiences for us. I really admire her professionalism, wisdom, talents, and hard work, and she was key to the success of the TRT experience for me. I enjoyed the trainings, hikes, cruises, history, nature, and other opportunities, where I was immersed in everything that makes Acadia a

national treasure. I gained new knowledge, experienced insightful lessons, and grew as a teacher so much last summer. I will always be grateful for this amazing opportunity.

Some of my top experiences include:

- Attending numerous ranger-led programs and trainings, on the ocean, shore, and mountains
- Seeing wildlife I’d never seen. Puffins, whales, a bobcat, unusual birds, and even a porcupine!
- Learning and co-leading the Super Sand Sleuth program
- Attending trainings specific to leading programs and working with children
- Receiving my “Leave No Trace” certification training (and I climbed Schoodic Mountain—it was so hard!)
- Creating activities for an ANP Children’s Map (my assigned TRT project)
- Creating a lesson plan about topography for use on the National Parks website
- Attending SEA Teachers, a 5-day training at Schoodic
- Participating in the 2013 Family Fun Day—fabulous!
- Sharing the wonders of Acadia with numerous visitors

Along with my own new education, I have been inspired to create an adventure of discovery for my students. Learning should be an exploration, where discoveries spark the curiosity to want to learn more! I’m excited to share my experiences and my learning with my students, colleagues, and community through lessons, a classroom unit on the national parks, presentations to staff and conferences, and our spring field trip.

I am already using the teaching techniques and games I learned from the park rangers and teaching my students about “Leave No Trace” principles. In September, all of our fourth graders took a field trip to the top of Pikes Peak as part of our “Life Zones of Colorado” study. When we returned, I was proud to be able to teach the topography

lesson I designed as part of my TRT experience, in which students learn about topographical maps then create their own map using a 3-D model.

Throughout this year I am teaching my national parks unit. Students will have the opportunity to create a presentation about a national park with their team; these teams will then present at local libraries for our community. The unit will culminate in a spring field trip (funded by Acadia's TRT program) to Florissant Fossil Bed National Monument or Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site.

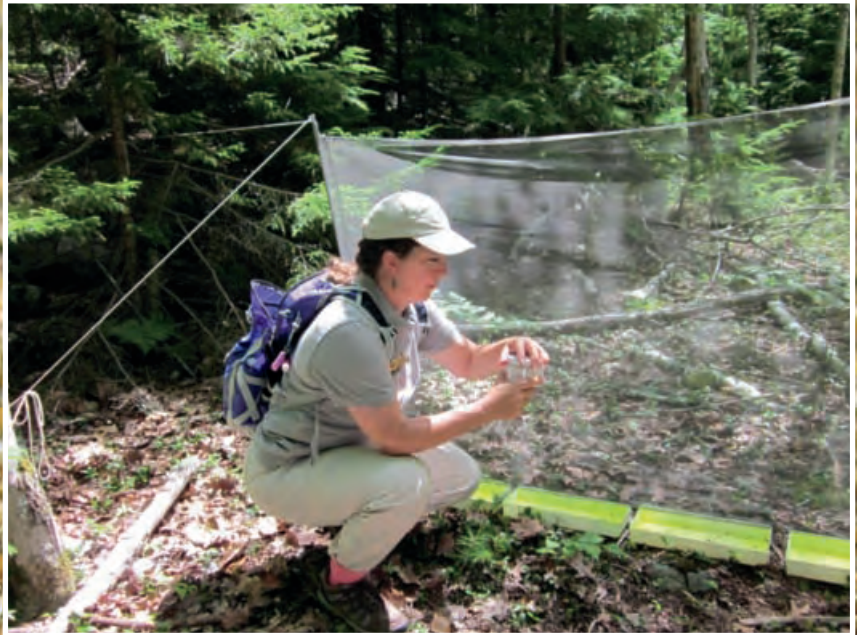
Along with my own class of 26 students, I teach science to two other fourth-grade classes (78 students in all). As a presenter, I will share my TRT learning at local and national teacher workshops. When I teach one teacher, I imagine the 27 students this may influence. When I reach 300 teachers, I estimate my TRT experience might impact over 8,000 students this year alone! Multiply that times seven to show the collective impact of myself and the six other TRTs alongside whom I had the great pleasure of working: Romy Armstrong, Kate Drummond, Teri Green, Karen Lingly, Judith McConnell, and Melissa McDonald. Clearly, the Teacher Ranger Teacher Program is a gift that gives exponentially.

I am forever grateful to Friends of Acadia for funding the TRT Program at Acadia National Park, and I admire the insight shown by FOA members through their continued support. I truly am so honored to have been selected for this once-in-a-lifetime experience! It has changed my view of national parks, inspired my use of the natural world as my classroom, and transformed my teaching with rich, new ideas. Thank you, Friends of Acadia, for inspiring students and touching the future through the Teacher Ranger Teacher Program. 🌲

DELENE HOFFNER is a 4th grade teacher at School in the Woods in Academy School District 20, Colorado Springs, Colorado. She has been a teacher for over 25 years, and was honored by President Clinton with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Teaching Science.

The sand of Sand Beach is made up of tiny pieces of shells, urchins, green mussels, and crab shell in addition to grains of sand.

INSET: DeLene collects beetles at the 2014 Acadia National Park Bioblitz.



Acadia National Park

Friends of Acadia

Managing Invasive Plants in Acadia's Gateway Communities

By Anna Adams

Exotic invasive plants know no boundaries. They do not differentiate between park and private lands. Invasive plants can choke out existing flora, disrupt natural habitats, and affect human experiences. Many of the most threatening exotic invasives on Mount Desert Island were originally brought here for landscaping purposes but have escaped into surrounding natural areas, including Acadia National Park. Carried by birds, animals, wind, or the hands, clothing, or machinery of humans, they spread freely back and forth across property lines. In order to fight the spread of exotic invasives in the park, we must also look to treat them in the surrounding communities.

Much as invasives disregard park boundaries, so too have Friends of Acadia volunteers this season. With a grant from Nature Valley, via the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA), Friends of Acadia hired an exotic plant management community liaison, Ari Giller-Leinwohl, who worked to identify locations of problem plant species outside Acadia's boundaries and help volunteers to remove them appropriately.

A portion of the Nature Valley funding supported the production of a map of invasive species (at right) by Ari and FOA crew leader Ben Dunphey. Using a Garmin handheld GPS unit, they mapped invasive plant infestations along public roads and trails on MDI. No information was obtained by entering private property so the map does not give a complete picture of the problem on MDI; however, it's an important start to the development of a comprehensive approach to managing invasive species in the communities around Acadia.

Ari helped lead several volunteer events throughout the summer and fall, implementing the best management practices for invasive removal on private lands. Volunteers removed Japanese knotweed at Charlotte Rhoades Park in Southwest Harbor, Japanese barberry at the Cooksey Drive Preserve in Seal Harbor, and gar-



Exotic plant management community liaison Ari Giller-Leinwohl (left) works alongside volunteers to cut glossy buckthorn on National Public Lands Day.

lic mustard at Manset Field. For National Public Lands Day in September, volunteers worked to remove glossy buckthorn on Jackson Laboratory property where it abuts the Bear Brook picnic area of Acadia. And in late October, representatives from both Nature Valley and NPCA made a field visit for a special invasive work project to remove Japanese knotweed and Japanese honeysuckle on the Great Meadow Loop. Immediately following the volunteer project, Ari led the group along the Duck Brook Connector and identified more than 12 invasive plants growing along the trail. Both Nature Valley and NPCA were pleased with the field visit and expressed interest in a continued partnership with Friends of Acadia on future projects.

Says Ari, "I thoroughly enjoyed working in Mount Desert Island this season. So many volunteers were eager to get their hands dirty and made a huge impact in tackling major projects. Many events also helped facilitate discussions on what everyone can do to help on their own properties and community. I think these projects are rewarding and empowering for everyone involved, and first-hand experience with exotic plants will

get people more engaged as land stewards in their communities."

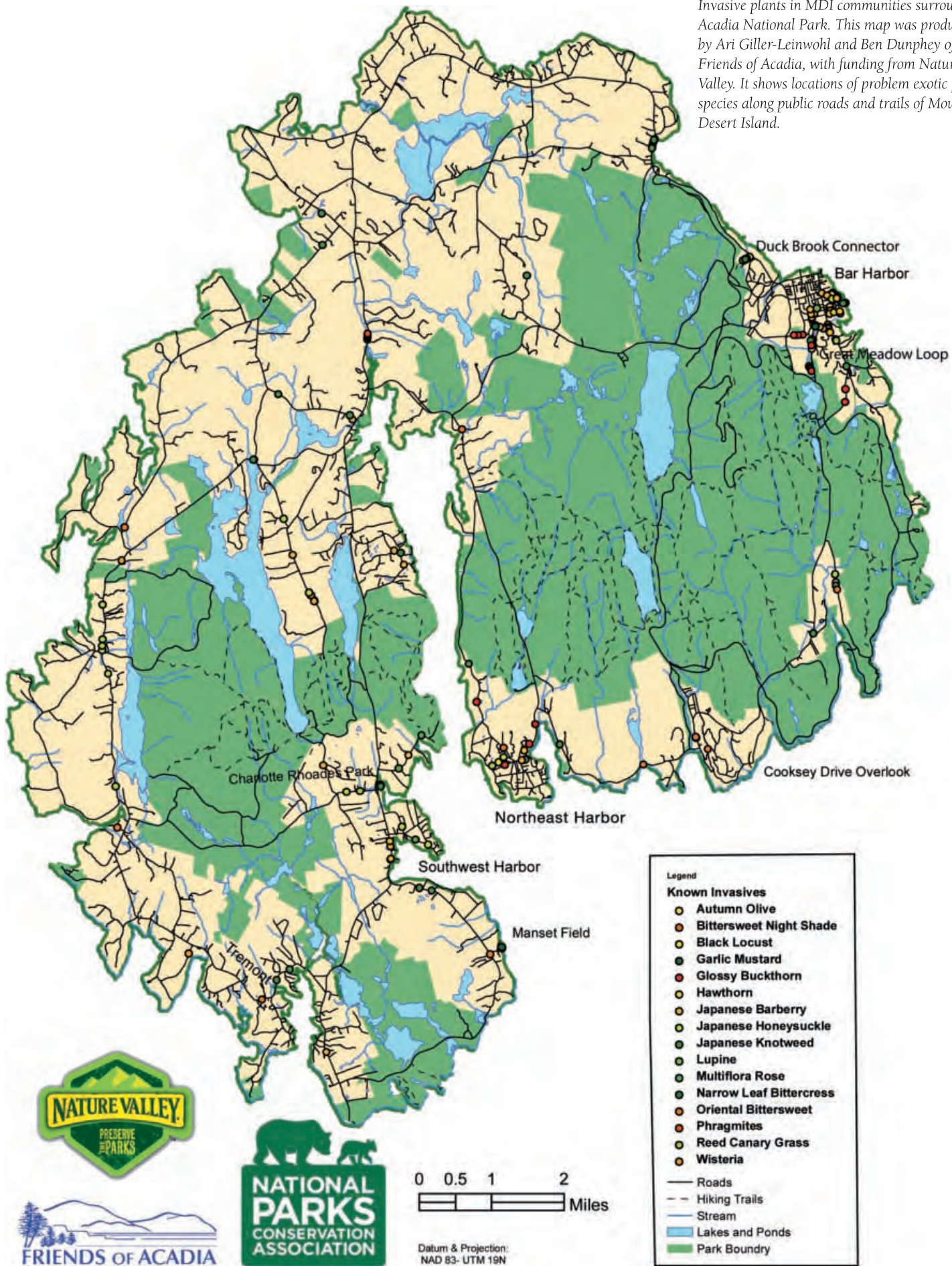
Using volunteer power and Ari's expertise meant that large areas of invasive populations were controlled in a relatively short time. Adds Ari, "I think that the ecosystem and diverse habitats on Mount Desert Island, be they public lands or private, all benefitted from the exotic plant volunteer projects of this season. Treating exotic plants as a population versus on certain parcels of land just makes sense. I truly appreciate the opportunity to work with Friends of Acadia, the National Park Service, and the wonderful volunteers, and look forward to more projects in the future!"

It is a never-ending battle, but with the help of mapping, identification, and teamwork, Friends of Acadia, the National Park Service, and other partners can help raise awareness about this issue. 🌱

ANNA ADAMS is the senior field crew leader at Friends of Acadia.

Friends of Acadia programs and events coordinator Terry Begley contributed to this article.

Invasive plants in MDI communities surround Acadia National Park. This map was produced by Ari Giller-Leinwohl and Ben Dunphy of Friends of Acadia, with funding from Nature Valley. It shows locations of problem exotic plant species along public roads and trails of Mount Desert Island.



What Is Happening to Bats on Mount Desert Island?

By Bruce Connery

The natural history of bats in Acadia National Park is not well known, having only been documented by a few studies (Zimmerman 1997, Divoll 2013) and the occasional observations of attentive naturalists. Ostracized by long-held and falsified fears, these little ecosystem managers of most of Mount Desert Island's (MDI) habitats have gone on about their ecological duties without our support or caring since the departure of the glaciers. But their work and our concern changed recently when a fungus (*Pseudogymnoascus destructans*, the cause of "white nose syndrome") introduced to North America in 2006, spread to Maine in 2010. In a little over a year it had reached Hancock County; its presence was confirmed by diagnostic testing on several deceased little brown bats (*Myotis lucifugus*) found in and outside the park. During the next few months, the park and Acadia Wildlife Foundation would receive or document more than 100 deceased individuals at more than 70 sites on MDI, illustrating both the extent of the outbreak and its wide distribution in a season when these insect-eating predators should have been in their sleep-like state of hibernation.

Several species of bats have been documented on MDI or in the area, but only five are thought to have been common summer residents before the outbreak. The most common of these species was the little brown bat, thought to have comprised approximately 40% of the bats observed every summer. The others were the northern long-eared bat (*Myotis septentrionalis*), the small-footed Myotis (*Myotis leibii*), the big brown bat (*Eptesicus fuscus*), and the red bat (*Lasiurus borealis*). Although they were known to spend the summers here, little was known of where they hibernated for the



Small-footed *Myotis* found in May 2013. Note the scars in the wing membrane.

winter. Using ultra-sonic detections and trapping efforts conducted early in the spring and again in mid to late fall, Tim Divoll of the Maine-based Biodiversity Research Institute and park staff have shown that small-footed and big brown bats may winter on MDI, and that little brown and northern long-eared bats may roost in one or a few locations very close to the Island. These study findings also showed that at least the small-footed *Myotis* use the Island to give birth and raise their pups.

Since the original discovery of the fungus, surveys by park biologists and Divoll have documented drastic declines in the populations of little brown and northern long-eared bats across MDI. The fungus also appears to have infected a significant number of small-footed *Myotis* (see picture of damaged wing membrane), although the effect on the population is unclear. If the declines found in these studies are real, biologists expect significant ecological changes in most of the forest, marsh, and shrub-land habitats that could become apparent in many direct and indirect effects on Maine's economy (e.g., tourism, forest products, and agriculture). Less natural control of insects by bats would

directly translate to significantly higher numbers of insect pests surviving in agricultural areas, forest and wetland habitats, and in many urban and rural landscapes used by humans. These concerns are valid for Acadia and for all of Maine, making the loss of bats much more serious than just the loss of species and biological richness.

In the last five years, dozens of research efforts have searched for answers to the life history of the fungus, how it affects bats, how it has spread so quickly in North America, and how it might be controlled or eliminated. These findings have helped us understand the disease and increased our understanding about bats immensely (see reference sources at the end of this article), but have found no solutions to stop the declines in bat populations. During this time, biologists and scientists have identified ways to protect remaining individuals and entire populations by applying the same safeguards used in any disease outbreak. While some of these wouldn't apply to MDI or Acadia, others such as carefully timing the construction or remodeling of roofs and attics and access to these areas are seen as an important step in limiting the possible transfer of the fungus' reproductive spores to new populations.

Much remains to be done on MDI, in Acadia, and across Maine. Anyone can be part of the effort to help bats by doing one or more of the following:

Natural areas:

1. During late fall (November), through the winter, and into the spring (April), report to the park biologist (find contact information at the end of the article) any observations of bats that are outside, whether flying or on buildings

or on the ground. These observations will help park and Maine state biologists map the location of bats apparently affected by the disease, and can be used to pinpoint possible summer or winter roosts that may be infected with the disease. Remember to record date, time of day, activity of the bat(s), and the specific location. Don't try to capture or collect the bat unless you have talked with the park or Maine state biologist or someone at Acadia Wildlife Foundation. If pictures are possible, please take one or more and send these to the park biologist.

2. If you find a bat on the ground or on the lower levels of a building wall, exterior or interior, please contact the park biologist or someone at Acadia Wildlife Foundation for information or directions on what can be done. Don't disturb or handle the bat unless you believe it is in danger, and then only with gloved or covered hands to a safe, dark, and more protected location.

Buildings, whether home, storage, or work:

1. Consider putting bat houses near your home, business, or any areas you maintain. The current thinking is that bats that have survived in an infected area may have or develop some immunity to the fungus. Providing them with new roost locations will give these remaining individuals a safe and uninfected area to roost in during the summer. Follow guidelines (see reference sources at the end of the article) about the design and construction of the bat house; its color and placement on the exterior of a building, pole, or tree; and its orientation to the sun, height above the ground, and placement in a habitat. The park and other federal agencies, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife (DIFW), and many private bat organizations have information to help you with all of these considerations.
2. If you are planning siding or roof fixes to your house, storage area, or any building, or considering other substantive or cosmetic fixes, please contact Maine DIFW about when these activi-



Bat house located on MDI.

Acadia National Park

- ties should be conducted. Avoiding the weeks before and after the young are born but before they learn to fly gives young bat pups a better chance to survive once they leave their maternal roost and become independent. All of Maine's bats have only one pup a year, and not necessarily every year, meaning rebuilding Maine's bat population will take many years—likely decades. For these reasons, Maine DIFW has regulations that prohibit contractors from doing this type of work during late May to mid-July, and Maine towns are to enforce this regulation by not issuing building permits during this time. Do-it-yourself homeowners should also follow these construction and remodeling dates.
3. Equally important is to limit activity in an attic or upper loft of garages or other storage buildings during the maternity period. By staying away from possible roosts from late spring through mid-July, you will again be supporting the well-being and recovery of Maine's bats. 🦇

BRUCE CONNERY is the park biologist at Acadia National Park. He can be reached at 288-8726 or bruce_connery@nps.gov to report bat-related information.

INFORMATION ON PSEUDOGYMNOASCUS DESTRUCTANS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS GEOMYCES DESTRUCTANS):

- <http://whitenosesyndrome.org>
- <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>
- http://www.nwhc.usgs.gov/disease_information/white-nose_syndrome/

INFORMATION ON BATS:

- <http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Chiroptera.html>
- <http://www.batcon.org/>
- <http://www.fws.gov/midwest/endangered/mammals/nlba/index.html>

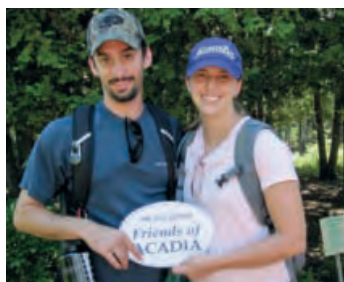
INFORMATION FOR MAINE:

- Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife:
http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/disease/white_nose_syndrome.htm
- Acadia Wildlife Foundation:
call 288-4960

New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Chehale Alexander
 Vicki and Ron Alexander
 Helen Allen
 Bruce and Joy Allen
 Terese Allen
 Michelle and Eric Allvin
 Albert Alschuler
 Robert F. Anderson
 Elaine Appellof and Jerry Saunders
 Bo and Anthony Argentino
 Sergio Armani
 Ara Arslanian
 Eric James Astor
 Brooke Atkinson
 Douglas Augspurg
 Charlotte and Brooks Aukamp
 Bonnie and Russ Ayer
 Candace and Robert Bachorik
 Patsy Baeckert
 Christian Bailey
 Sue and Ray Baker
 Mida Ballard
 Diana and Robert Bangert-Drowns
 Peter Barberie and Virgil Marti
 Laura and Kevin Barnaba
 Tom Barnett
 Elizabeth and Christopher Barnett
 Nancy and Charles Barry
 Cathy Hill Batista
 Carol Baumerich
 Rachel Baumgarner
 Rebekah Baumgarner
 Pixie and Dennis Beck
 Robert Belkin
 Adrian Bellingier
 Linda Bennett
 Denise and Richard Bernardo
 Bill Bezenson
 Leslie and Michael Bissailon
 Sarah Blagden
 Jody Blake
 William Blakeney
 Peggy Gregan-Blanchard and Robert Blanchard
 Ruth and Benjamin Blaney



Anthony Blasi and Rebecca Dillon
 Maria Bleier
 Toni and Bob Bliss
 Andrea and Brian Blood
 Kathryn Blood
 Patricia Viau and Éric Boisvert
 Elizabeth Bollt
 David Bor and Robin Barnes
 Eric and Aline Borduas

Gerard Bosco
 Cathi and Larry Best
 The Boston Foundation
 Mary Botti
 Denis Bouffard and Monica Moeller
 Jean and James Bourdon
 Kathy Boyd
 Elizabeth and Scott Boyle
 Robert Boyle, Saunder Boyle, and Lynne Richards
 Richard Bradford
 Bob and Lynn Brennan
 Jason Briggs
 Nancy and Don Brown
 Anne Brune and David Conway
 Tom Bruyere
 Don Bundren
 Kathleen Burger
 Reverend and Mrs. Laurence Byrne
 Charles Cairns
 John Cameron
 C.C. Cameron



Annette Campbell
 Thomas and Irene Caniano
 Charles Capron
 Jan Carlson
 Michael and Lisa Castelli
 Anne-Marie and Grant Castleberg
 Sheri and Randall Chalnick
 Jill Charney
 Art and Pam Chaves
 Sharon and Phillip Chiang
 William Chirtas
 Dave Chooljian
 Tami Christopher
 Laura Ciampini
 Patricia Ross and Jean Ciano
 Sam Clark
 Trish Clausen
 Sarah Emily and Calen Colby
 Cathy Cole and Michael Feiss
 Kenneth Coleman
 Ann Collins
 Darthea Collins
 Martha Connell
 Richard Connolly
 Sharon and Charles Conover
 Meredydd Cooper
 Sharon Coose
 William Coppola
 Tammy Costa
 Carole and Doug Costa

Brian Costello
 Pennie and Gregory Cotter
 James and Diane Coyle
 Eddie Crawford
 Barbara Crowell
 Nancy and Perry Crowl
 Anne and Arthur Crumlish
 Beauty and George Crummette
 Connie and Tom Curtin
 Eva Cusack
 Ann D'Amore
 Suzan and Bill Dahl
 Patricia Dalzell
 Steven Darr
 Jennifer and David Datush
 Matthea Daughtry
 Natalie DeLuca
 William Dennis
 Jeanne Denny
 Paula and Russell Denton
 Ruth Dewton
 Amy Dion
 Randall DiPalo
 Ellin Dixon Miller
 Joanne Dodge
 Lisa Dodrill
 Anne Donovan
 Rick Draper
 Marcia Dudley
 Ida Dugas
 Paul and Rose Duquette
 Edward Dusek
 Ellen Egley
 Holly and Joe Eiden
 Eighteenth of April Foundation
 Elias Einhorn
 Bruce Eisenhut and Janet Soma
 Elizabeth and Kirk Emge
 Noreen and Ted Endriss
 Carla Eng-Kohn
 Di Erwin
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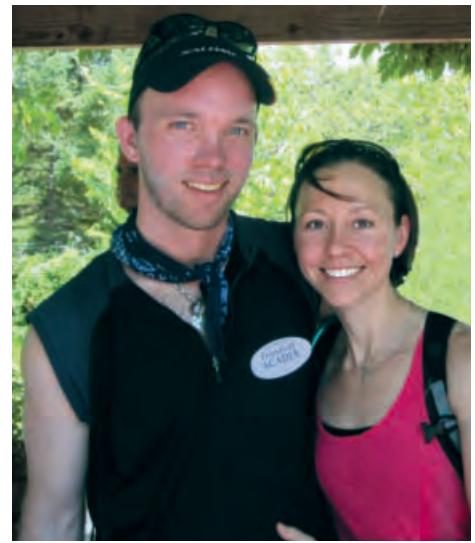
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June 1 – September 30, 2013

Updates

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps

With a full crew of 16 rugged teens, the 2013 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps kept busy this summer. While the group worked throughout Acadia, most of the focus of the work was on trails, and three trails in particular: the Deer Brook and Maple Spring Trails and the Quarry Path.

The AYCC's work on the Deer Brook Trail included highlining large stones, bench-cutting to relocate a section of trail, and revegetating the trailside. In contrast, the work on the Maple Spring Trail was the rehabilitation of a historic trail. Some of the work was similar to Deer Brook but no new trail was cut. By summer's end the AYCC team had enhanced both trails by creating tread, beautifying the trailsides, halting erosion, and handling a variety of laborious tasks so the ANP trail crew could work on the more technical aspects of trailwork.

Over in Otter Creek, the AYCC worked on the Quarry Path. When complete, this exciting new connector trail will run from Blackwoods Campground to Otter Cove, across the causeway, and to the Gorham Mountain parking area. The teens spent the summer grubbing, bench-cutting, and graveling.

Acadia Youth Technology Team

A small sign with a QR code atop Cadillac Mountain allows visitors with smart phones to view a time-lapse video of a Cadillac sunrise—no matter what the hour or weather. A small child uses an iPad to correctly identify a hemlock tree at Sieur de Monts. A large school group watches together as fluffy peregrine falcon chicks blink sleepily from a large video screen far below their cliffside nest.

In their third year, this innovative team of teens and young adults took the program to a new level, completing and refining several ongoing projects and tackling a few new ones. Some use technology to allow Acadia visitors to enhance their time here—like the digital media interpretation kit, which allows many people to watch the peregrines simultaneously, rather than limiting viewers to one at a time as the old spotting scope setup did. And some of the team's projects reach out to virtual visi-



Friends of Acadia

The 2013 Acadia Youth Technology Team, atop Cadillac Mountain.

tors—who may be planning a trip to Acadia or may never even make it here—with time-lapse videos and an ambitious online “virtual museum” of 3-D images of Acadia's historical artifact collection.

The “virtual museum” will be housed on the Friends of Acadia website starting sometime in 2014. Several time-lapse videos are already available through the Friends of Acadia channel on Vimeo at <http://vimeo.com/friendsfacadia>, alongside FOA videos about other projects and events.

Equally significant was the hiring of an evaluation fellow to develop and implement tools for measuring the success of the AYTT's projects. For an innovative and ground-breaking program like the AYTT, evaluation is a crucial step in understanding its effectiveness—to inform both the design of future projects and the creation of similar programs in other national parks, modeled on the AYTT.

Stewardship Volunteer Program

Thousands of volunteers and dozens of groups, led by Friends of Acadia crew leaders Anna Adams and Ben Dunphey as well as a small cadre of volunteer crew leaders, were kept quite busy during the 2013 season.

Volunteers worked on dozens of projects in Acadia this season; some highlights include replacing bridges on the Great Meadow Loop and the Acadian Ridge Trail, both of which are Friends of Acadia village connector trails; grubbing, bench-cutting, and graveling on the new Quarry Trail in Otter Creek; and “flossing” (clearing leaves and vegetation) between coping stones and clearing drainage ditches on the carriage roads from the south end of Eagle Lake towards Jordan Pond—an area that had

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Acadia's roads maintenance crew set new coping stones above the Eagle Lake watershed's new culvert.

not been worked on in years. Volunteers boarded boats and headed out to outer islands on several occasions (always a special treat!) to spruce up the Islesford Historical Museum and do trail work on Isle au Haut.

Finally, volunteers put in hundreds of hours working with the Acadia National Park vegetation crew to control the spread of invasive plants—including Japanese knotweed, Japanese barberry, garlic mustard, and honeysuckle—in the park and the surrounding communities.

Exciting Changes for a Small Tributary

As masterful as was the construction of Acadia's carriage roads—state-of-the-art in the early 1900s—the roads' engineers didn't know everything that Acadia's natural resource managers know today about water flow, and in any case they could not have anticipated the current increase in heavy-rainfall events caused by climate change. So it's no surprise but no bad reflection on those early engineers that several culverts in the carriage roads' drainage system are critically undersized, causing problems from flooding and repeated washouts to hurdles for spawning brook trout and other native fish.

One such culvert, accommodating a small stream on the east side of Eagle Lake where it flows under the carriage road and into the lake, got an extreme makeover this fall. With funding from Friends of Acadia, park maintenance staff replaced the undersized culvert with a new one made from corrugated metal. With a fish-friendly flat bottom and a generous diameter, the new culvert will be able to accommodate even the largest storms and should last 50 years.

Hilary Krieger, employed by FOA as the park's environmental compliance/recreation management intern, managed the project from start to finish. She notes, "The new culvert will enhance the Eagle Lake watershed by facilitating fish spawning and recruitment to the next generation. The decrease in stream sedimentation will foster good water quality and a healthier watershed." Observing that good communication between divisions was essential to the project's success, she adds, "This project taught me that a bit of ingenuity and teamwork can help negate the need for compromise. With this one project, we were able to protect Acadia's cultural resources, decrease maintenance costs, and promote a healthier environment simply by changing the shape of a culvert."



Friends of Acadia

Guests at the George B. Dorr Society's annual outing in July.

Let's Go to the Hop

The annual George B. Dorr Society outing is a chance for Friends of Acadia to connect with and thank a dedicated group of FOA supporters who have included Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. In late July, Dorr Society members met at the Bar Harbor town pier and embarked on the Bar Harbor Whale Watch's *Miss Samantha* with Acadia National Park's cultural resources program manager Becky Cole-Will and naturalist Zack Klyver. And what destination do you pick for a group of lifelong Acadia lovers who likely know the park inside and out? A place rarely found on the maps.

The Hop is a small islet just a "hop, skip, and a jump" from the north end of Long Porcupine Island. The two are joined at low tide by a stony beach with striking views of Mount Desert Island. A launch transported guests to the beach, where Becky presented a short history of Native American habitation of Acadia's outer islands. In particular, she emphasized that the coast was a winter (not summer!) home for native peoples, with milder temperatures and more dependable food sources in wintertime than the inland forests.

After her presentation and some exploration along the beach and rocks of the Hop, guests reboarded the *Miss Samantha* for a delicious lunch catered by the Jordan Pond House and continued interpretation by naturalist Zack Klyver. He pointed out harbor porpoises, seals, an immature eagle in its nest, and an exquisite natural arch along

the cliffs of Long Porcupine.

Lisa Horsch Clark, FOA director of development and donor relations, reminds members that "anybody can join the Dorr Society by including a gift to Friends of Acadia in their will or estate plan, then documenting the planned gift with us. It's actually quite easy to do." For more information on planned giving or the George B. Dorr Society, contact Lisa at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

Membership Table's Record Year

Friends of Acadia's membership table at Jordan Pond House had a record-breaking season in 2013, with more than 450 new members joining at the table—nearly 100 more than the previous highest number in 2012. The achievement of the 22 membership table volunteers was especially remarkable given that 15 scheduled days at the table were canceled due to rain.

Since it was established in 2007, the membership table has gained approximately 2,000 new members for Friends of Acadia. The volunteers talk about Acadia with visitors, sharing their love for the park and their enthusiasm for FOA's role in protecting its natural beauty. The volunteers make it easy for visitors to join or renew their membership.

For more information on volunteering at the "MT," contact development officer Sharon Broom at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org.



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Clean Waters, Clean Shores volunteers from Gotts Island aboard the Miss Chif, captained by Nathaniel Snow.

Clean Water, Clean Shores: A Great Day on the Ocean

On Saturday, September 7th, community members of MDI and neighboring islands were invited to volunteer to clean up coastal shorelines in the fourth annual Clean Water, Clean Shores cleanup. More than 75 volunteers collected 120 bags of trash as well as two chairs, the bow of a small skiff, dock materials, and dozens of salvageable buoys off Black, Eagle, Lamp, Pond, and Sheep Islands, as well as the MDI shoreline of Acadia National Park.

Volunteers were directed to the outer islands via boats from Clean Water, Clean Shores partners including Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, US Fish and Wildlife, as well a private boat captained by Nathaniel Snow of Gott's Island and MDI. Friends of Acadia spon-

sored a cookout for the volunteers at the Seal Cove boat ramp as they returned from the islands.

The Clean Water, Clean Shores project is designed to create awareness of pollution and its effects on the shorelines of Mount Desert Island and neighboring islands and communities. The cleanup is organized by the combined efforts of Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, the Island Institute, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, MDI Paddlers, the Nature Conservancy, the Town of Tremont, Tremont Harbormaster, US Fish & Wildlife, and Western Mountain Mapping.

Starry Skies Above Acadia

With clear skies and thousands of participants, the 5th Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival, held September 26th–30th, was an incredible success. From the keynote presentation by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Dr. Alex Filippenko, to solar viewing at Sieur de Monts springs, three nighttime star parties in the park, boat cruises, outdoor movies, arts events, and lectures, the festival attracted its biggest crowd ever and inspired countless exclamations at the wonders of Acadia's heavens. Friends of Acadia is a co-sponsor of this festival, contributing critical funding to support festival programs and engaging volunteers to assist throughout the festival. The ultimate goal of Friends of Acadia's participation is to



Earl Brechlin

Even though it was pitch dark most of the time during the Star Party atop Cadillac Mountain, each passing light painted a piece of this one-hour time exposure by Mount Desert Islander photographer Earl Brechlin. Stars moving as the Earth turned created the star trails in the sky. Passing planes made the vertical streaks.



Friends of Acadia

ANP volunteer coordinator Jonathan Gormley welcomes volunteers to Take Pride in Acadia Day.

encourage festival participants to work in their own communities to eliminate light pollution and protect precious dark skies.

Festival posters featuring the Milky Way emerging from the ocean near a park trail sign are still available at www.acadianight-skyfestival.com. The dates for next year's celebration are September 25–29, 2014.

Take Pride in Acadia Day

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park hosted more than 350 enthusiastic volunteers on Saturday, November 2nd, together; they raked the leaves and cleared drainage ditches from 8.8 miles of carriage roads in preparation for winter. The well-coordinated volunteer effort, now in its 23rd year, focused on areas where clogged drainage ditches and culverts could result in significant damage to road surfaces during the freeze-and-thaw cycles of a coastal Maine winter. After the morning's work, crews returned to park headquarters for a hot lunch—the event's traditional “CCC” meal of chili, cornbread, and cider (plus an extra “C” of cake—thank you Janet Anker!). The event is made possible by financial support from area businesses, including Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Birch Bay Village, The Blue-nose Inn, The First, Galyn's, The Knowles Company Real Estate, and Window Panes. Other businesses, including Coastal Kayaking, Downeast Transportation, MDI YMCA, National Park Sea Kayaking Tours, National Park Tours, the Quietside Café, and Wallace Tent and Party Rental, donated vans or busses for transporting volunteers, food, and more to make the day a success.

Acadia Quest

Nearly 200 families signed on to the 2013 Acadia Trail Quest—the most registered teams since the Quest began in 2008. Teams represented 15 states, plus two teams from Canada, one from England, and one from Germany, as well as dozens of local teams and teams from throughout the state of Maine. The 2013 Trail Quest was an experiential scavenger hunt designed to encourage teams to explore Acadia's trails. Teams were given a Quest card, a park pass, and a map and asked to complete 12 hikes in Acadia, including trails on Isle au Haut and at Schoodic as well as Friends of Acadia's village connector trails. As in past years, all teams completing the Quest were entered in a drawing for three grand prizes. This year's winners were Team Forst from East Hampton, New York; Team Capuano/Stiver from Ypsilanti, Michigan; and Team Ploof from Essex Junction, Vermont.



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Centennial Planning

While 2016 may seem far in the future, community excitement over Acadia National Park's Centennial is gaining steam. At the helm of planning and organizing is the Acadia Centennial Task Force, which includes six FOA board members, four community members, two FOA staff, and the park superintendent and interpretation chief. The task force has been meeting regularly to brainstorm event ideas, reach out to community partners, and develop a unifying theme and image for the Centennial.

The first project the Centennial Task Force undertook was to identify a Centennial tagline. Combined with a logo, the tagline will convey the overall theme of the celebration and be used by partner organizations and businesses to identify affiliated products and events. The task force solicited input from Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia staff before selecting the final slogan: "Acadia's Centennial: Celebrate our Past! Inspire our Future!" A working group has initiated a nationwide logo design contest (see page 6 for more information) to solicit the visual image to accompany the tag line.

The Task Force also immediately formed two other working groups. The first researched best practices and lessons learned from other national parks that have or are about to celebrate their centennials. In particular, Rocky Mountain National Park (2015 centennial) presented excellent information online that helped guide the task force in putting together the logo contest. Another working group has begun thinking about how Friends of Acadia might license the Centennial logo to nonprofit organizations and commercial retailers for use in product development, fundraising, and merchandising. Additional working groups will be formed around topics such as how to involve the arts community, how to market the Centennial locally and farther afield, and how to reach out to the statewide community of organizations, agencies, and businesses.

In October, the Centennial Task Force rolled these ideas out to a group of community organizations who have expressed interest in participating in the Centennial in some fashion. These organizations, called the "Acadia Centennial Partners" (ACPs),

begin sharing ideas and plans for how each organization might uniquely celebrate the Centennial with programming that is appropriate to their organization. The ACPs will meet at least twice a year to continue sharing ideas, and the Centennial Task Force plans to develop a website to facilitate communication among ACPs.

Acadia was founded by philanthropists who donated lands and fortunes to create a national park for the American people. That rich history continues today with over forty organizations working together to plan a yearlong celebration honoring the heritage of that gift and to inspire the next generation of park stewards.

New Member on the Board

At the Friends of Acadia 2013 Annual Meeting in July, Hank Schmelzer was elected as the newest member of FOA's Board of Directors. A resident of Mount Desert, Hank was the president and CEO of the Maine Community Foundation from 2000 to 2008. Prior to entering the field of philanthropy, he practiced corporate and securities law for many years in Boston, becoming Vice President and Counsel of New England Mutual Life Insurance Company. He transitioned from law to business management and from 1991 to 1998 served as president and CEO of the New England Mutual Funds.

Hank's motivation for serving on the FOA board is clear: "because the Park has been so important to me for almost my entire life (70 years now) and because of the fabulous work that FOA does to ensure Park's preservation and successful future." He has been on many corporate and nonprofit boards over the years, including the Board of Trustees of Maine Public Broadcasting Network, the Board of the College of the Atlantic, and the Board of Overseers of the University of Maine. Hank was a Captain in the U.S. Army (military intelligence) and served in Vietnam, where he received a bronze star with oak leaf cluster and the Vietnamese cross for gallantry. He is an avid skier, hiker and student of Italian language and culture. His favorite activities in Acadia include "hiking on the mountain trails and carriage roads, as well as the splendid coastline and islands." ❧

An Active Fall for Acadia's Advocates

The Friends of Acadia Advocacy Committee has been active in the late summer/early fall on several issues. At various times during the August Congressional recess, FOA President David MacDonald, Acadia National Park leadership, and FOA Board and Advocacy Committee members toured the park or met with Representative Jim Moran, ranking member of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Senator Angus King, and Ben Goodman from Congressman Michael Michaud's staff. Topics discussed included the effects of the Sequester on Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities and the need to re-authorize the legislation that enables national parks to charge and retain entrance fees.

On October 1st, Acadia National Park and the 400 other units of the National Park System closed due to a partial government shutdown. Friends of Acadia prepared an advocacy alert asking members to urge Congress to pass a comprehensive budget and re-open the national parks. FOA also worked with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to distribute informal petitions throughout local communities, to give visitors and residents the opportunity to add their names to the call to Congress. Almost 2,900 names were collected. Petitions were hand-delivered by an FOA member to Senator Collins' and Congressman Michaud's offices in Washington so that they could share the urgent message with Congressional leadership.

FOA also partnered with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce and the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission to hold a public forum for citizens to ask questions about and comment on both the government shutdown and the award of the Acadia concessions contract to Dawnland Enterprises in place of the longtime concessioner, the Acadia Corporation. More than 75 people attended the meeting, and FOA shared the notes with the Maine Congressional delegation.

During the shutdown, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell provided authority for states to

work with the Park Service to re-open individual national parks if state governments were willing to fully fund the costs of re-opening for up to four consecutive days. The estimated cost of re-opening Acadia was \$27,700 per day. FOA discussed this possibility with the State of Maine, the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, and local park officials, but elected not to pursue this option because of the fundamental desire not to replace Congressional responsibility to fund the national parks. Additionally, the potential for visitor confusion and inefficiencies surrounding opening the park and then closing it again after just a few days went into the joint decision.

On the positive side, the bill that ended the government shutdown included a provision to extend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act by a year. This bill enables national parks to continue charging their entrance fees through December 8, 2015. The entrance fee program is critical to reducing the backlog of maintenance projects at Acadia, as the park is authorized to retain up to 80% of entrance fees for projects such as rehabilitating trails, replacing water lines, and maintaining buildings. A national coalition led by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is compiling ideas for improving the recreation fee program in preparation for a longer-term reauthorization.

Over the winter, Friends of Acadia will continue to work with community partners such as the NPCA and the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to urge Congress not to cut national park budgets further. FOA will also work with the park and the Chamber to make the park's budget process and challenges more transparent to the public. We owe thanks to all who have weighed in with Congress to let them know how important national parks are to the local and state economy, as well as the general welfare of residents and visitors.

— Stephanie Clement

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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.

Book Reviews

A Natural History Guide to Birds of Mount Desert Island, Maine

by Anna K. Stunkel
Self-published, 2013
96 pp, Softcover

Mount Desert Island has a rich ornithological history with notable footnotes including bones found in the middens left by paleo-Indians, Samuel de Champlain's comment that waterfowl were abundant in the vicinity of *Île des Monts Déserts*, and the multiple editions of the *Native Birds of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park* family of books authored variously by Carroll Tyson, James Bond, and Ralph Long. Added to this rich history are the seemingly innumerable contributions by the faculty and students of College of the Atlantic.

The latest COA contribution—Anna Stunkel's *A Natural History Guide to Birds of Mount Desert Island, Maine*—does not disappoint. This book was prepared as Stunkel's senior project, the culmination of four years of active bird study on and around MDI. More than a bird book, this work also serves as a portfolio of Anna's artistic abilities.

You can almost sense the motion in her Red-eyed Vireo which looks as though it is about to leap into flight. You can see in her Black-capped Chickadee the fruits of countless hours of observation as she captures every primary feather, every one of the rectrices (tail feathers), and the multi-layered down of its chest. Her American Robin looks as though it has just molted into the rich orange breast of the breeding season. The American Redstart captures the wonderful contrast between the male's black plumage and orange highlights. Pine Siskin may be among the best I have seen.

Anyone with a collection of natural history books of MDI, or, for that matter, anyone who appreciates bird art will want this book for their library. 🐦

RICHARD MACDONALD is a local ornithologist who runs The Natural History Center, featuring nature and bird tours, found in downtown Bar Harbor on Firefly Lane. *A Natural History Guide to Birds of Mount Desert Island, Maine* is available at Rich's store.

The College of the Atlantic Guide to the Lakes & Ponds of Mt. Desert


By Bill Newlin
College of the Atlantic Press, 2013
336 pp, Softcover

The sea around us forms an ancient boundary to an unknown we ponder from island heights. The lakes, ponds and streams of Acadia are waters we know intimately as the heart and soul of all island life. *The College of the Atlantic Guide to the Lakes & Ponds of Mt. Desert* begins with this dual sense we feel on our sea-bound but well-watered island.

Bill Newlin, a champion of our lakes and ponds, asserts in the very first sentence of this second edition that our freshwaters "get short shrift." No longer. In this second edition, his wonderful book remains the essential volume on its subject. Here we learn to enjoy Acadia's freshwater endowment through the counsel of a wise man and wily angler who has loved the places of which he writes for eight decades. We are offered overviews of how and where to boat, swim, fish, hike along, and picnic near our lakes and ponds. Twenty-one lakes and six small ponds are celebrated for their distinct virtues.

Bill Newlin learned his way through our waters from a father who loved their magic. The son has become a practical guide, fierce protector and ardent poet of our freshwaters and the wildlife they sustain. He is also a seasoned historian of this place, as we learn from his epigraphs and references to past lake lovers. We follow Wabanaki portages, learn where waterpower turned mills, and hear the rasp of saws harvesting lake ice for city markets to the south.

This book is a fitting premier for the College of the Atlantic Press. The co-authors of this now-collaborative work include COA faculty Ken Cline and graduates Rachel Briggs, Addison Namnoum, and Brett Ciccotelli. COA President Darron Collins provides a graceful foreword. Those who treasure dog-eared copies of the 1989 edition will find 116 fresh new pages, glorious additional illustrations, welcome sidebars, and an updated bibliography.



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The College of the Atlantic Guide to the Lakes & Ponds of Mt. Desert is a book for all seasons. Readers who paddle to the end will enjoy hundreds of excursions. One may plan a summer family outing or turn to it on a winter evening, toss a last log on the fire, and summon a reverie of Acadian waters.

Those who know Acadia's freshwaters well are well served by Bill Newlin. A son of this island, I have lived my own lake-cycle from the small child who discovered the world at the north end of Echo Lake to the elder now returned for his final years to the same house, the same sunrises on shoreline century pines, and the same sunsets above the north end tree line.

This is also a timely book. As we look back to appreciate what our freshwaters have meant to our island and to us, we are also invited to look forward, as human ecologists, to embrace our responsibilities

to nature and to future generations of our own species—among others. To love the lakes, ponds and streams of Acadia must mean serving as stewards of her watersheds. We have work to do, as friends, to return Acadian watersheds toward their wild state and help them flow resilient through the challenges that climate change will bring.

As we work together, we may love the natural gifts we protect and those rare books, such as this, that are acts of conservation. In final pages of *Lakes & Ponds*, we hear the call of common loons who winter at sea but return to their home lakes in spring within a day after ice-out. They know. So does Bill Newlin. 🐾

JACK RUSSELL is a member of the Friends of Acadia Board and a regular *Journal* contributor.

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“Don't it always seem to go...”

The classic Joanie Mitchell song continues, “. . . you don't know what you've got till it's gone.” I imagine that more than a few Acadia visitors were unconsciously humming that tune as they considered the “park closed” signs posted at all Acadia entrances for the first 16 days in October.

Obviously, we haven't “lost” Acadia, but we did get a peek into a possible future of a much less supported and less accessible Acadia National Park. And it is a future that none of us want! The good news is that now, with heightened awareness of what might be, Friends of Acadia, with your help, can do a lot to avoid such a future state.

By and large, I believe that those who read this Chairman's Letter do know what we have here at Acadia National Park. Why else would four hundred of you get up early on a Saturday in November to rake leaves on Acadia's carriage roads? Why else would we send the FOA president to testify before Congress on the importance of federal support for America's national parks? Why else would the Acadia Winter Trails volunteers climb on their snowmobiles after every snow storm—often before sunrise, spending hours working in frigid temperatures—to groom Acadia's carriage roads for skiing? Why else would thousands of individuals, couples, and families support the FOA Annual Fund and send in their FOA membership gift every year?

Friends of Acadia's members, volunteers, and supporters appreciate the matchless gift of Acadia. We recognize the many ways Acadia enriches our lives—as a peaceful destination for family picnics and quiet contemplation, as a beautiful view every day as we commute to work, as an endless source of recreational opportunities for generations of summer and year 'round residents and decades of visitors from away, as an economic engine for surrounding communities, as a draw for our friends and family to come visit, and so much more.



As new and greater concerns arise, Friends of Acadia remains the best agent to respond on behalf of our members, volunteers, supporters, and all those who love and care for Acadia National Park. Thank you for being among them.


Acadia gives, and gives, and gives. And we, the members, volunteers, and supporters of Friends of Acadia, know that the more we give back to Acadia, the more it will shower us with gifts anew . . . today, tomorrow, and for the generations to come

Still, there's nothing like the threat of irredeemable loss to move one to action. When George B. Dorr was working to protect these lands almost a century ago, it was the imminent purchase of Sieur de Monts Spring by a water bottling corporation that pushed Dorr to acquire the property himself. It was the start of construction of a large estate on the eastern shore of Eagle Lake that led to

the Hancock County Trustees for Public Reservations' commitment to protect MDI's pristine lakes and ponds. And it was the threatened revocation of the Trustees' state charter that finally sent Dorr to Washington, DC to pursue federal protection for this place he loved so dearly.

Likewise, I know that the cutbacks on seasonal openings and services due to the federal sequester last spring, followed by the government shutdown and shuttering of America's national parks in October, will serve as a wakeup call to many Americans and especially to those of us who love and value Acadia National Park, to renew our appreciation for these treasures and our commitment to protecting them for all to enjoy.

Bad things can happen, but they don't have to. For example, we once thought that surrounding plant life on Acadia's carriage roads might grow in until the carriage roads became nothing but walking paths, or that public transportation couldn't make a dent in MDI's summer traffic. Thanks to the timely actions of Friends of Acadia, we've seen a better outcome! Working with thoughtful donors and supporters, we created the carriage road endowment and the Island Explorer, and we now have the tools to manage those threats. As new and greater concerns arise, Friends of Acadia remains the best agent to respond on behalf of our members, volunteers, supporters, and all those who love and care for Acadia National Park. Thank you for being among them. We are important, significant, and relevant! 🍂



—Ed Samek

LESSONS AND CONNECTIONS IN ACADIA

Nate Levesque

I am not a poet and I do not believe I could do justice to the beauty of Acadia with my writing, nor will I attempt to. I could fill this page with a long list of adjectives that might describe Acadia to a potential tourist, but I'm sure that most people reading this are quite familiar with the park and do not need words like "serene" and "tranquil" to paint a mental picture. To a casual visitor, Acadia might be little more than a place on a map and perhaps a check on a bucket list. To me, and most of you, Acadia is far more than that.

Roughly two years ago I took on the endeavor of becoming a landscape photographer. In that moment, I didn't realize how



Nate Levesque, *Self Portrait*

much this newborn hobby would change me. I bought my first DSLR and was clueless on how to use it. I had seen photos of the sunrises from Acadia on photo sites such as Flickr, and I wanted to take on the challenge of capturing a sunrise for myself. I awoke early one morning and headed to Schooner Head Overlook, overcome with excitement at the thought of producing a great photograph. In case you are wondering: no great photographs were produced that morning.

However, it was not a wasted trip. It was the first time I had ever seen the sunrise from the coast of Maine, and that morning I was transformed. I had witnessed the beauty of nature in a way that I had never seen before. I felt connected. Over the past 12 months I have witnessed over 10 sunrises, and every one still blows me away.

It was during these early mornings that I was able to disconnect

from the hustle and bustle of life, and connect with nature. There were mornings when I was the only person on Boulder Beach for two to three hours, and there was a sense that everything was there just for me. I have also spent a lot of time hiking the trails of Acadia and have climbed each mountain, some more than once. It was during these moments that I learned the importance of living in the moment and appreciating the small things that surrounded me, not only the large view from the top.

I know that Acadia provides me with more than \$40 worth of fun, excitement, joy, and happiness (a yearly fee, which I gladly pay). Acadia National Park provides me with the perfect practicing ground for photography, it has connected me with nature in ways unforeseen, and most importantly it has transformed the way I see things around me. All of which are invaluable. I'm sure many of you have your own stories and feelings about Acadia. Imagine if we could all pile our stories together—forget about a check on a bucket list. The bucket would be past overflowing, buried deep by our collected memories and affection for this remarkable park. That, aided by its scenic and natural riches, is what makes Acadia so much more than a mere "place."

I think it is important to recognize the people who care for this area, and I would like to end this essay in doing so. Without the hard work of the National Park Service and Friends of Acadia, we would not have such an amazing place to share. Thank you for all you do! 🌲

NATE LEVESQUE is a photographer based in Hampden, Maine. He hopes that his photography will inspire other people to get outdoors and witness the beauty of Maine firsthand. His work can be seen at: www.natelevesquephotography.com.



"Acadia Flowers Sunrise" by Nate Levesque

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