

Friends of  
**ACADIA**  
Journal

Spring 2014  
Volume 19 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities



# PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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

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Annual pass artwork by Jacob Legutko. See story page 20.



## — PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK —

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## SILVER LININGS

Each year, my daughter and I take a bike trip through Acadia National Park. We pack our sleeping bags and gear on our bikes and spend a Saturday winding through the carriage roads of Acadia, before pitching tent at Blackwoods Campground. Even though it's only about ten miles from home, it always feels like a complete getaway, especially as night falls and the campground becomes a world unto itself. As the stars come out and the campfires crackle, we hear families from near and far sharing stories of their day in Acadia and excitedly making plans for tomorrow.

This past fall we did not take our annual trip—due in part to the government shutdown that shuttered Acadia in October, but also in part to Eliza throwing herself into her first weeks of high school. While our family tends to enjoy Acadia on an almost-daily basis, I missed that deeper experience in the park that an overnight camping trip affords.

But hope springs eternal in this new season following a beautiful, snowy winter. And as maddening and costly as the shutdown was, it just may prove to have a silver lining—or two. Last year's painful closures of the park motor roads forced by sequestration and the shutdown opened my eyes to the glories of pedaling Acadia's famed Loop Road largely car-free. Taking our bike trip in the quieter spring this year will mean that Eliza and I can chart some new routes without concern for the cars and motor coaches that fill the park in summer and fall. And I know that many other bikers and walkers will join me in enjoying the historic roadways and magnificent vistas under our own steam this spring, even before the gates swing open for cars.

The other silver lining of the shutdown appears to stem from the widespread public outcry during those two weeks in October. People everywhere, including in Acadia, let their elected officials know how important national parks are to our lives, and more than 30,000 stories in the media focused on



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**Friends of Acadia continues to work in close partnership with local businesses and as part of a national coalition to be a voice for Acadia and to ensure that parks do not again fall victims to budget brinksmanship as we plan for 2015 and beyond.**

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the impact felt by communities like ours—making parks the most visible public storyline of the shutdown. This year, Acadia's budget has been “restored” to 2012 levels, and the damaging sequestration cuts have been eliminated. We hope that this isn't a one-time bounce, but that elected officials in Washington will continue to see the vital importance of funding national parks.

Friends of Acadia continues to work in close partnership with local businesses and as part of a national coalition to be a voice for Acadia and to ensure that parks do not again fall victims to budget brinksmanship as we plan for 2015 and beyond. Federal funding from Congress must match public sentiment that caring for these national

treasures is among the most fundamental and sound investments that our nation can make. We are encouraged by the emphasis placed on national parks in President Obama's 2015 budget, released in March, which proposed increased funding for park operations, infrastructure, and new programs leading up to the Park Service's centennial in 2016.

In addition to our advocacy work, you can be assured that Friends of Acadia will also continue to invest our members' generous contributions to fund groundbreaking projects that add a margin of excellence to the management of Acadia. At a place like Blackwoods Campground, this will take the form of an innovative partnership with philanthropic and corporate supporters to replace older light fixtures with “night-sky friendly” lighting to help conserve the spectacular starry vistas that are increasingly rare in the northeastern US. It will also take the form of a completely new hiking trail (made possible in part by FOA grant funding and volunteers) that will link that campground to Otter Cove, Gorham Mountain, and Ocean Drive—offering an opportunity for campers to access some of the most popular areas of the park while leaving their cars behind. Save June 7<sup>th</sup>, National Trails Day, to join FOA and the park for a planned trail dedication and inaugural hike.

While traditions like an annual bike trip are wonderful, changing up the mode of our visit to the park is something we should all try more often: try Acadia off-season or early in the morning; try it without a car or with a tent. Even for those of us who have been enjoying the park for decades, the change might do us and Acadia good. 🍓

—David R. MacDonald



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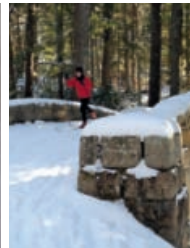
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# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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## Science and Partnerships to Improve Acadia

In the mid-1990s, our park staff was surprised to discover that fish in Hodgdon and Seal Cove Ponds were contaminated with mercury. Years of research later, Acadia is now one of the best-studied locations in the world when it comes to mercury and conservation. Research in Acadia has contributed to policies to reduce mercury pollution from power plants and other major sources. While mercury emissions are now declining, mercury pollution is still a problem for much of our wildlife.

Science is critical to making Acadia the special place it is and keeping it that way for our children and grandchildren. It helps us improve all aspects of park management—from protecting wildlife to preserving our coastal historical sites to keeping visitors safe and healthy. It helps us overcome challenges that we face, improve visitors' experiences, and achieve our mission to preserve one of our country's national treasures unimpaired for future generations.

The park's need for scientific research far outstrips our ability to support it through staff or funding. That is why the park helped to create the nonprofit Schoodic Institute at Acadia National Park to develop a campus dedicated to scientific research, education, and communication—the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). I am excited by how this emerging organization and facility will complement the efforts of Friends of Acadia to accomplish our shared objectives at Acadia.

SERC's campus contains classrooms, labs, meeting rooms, exhibits, and housing, all in short supply elsewhere in the park. A leader among the 20 research learning centers in national parks across the country, the SERC campus is becoming a hub of intellectual and creative activity. The programs and partnerships among the Schoodic Institute, FOA, and others are helping to attract more researchers, educators, artists, and partner organizations than the park can recruit and support on its own, and advancing science and science education throughout Acadia and well beyond the park's boundaries.



Peter Travers

One example is helping students, volunteers, and everyday visitors get their hands dirty doing real science, so-called “citizen science.” Take the mercury research I mentioned earlier—staff from the Schoodic Institute, University of Maine, and the park worked with teachers and students throughout northern New England to explore why mercury concentrations are high for wildlife in some streams, wetlands, ponds, and lakes but not others. (Here in Acadia, for example, fish in some ponds have very high concentrations of mercury but fish in other ponds seem fine.) This project has been so successful at advancing mercury research and education that it is now being replicated in 40 national parks across the country, led by UMaine and the US Geological Survey.

This year and in coming years, partners at Acadia will continue to expand our professional research and citizen science programs. We will address the challenge of how we can best protect and preserve Acadia's natural and cultural resources in a rapidly changing environment—in a time of more major storms, rising sea levels, spreading invasive species, and other challenges. These efforts are very much a part of Friends of Acadia's strategic vision for a resilient and wild Acadia, and FOA staff and volunteers will be building upon the research facilitated by the park and Schoodic Institute and apply-

ing it to on-the-ground planning and restoration projects within key park watersheds.

We are not stopping there, though. Schoodic Institute and the park are hosting and working with National Geographic, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Natural History Museum in London, and many other organizations to develop a new international Citizen Science Association to foster communication, collaboration, and professional development in citizen science. We want to make Acadia an international leader in this budding field—we think it has the potential to improve science, conservation, and education here and worldwide.

SERC's campus can also host residential education programs that we do not have the facilities to provide elsewhere in the park. The Schoodic Education Adventure program, funded in part with a grant from L.L.Bean through Friends of Acadia, gives middle school students from throughout the state a three-day immersion in the wonders of Acadia's coast, forests, and night sky. And last year's efforts by FOA to expand Acadia's Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program benefited from the capacity to have two of the seven TRTs based at SERC for the summer.

Achieving our ambitious goals for youth engagement and resource sustainability will require both the growing capacity for research and science education at Schoodic Institute and the established expertise at FOA for turning research into action and engaging stakeholders, volunteers, and philanthropy in “on the ground” projects in the park and communities. Acadia is fortunate indeed to have such effective partners, promising to make what is already a world-class place even more special, to make visitor experiences more inspiring, and to help us preserve this place and experience for future generations. ■

—Sheridan Steele





George B. Dorr, circa 1940, standing on the Beechcroft Trail.

### Pennies for Acadia

I am writing to you from the Albert S. Hall School. We are a small school in Waterville, Maine that services 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. Our school's community board, a group of students that works to better the school and the community at large, decided to hold a penny drive. Each grade chose a charity, and after careful research and discussion, our fifth graders chose to raise money for Friends of Acadia.

I am enclosing a check for \$104.38. Please use the money as you see fit. We appreciate the wonderful work that you do!

—Lindsay Davis, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Uri Lessing, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
Waterville, Maine

### It's Not George

Today I received my fall/winter issue of the FOA Journal and at the suggestion of [FOA board member] Jack Russell turned to the article on rehabilitating Sieur de Monts Spring. Unfortunately, the photo attributed to the ANP archives on page 10 is not that of George B. Dorr.

The gentleman is William Bourke Cochran (née Cockran), born two months after Mr. Dorr. He was an Irish orator who

emigrated in 1871 to the United States, became an attorney, and then a Democrat in the U.S. Congress.

—Ronald H. Epp  
Lebanon, Pennsylvania

*Editor's Note: But of course—Mr. Dorr always wore a fine moustache (see photo). We appreciate the identification of the gentleman holding a cup of Sieur de Monts spring water. The error was ours, not the authors'.*

### Volunteers Aid Science in Acadia

Thank you so much for all of your help in the past few weeks! From clearing sites to constructing raised bed, from hauling soil to digging new transplants, you made my research possible. I am truly amazed by what we were able to accomplish in such a short time. Your dedication, your love for Acadia, your willingness to jump into any new project and lend your guidance and expertise—these qualities make Friends of Acadia such a unique and wonderful group. Thank you, thank you, thank you! I promise to keep you all posted on the progress of the gardens this spring!

—Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie  
Boston, Massachusetts

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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.

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Pink granite along Acadia's seashore  
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



This Journal is printed on paper made with 100% recycled fiber and 60% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free, and manufactured in the USA with 100% Green-e certified renewable energy. Printed with soy-based ink, using wind power.

## Ralph and Susan Nurnberger: Friends on the Hill

What does a friends group do when the federal government shuts down and visitors are kept out of our national parks? We call Ralph and Susan Nurnberger, members of the Friends of Acadia Advocacy Committee and residents of Mount Desert Island and Arlington, Virginia. During the shut-down, Friends of Acadia collected 2,492 signatures from residents and visitors who were in the Mount Desert Island region and wanted to express their dismay to Congress. How to get those signatures to Congress became a challenge, as mail going to Capitol Hill is delayed by several weeks for safety checks. FOA contacted Ralph and Susan, who quickly offered to hand-deliver the petitions to Congressional leadership.

The Nurnbergers' relationship with Acadia National Park began decades ago. Ralph's mother and stepfather first met on Sand Beach, and Susan started her journey with family trips that included the park and circuits through Canada. After Susan and Ralph married in 1980, they started traveling to Acadia for summer vacations and purchased their Bar Harbor home a decade ago.

Ralph and Susan have been outstanding advocates for Acadia National Park. Not only have they opened doors on Capitol Hill for Friends of Acadia, but they have offered valuable advice on Friends of Acadia's advocacy strategies and programs. They have helped shepherd FOA board members and staff through the halls of Congress and have participated in informational tours with Congressional representatives here at Acadia. Ralph's background as a foreign and domestic affairs lobbyist has been particularly helpful to Friends of Acadia as he meets every day with members of Congress and understands the inner workings of legislative negotiations.

Ralph's clients in his lobbying career have included the newly formed nation of South Sudan, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, and Morocco. Ralph is also an adjunct professor of international relations at Georgetown University and has spoken



(Left to right) Ralph and Susan Nurnberger converse with Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele, Maine Senator Susan Collins, and (foreground) FOA chairman Ed Samek during a recent FOA advocacy visit to Capitol Hill.

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### Ralph and Susan have been outstanding advocates for Acadia National Park.

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on the topic at numerous events locally at College of the Atlantic, the Pot and Kettle Club, and the Claremont Hotel. His 2012 talk on relations with Iran was carried by MPBN's "Speaking in Maine" series broadcast throughout the state. Susan's background is also in the educational field; she recently retired from a career of teaching special education in the Arlington, Virginia schools. Susan helps run Ralph's lobbying firm, Nurnberger Associates, with administrative support for their contract work.

While here at Acadia, the Nurnbergers enjoy all that the park and surrounding communities offer. They enjoy tennis, hiking, swimming, and boating. Their favorite trails are Gorham Mountain, Duck Brook, Beech Cliff, and Lower Hadlock. Ralph spent his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrating at the Jordan Pond House, and the Nurnbergers want to ensure that future generations are also able to have this experience.

Ralph has played tennis competitively for

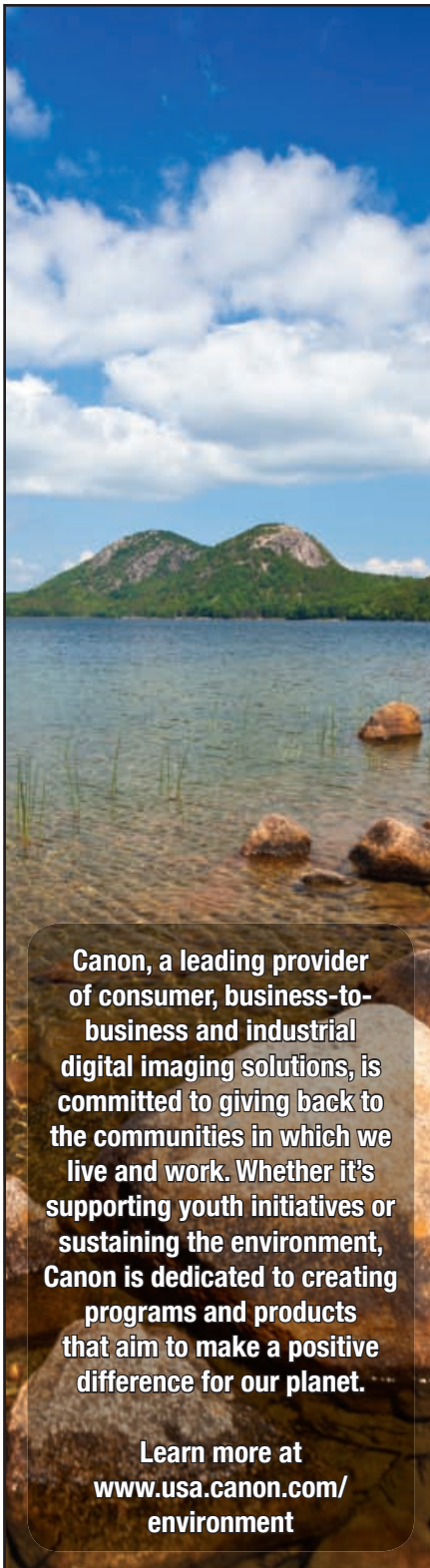
many years and first came to Mount Desert Island himself in 1964 to play tennis at the Bar Harbor Club. It was through a fellow tennis player that Ralph and Susan were introduced to the Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction. The Nurnbergers graciously donated an international affairs dinner, which was such a popular item that the Nurnbergers allowed it to be sold twice. Ralph and Susan hosted the second dinner at their home in Arlington, and Susan prepared dinner for twelve guests!

When asked why they thought that advocacy was important for Friends of Acadia, they replied that everything Acadia National Park does is governed and ruled by the federal government. Friends of Acadia must ensure that members of Congress are aware of the beauty of the park, the programs that the park offers, and the importance of the park to the local economy.

Friends of Acadia is indebted to the Nurnbergers for all their work. We thank them for their political expertise and connections and most importantly for their continuing love of and dedication to Acadia National Park. See you on the Hill!" ♡

—Stephanie Clement





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## 2014 Calendar of Events

### June 7 National Trails Day

*Help inaugurate the new Quarry Path and Otter Cove Trail, connecting Blackwoods Campground with Ocean Drive.*

### June 14 Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale

*Held at Saint Saviour's Episcopal Church in Bar Harbor, all proceeds benefit the volunteer-run Wild Gardens of Acadia at Sieur de Monts.*

### July 17 Annual Meeting

*All are welcome! Hear about FOA's successes in 2013, then enjoy a reception on the patio at the Bar Harbor Club.*

### August 9 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit Auction

*A special evening for the benefit of Acadia, held under the big tent at the Asticou in Northeast Harbor. Tickets and absentee bidding at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)*

### Sep. 25 – 29 6<sup>th</sup> Acadia Night Sky Festival

*Celebrate Acadia's spectacular starry skies! Star parties, arts events, photography workshops, and more.*

### November 1 Take Pride in Acadia Day

*Help prepare Acadia's carriage roads for winter at our longest-running volunteer event.*

For more information and online registration, visit

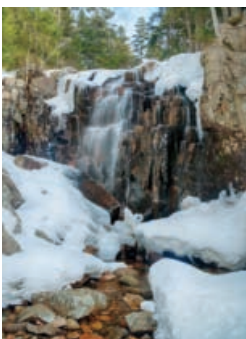
[www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/events](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/events)





Tom Blagden

**Where in Acadia?** Vernal pools are an ephemeral pleasure in Acadia—depending on when you hiked past this one, it might have resembled the blue-flag-bedecked gem here, or a dried pocket of mud. If you think you know where this particular vernal pool is hidden, email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto: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*.



**Fall/Winter 2013 Where in Acadia?** I believe the photo in your latest *Where in Acadia?* is Hadlock Falls. [Also known as Hadlock Brook Falls – *ed.*] Believe it or not, my partner and I have been coming to Acadia since 2003, and it was just on our last visit this past October that we ventured out to Hadlock Falls. We are only there for a short week and there are so many wonderful hikes and walks on our favorites list, that we never quite made it to Hadlock Falls. We made it this time. And although it wasn't gushing due to the dry spell, it was still a very lovely walk and we enjoyed a picnic lunch along the stream.

We were in Acadia a couple of days after the government shutdown, and while I feel for all those government employees who had to go through that, the park "closing" made our trip that much more memorable and exciting. We had to rethink some of the things we usually do. Hence we found new ways to our favorite places and really enjoyed the camaraderie we experienced with our fellow park crashers. With no traffic on the roadways, it really limited the number of people in the park. Thunder Hole (while not thundering) had a fraction of the number of visitors it usually did. Along the Ocean Path we had entire vistas to enjoy to ourselves. Overall this was definitely a trip to Acadia that we will remember for a very long time.

— Tom Ayers, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

# The Future of Our Parks Is in Our Hands

By *Brownie Carson*

**M**y love for our national parks was born on a trip through the American west when I was 15. My oldest brother had just finished studying at Cornell, but needed to do geology “field camp” to earn his degree. He chose Red Lodge, Montana, where I joined him before we took off on a 6,000 mile journey through the mountain states, up into the western Canadian provinces, south along the Pacific coast, across the desert territory of the southwest, then headed east to our home in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia.

We climbed in Grand Teton National Park, explored Yellowstone, roamed Glacier Park, hiked in the Canadian Rockies, and scaled Mt. Ranier. We wandered the California Coast, stood in awe at the giant sequoias and redwoods, explored Yosemite, climbed Mt. Whitney (highest peak in the lower 48), and drove through Death Valley. We visited Mesa Verde, the Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce—marking our trail with national parks all along our way. That trip and those places left an indelible impression.

It was several years later when I first visited Acadia National Park on a magnificent early autumn day. We drove the Park Loop Road and took several short hikes, and I vowed to return.

Little did I know that Acadia would become the national park closest to home, and that I would spend dozens of days hiking, sailing, and exploring the territory in and around the park with family and friends. Nor did I know that I would have the opportunity to help take care of this special place as a member of the board of Friends of Acadia.

Undoubtedly, readers of this *Journal* have had the same kind of experience with Acadia, and likely with other national parks. They are our national treasures. Since 1872, when President Ulysses Grant authorized creation of Yellowstone, Americans have

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**Those of us who love Acadia and all national parks learned an important lesson in 2012–2013. When we take action together for our parks, we can persuade members of Congress to listen.**

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been fascinated by and devoted to our parks. In most cases, we have paid to purchase the lands that have become our parks.

In a few cases, most notably Acadia, private citizens donated much of the land that was then fashioned into a park. The vision, commitment, and civic engagement of people like George Dorr, Charles W. Eliot, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. were extraordinary.

We are heirs to the foresight and generosity of those who created our system of national parks and preserves. These landscapes and seascapes belong to us all; we are their keepers. Their ecological health, unspoiled character, essential infrastructure, and professional staff are our responsibility as citizens.

We don’t, of course, make the actual decisions about land acquisition and stewardship, resource protection, or visitor capacity, but voices and votes of our congressional representatives establish the framework within which these decisions are made.

During the past several years, FOA board and staff have become concerned about the impact of congressional budget decisions upon the health of Acadia, and upon the ability of the National Park Service to meet the needs of parks across the country. For more than a decade, NPS funding has not been sufficient to provide full park staffing. Infrastructure repair backlogs have grown, and important capital projects have languished.

Between 2010 and 2013, the NPS budget was cut by 13%, or \$315 million in today’s dollars. Acadia lost approximately \$1.4 million from its operating budget between 2010 and 2013. Because of budget cuts, Acadia had twenty three permanent positions open in 2013; twelve seasonal positions were cut, and thirty two seasonal positions were reduced.

Budget cuts and the sequester of 2013 brought home to Acadia and the communities of Mount Desert Island just how seriously this kind of congressional action can affect the park and region. Opening of the Park Loop Road was delayed in the spring, causing visitors to delay or cancel trips to Acadia and impacting tourism-oriented businesses.

In October, the government shutdown sent a shock wave through parks and gateway communities all over the country. Domestic and foreign visitors cancelled trips by the thousands; park staff were idled; park-dependent businesses lost millions of dollars.

Throughout this difficult period, FOA leaders, both board and staff, have kept in close touch with Acadia’s park managers to understand the effect of funding cuts, designed strategy for making the case for enhanced funding, and communicated regularly with Maine’s congressional delegation.

A small group of FOA board members, together with FOA president David MacDonald and Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele, visited Capitol Hill in January as part of a broad delegation from the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) and other friends groups. NPCA encouraged its members to contact Congress to urge reversal of the downward trend of park service funding.

Public outcry over the harsh sequester cuts and October government shutdown appear to have brought Congress to its collective senses—at least temporarily—about



the importance of adequate funding for our national parks. Newspapers all over the country were full of letters to the editor, op-eds, and editorials calling for restoration of park funding.

Business owners called upon Congress to “do its job” and pass a sensible budget, including adequate NPS funding. Parks were often described as “national assets” that are critically important for local and regional economies.

Without public engagement in the park funding issue, it is doubtful that Congress would have changed course. In the omnibus spending bill for 2014, sequester-level cuts were largely eliminated, and 2012 funding levels were restored. While such increased funding does not make up for years of financial squeeze, it is far preferable to the predicted (and feared) second round of sequester cuts that were being discussed by congressional leaders last fall.

Those of us who love Acadia and all national parks learned an important lesson in 2012–2013. When we take action together for our parks, we can persuade members of Congress to listen. Congress needs to fully grasp the breadth and depth of support for national parks.

More than 80% of Americans have visited at least one national park. Ninety-five percent of Americans view “protecting and supporting national parks” as an appropriate activity for the federal government. By December 2013, when Congress was still threatening a second round of sequestration, 74% of Americans opposed any additional cuts. Opposition to further harming national parks held true across all demographics and political affiliations.

FOA has a dedicated membership that is growing in terms of its numbers and scope. We have members from all over the country. If each of us were active in regularly communicating with our elected officials about the importance of funding the parks (including thanking them when they make positive steps), it would be a powerful network with national reach and a wonderful complement to the private support our members already so generously provide. Visit the Friends of



Friends of Acadia

*Locked gates bar the entrance to Acadia National Park at the Kebo Road in Bar Harbor, during the October 2013 government shutdown.*

Acadia website at [www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/advocate](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/advocate) for information and tools for citizen-advocates.

As Friends of Acadia looks forward to the centennial celebration in 2016, we envision Acadia and all national parks being ecologically healthy, structurally sound, and fully staffed. The partnership between FOA and Acadia National Park will be strong and vibrant. Students will be learning in this great outdoor classroom and in others across the country. Rangers will be on duty to provide the best quality

visitor experience. And citizens will know that our voices have been heard because Congress has made a renewed commitment to take care of these national treasures. 🌲

BROWNIE CARSON served as the Executive Director of the Natural Resources Council of Maine for 27 years and received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in 2011. He is a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors and sits on the FOA Advocacy Committee.

# FOA Donates Community Forest and Trail to Town of Trenton

By Stephanie Clement

Trenton is an important gateway community to Acadia National Park. On average, more than thirteen thousand vehicles travel across the Trenton Bridge heading to and from Mount Desert Island (MDI) each day. Trenton businesses provide essential services to residents and visitors, and the Bar Harbor/Hancock County Airport is a transportation hub with scenic flights, services for private aircraft, and year-round commercial air service to Boston.

Almost a decade ago, a 369-acre property on the west side of Route 3 called “Crippens Creek” was identified for an intermodal transit facility, Island Explorer maintenance center, and welcome center for Acadia and the local communities. FOA has spent the years since working with partners, including the National Park Service, the Maine Department of Transportation, and others to develop the Acadia Gateway Center with the goal of reducing automobile traffic by offering day visitors a place to leave their cars, gather information, buy park entry passes, and ride the fare-free Island Explorer to the park or other MDI destinations.

Friends of Acadia purchased the property in 2007 then sold 152 acres adjacent to Route 3 to MDOT for the Gateway Center facilities. The next five years saw the development of phase 1 of the project on that land, including the maintenance center and commuter parking area, which were inaugurated in May 2012.

At the same time, Friends of Acadia began working with a group of Trenton residents to build a walking trail on the remaining 217 acres. The group scouted routes, developed trail use guidelines, secured permits, raised money, installed interpretive signs, and constructed a 1.8-mile loop trail. The trail was inaugurated on National Trails Day last year



*Rhodora in full bloom is just one of the natural wonders hidden in the Trenton Community Forest.*

and provides a wonderful opportunity to learn about Trenton’s history, view wildlife, and walk through diverse woodlands to an ecologically significant heath that runs through Trenton’s interior.

However, Friends of Acadia did not want to own a large property in Trenton for the long term. FOA began exploring whether the Town of Trenton would be interested in accepting those 217 acres as a donation, and also began looking for a conservation partner who would collaborate to conserve the property’s valuable natural features. The portion of the Gateway Center property where the Trenton Community Trail originates had already been preserved through wetland mitigation covenants managed by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and FOA wanted to ensure that the “back two hundred” would also not be developed.

In December 2013 Friends of Acadia donated a conservation easement and stewardship fund to Maine Coast Heritage Trust, already an established partner on such projects as the Acadia Land Legacy and Schoodic Woods. The terms of the conservation easement prevent future development (except for trails and associated facilities), but allow for sustainably managed forestry activities and recreation including hunt-

ing and motorized recreational uses. Finally, at a Trenton selectboard meeting on December 10<sup>th</sup>, FOA donated the property to the Town of Trenton. Trenton’s recreation committee will manage the Trenton Community Trail with assistance from Friends of Acadia as needed. The property will be open for public use in perpetuity, and has been called the “Trenton Community Forest.”

Trenton selectman Susan Starr worked with FOA to facilitate the gift. She commented that for her, “the land behind the Acadia Gateway Center, complete with lovely nature trail, represents

something necessary to a healthy community, yet something that Trenton did not have. It is a site open to the public—residents and visitors—which is not designed for a specific municipal purpose. It can be what the user wants it to be; a place for recreation, for exploration, or even for meditation. During all four seasons, it will bring enjoyment to all ages and to any number of people at one time. It is a luxury and a necessity. For a town to have a piece of property for the purpose of leisure is truly a step toward a stronger community. This is a wonderful gift for Trenton.”

Friends of Acadia and partners are still working to secure the approximately \$10 million needed to complete construction of the welcome center, parking areas, and transit plaza at the Acadia Gateway Center. Once these buildings are constructed, the Acadia Gateway Center will serve as a one-stop location for information, recreation, and transportation services. Friends of Acadia thanks the Town of Trenton for being a partner in this project and hopes that town residents and visitors enjoy the Community Forest and Trail for many years ahead. ♣

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.



# Making Acadia's Classic Signs: Volunteers benefit the park in the winter sign shop

By Jim Linnane

On Monday and Wednesday mornings in winter, a small group of volunteers gathers at Acadia National Park's Hulls Cove maintenance facility to make things for the park. It started in 2007 with the retirement of Don Beal, the park staffer formerly responsible for making new carriage road directional signs to replace those that have finished their useful life. Bob Sanderson and Mark Munsell, both volunteer trail crew leaders in the summer, offered to help with the task during the off-season.

Today, Bob leads a core group of six or seven volunteers, plus others from time to time. They work mostly at Hulls Cove but also at park headquarters, depending on the job at hand. Some come from as far away as Blue Hill and Hancock and all volunteer with Friends of Acadia on trails and carriage roads during the warmer months. Sometimes summer volunteers who live "away" during the winter stop in to help if they are in town. Friends of Acadia provides financial and some organizational support for the volunteers; the park provides workspace, specialized tools and materials, and safety training and equipment.

At first there was a backlog of signs to replace and a learning curve for the volunteers—nobody's background included construction of the massive, iconic carriage road signs. Once volunteers became proficient at making the signs and the backlog was reduced, the park began calling on them for other help. To date, the volunteers have: put together 12"x12" timber frames for park entrance signs; put up shelves and storage bins in facilities used by Acadia's firefighters and



*Crafting replacements for Acadia's iconic carriage-road signs is the work of many hands. Here, Don Bell, Bob Sanderson, Jim Linnane, and Kip Warren (left to right) work on one of the massive cedar posts.*

trails crew; made sawhorses for road closures; drilled holes and inserted rods in boulders to hold ropes guiding park visitors away from sensitive resources; painted offices at park headquarters; rehabilitated picnic tables; recycled old fences into tripods for Leave No Trace signs; made benches for Schoodic; and other projects. They were even called upon once to shovel snow and break up ice on the stairway leading to the Visitor Center on the day before it was due to open for the season.

The carriage road signs that help visitors find their way without detracting from the bucolic scenery are one of the many things that make walking or bicycling Acadia's carriage roads such pleasant summer recreation. Making the signs is a complex process of fashioning and fitting together diverse pieces. Freshly cut cedar logs for making the sign posts and arms are brought to Hulls Cove, where volunteers strip off the bark, smooth them with different grades of sand paper, and then individually fit them to each other. Other volunteers lay out lettering for

the signs on finished cedar boards, rout in the letters, and apply coats of paint to the letters for contrast and a long-lasting finish. The arms and posts are left unpainted to gradually turn gray with exposure. Volunteers then heat and bend metal pieces to make iron straps for holding the sign boards below the arm. Finally, they attach chains from the top of the pole to the arm for decorative purposes. After the frost has gone and the carriage roads have dried out, park maintenance staff place the signs.

As a small group working together at myriad complex tasks for a common product, the sign shop volunteers have bonded well and enjoy each other's company as much as if not more than the work itself. According to Don Bell, sign shop volunteers "are fun and laid back but serious about what they do." When asked about the sign shop where they gather twice a week on cold winter mornings to do some heavy lifting and serious hard work, volunteers mention working with each other as a motivator, along with pride in the job. Bob "volunteers for the friendship, the wide latitude we have in doing our work, and the feeling of service to the park." Jean Bell notes that there is a lot of "laughter" while they work. Adds Kip Warren, "The sign shop best suits me for the skills I want to contribute to ANP. I also especially enjoy being in the company of great talent and great friends!"

JIM LINNANE is a former field crew leader at Friends of Acadia, and has volunteered in the park since 2002. He lives in Town Hill.

# People of the Dawnland: The Wabanaki and the Mount Desert Island Region before Colonization

By Julia Clark and George Neptune

**W**abanaki people and their ancestors lived on the land now known as Acadia National Park for thousands of years prior to the arrival of Europeans in their homeland, and continue to have an important presence in this place today.

According to oral histories, the Wabanaki have lived in this area since time immemorial. The roots of the word *wabanaki* can be found, as one example, in the Passamaquoddy word *chuwaponahkiyik*, which means “people from the land where the sun rises.” The Wabanaki refer to their homelands as the “Dawnland.” When Koluskap, “culture hero” of the Wabanaki, arrived in the Dawnland, it was void of people. So, taking an arrow from his quiver, he aimed at a brown ash tree and fired. From the opening in the tree left by his arrow came the first Wabanaki people.

Archaeological evidence tells us that Native Americans first arrived in Maine beginning around 13,000 years ago, after the Laurentide Ice Sheet retreated. Archaeologi-

cal sites in interior and western Maine tell us about these earliest inhabitants. In and around Acadia National Park, however, the glacial retreat was followed (for a variety of reasons) by a substantial increase and then a substantial drop in sea level. And since Native American archaeological sites near the coast tend to be on the water, evidence of Mount Desert Island’s earliest inhabitants is now under water and not easily accessible to archaeologists.

Archaeological research in other parts of Maine give evidence of people living in small groups and traveling across the landscape hunting migratory animals (including now-extinct mastodon) and gathering wild plant foods. They were highly skilled stone tool makers, and are perhaps best known for their distinct fluted spear points. They inhabited a tundra-like environment into which woodlands were slowly spreading.

As the environment warmed following the end of the ice age, Maine became more forested, the last of the ice age mega-fauna became extinct, and the plants and animals

familiar in Maine today took up residence. Early forests on and around Acadia would have looked different from what was here when the first Europeans arrived. The composition of hardwoods and conifers changed with long-term changes in the climate, in some cases influenced by changing tidal amplitude and water temperatures in the Gulf of Maine.

The Wabanaki have many stories that serve the purpose of preserving the history of people in the Dawnland. In one tale, Koluskap must travel the world in search of animals that wish to harm Wabanaki people, so that he can shrink them to a more manageable size. Another tells of a winter that lasted many years, and Koluskap convinced the Winter Bird to close his wings for part of the year. While these stories are often interpreted as myths, modern science can sometimes inadvertently support oral histories by providing evidence—in these cases, with the proven existence of mega-fauna and the discovery of Maine’s “mini ice age” in the geological record.



An artist's reconstruction of a Wabanaki encampment on the coast of Maine approximately 3,000 years ago. Painting by Judith Cooper.

Abbe Museum



During what archaeologists call the Archaic Period (9,500–3,000 years ago), native people living on or near the coast of Maine adapted to a forested environment. They hunted a wide range of animals—moose, deer, a variety of smaller mammals on the land, and seals and small whales in the ocean. They fished for everything from sturgeon and swordfish to cod, and took full advantage of annual runs of fish like alewives. A wide variety of birds, both migratory and local, contributed to their diet, as did amphibians like turtles, and of course shellfish. From the remains of fire hearths and food storage pits archaeologists find evidence for the harvesting of a wide variety of plants, especially nuts and berries.

Some creation stories go beyond the task of preserving Wabanaki history, and can even be seen as crucial to survival. In the story of the First Moose Hunt, Koluskap chases his prey, a baby moose and its mother, all over the Dawnland, leaving footprints and other clues of his journey. Eventually, the mother moose dies and turns into stone, while Koluskap catches up to the baby near the ocean, and prepares it to eat. He throws the entrails to his dog, while it waits across the bay. At first glance, the story seems to simply be a fantastical account of the excitement of moose hunting; however, a closer look reveals much more important meanings. This story not only speaks about how to hunt a moose, but which parts of the moose to eat and, most importantly, how to find the stones needed to make arrowheads. Starting in Penobscot Bay, you can identify the “entrails” of the moose—a large deposit of quartzite that reaches from one side of the bay to the other. While heading for the entrails, you discover “Moose Liver Rock,” an important vantage point to discover a portage route. Eventually, the story would lead you all the way back to the Mother Moose, who has turned into a large deposit of the stone that killed her, which is now called Mt. Kineo.

It is from the Archaic Period that the earliest archaeological sites in and around Acadia National Park are found. By about 5,000 years ago, the shoreline was fairly close to where it is today, and sites dating to this time period have been uncovered in places like Gouldsboro, Blue Hill, and Ellsworth. People lived in family-based groups and traveled by ocean, river, and lake (per-



Typical Ceramic Period artifacts from Gotts Island shell middens, from the Abbe Museum's Ruth Moore Collection.



This birchbark log holder by Joseph Nicholas, a Passamaquoddy artist from the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century, depicts important food resources for the Wabanaki, especially deer and moose. From the Abbe Museum Collections.

haps in dugout canoes) to take advantage of the seasonal resources in their homeland. We also see evidence of trade and interactions with groups as far away as Labrador and Pennsylvania, most often in the form of raw stone materials for making tools, but also in shared styles of tools. Some of the

most characteristic tools associated with the Archaic Period in Maine are heavy, ground-stone woodworking tools such as gouges, celts, and adzes. Another tool type associated with the Archaic Period along coastal Maine is the plummet, a pendant-shaped tool that archaeologists believe was used to

weight fishing lines or fish nets. Several large plummets have been discovered by fisherman around Mount Desert Island, pulled up in their nets.

More significant changes began to happen in the region approximately 4,000–3,000 years ago. The environment in the Mount Desert Island region started to shift from a more mixed forest to the coastal coniferous forest we see today from Penobscot Bay east, in part caused by drops in ocean temperature as a result of increasing tidal amplitude in the Gulf of Maine. Moose became more important than deer, as populations of each animal followed the shifting forest cover. It may have been around this time that Wabanaki ancestors in Maine began to make and use birchbark canoes. Interactions (the exact nature and extent of which archaeologists are currently debating) with people to the south and west increased, and perhaps the most important technological introduction, that of pottery, occurred in Maine.

Archaeologists refer to this time period in Maine as the Ceramic Period (3000–500 years ago) because the presence of pottery, which is an easily recognized marker in archaeological sites. During the Ceramic Period, populations in Maine increased, and larger groups of people came together to live year-round in both coastal and interior Maine. While in southern and western Maine the introduction of domesticated plants supported the formation of fairly large villages,

in the Acadia region, it was an abundance of both marine and terrestrial wild resources that supported groups of multiple extended families living together in small settlements, evidenced in the shell middens that dot the shores of the area.

While it is theorized that the island's resources would not be plentiful enough to support several year-round encampments, Wabanaki people used Mount Desert Island as a meeting place for trade and to collect various resources. For example, two Passamaquoddy place names, moneskatik (Bar Harbor) and wawonok (Somes Sound), speak to two important resources found in those places: moneskatik, "the clam digging place," and wawonok, "the egg gathering place" (literally, eggs), reveal the history of Wabanaki people gathering clams and waterfowl eggs from the Bar and Egg Rock.

As the region closes in on the imminent arrival of European fishermen, explorers, and settlers, the Wabanaki had established a well-adapted and fairly affluent life in their homeland surrounding present-day Acadia National Park. Living on the coast year-round, they took advantage of the diverse and abundant plant and animal resources harvested from the land and water. They traveled widely to gather seasonal resources, to meet with extended family and allies, and to trade with other groups near and far. Important political alliances had been developed to manage relationships between communities and tribes.

In fact, evidence from archaeology, oral tradition, and early European accounts suggest that the Mount Desert Island area was an important meeting place where people from several larger groups came together to interact in a variety of ways, and was the center of one of the most important Wabanaki alliances encountered by early European arrivals. And Frenchman Bay became a critical borderland of sorts in the complex relationships that developed between

the Wabanaki, French, and English. (To learn more about what happened in the area during this critical time of contact, visit the exhibit "St. Sauveur: A Meeting of Nations" at the Abbe Museum at Sieur de Monts Spring, or on the Abbe's website at: [www.abbemuseum.org/downloads/StSauveurAMeetingofNations.pdf](http://www.abbemuseum.org/downloads/StSauveurAMeetingofNations.pdf).)

With the colonization of Mount Desert Island, the Wabanaki presence here slowly began to dissipate. Once an important resource, Mount Desert Island became the home to fewer and fewer Wabanaki encampments while colonial settlers expanded their homesteads. During the Rusticator time period, Wabanaki people continued to visit Mount Desert Island and made tourist-trade items to sell to the wealthy visitors of the island—Wabanaki encampments were eventually banned from Bar Harbor and surrounding areas. Now, the Maine Indian Basketmakers Alliance and the Abbe Museum host an annual Native American Festival and Basketmakers Market at the College of the Atlantic in July. And Wabanaki people still live and work on and around Mount Desert Island or travel here to share knowledge about their culture and history, and to sell their fine art and crafts in the modern-day incarnation of millennium-old traditions. ■

JULIA CLARK is the curator of collections at the Abbe Museum in Bar Harbor. She has a B.A. in anthropology from Bowdoin College and a M.A. in anthropology from the University of Arkansas. Before coming to the Abbe, she worked for ten years doing cultural resource management archaeology in Maine.

GEORGE NEPTUNE is the museum educator at the Abbe Museum. He learned basket making from his grandmother at the age of 4, and his baskets have been featured at the Abbe for many years. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 2010 with a BA in theater, and was active in the Native American Studies program. He has been an interpretive ranger at Saint Croix Island International Historic Site and was the Unit Director/Mentor Program Coordinator of the Passamaquoddy Boys and Girls Club at Indian Township before joining the Abbe.



Abbe Museum

Indian encampment in Bar Harbor, 1881. Stereoview by Kilburn Brothers.



# A Runner's Paradise

By Louie Luchini

I've been a runner for about as long as I can remember. I joined my school cross-country team when I was ten and continue to run and race to this day. I've run at all levels—starting slowly as a beginner, running through high school, college, and eventually at the professional level. I've been fortunate to travel around the globe to compete, run, and train in some incredible places. But ranked among the top spots on my list are the carriage roads of Acadia National Park. I consider myself incredibly lucky to have grown up and now live in Ellsworth, just down the road.

Designed and financed by John D. Rockefeller in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, Acadia's 45 miles of "broken-stone" carriage roads were intended for use by horses, horse-drawn carriages, hikers, bicyclists, and walkers—an experience free from motor vehicles. Lined with locally-quarried granite and surrounded by natural vegetation, the roads weave through Acadia's diverse landscapes and architectural masterpieces. You run through forests, meadows, and hills, alongside lakes, ponds, and streams. Magnificent stone-faced bridges, constructed decades ago, cross streams, ravines, and roads.

From a runner's technical perspective, the trails are ideal. These roads are wide—over 15 feet in areas—leaving adequate space for walkers, runners, and bikers alike, while offering a great opportunity for group runs. In fact, through much of the year, you'll encounter groups of runners gathering on weekends for their long runs, and some college cross-country teams make the trek to Acadia for summer pre-season training. The broken-stone roads provide a surface far softer than pavement, reducing the pounding encountered when running on streets. The trails vary in length and difficulty, with options for runners of all levels. Rustic wooden signposts direct runners through



This painting of the Gilmore Meadow intersection on Acadia's carriage roads, by Bar Harbor artist Liddy Hubbell, graces Louie Luchini's office at the State House in Augusta.

the park. If needed, bathrooms are located in multiple places along the way.

Combining these technical aspects with the aesthetic beauty of Acadia creates a runner's paradise. I've likely logged more than two thousand miles on the carriage roads, yet every time I run here, I see something new. Every time of day, or season of the year highlights particular qualities of Acadia's natural wonders.

I especially love the serenity of early morning runs, with the sun rising, birds chirping, and fog lifting to reveal calm, mirror-like lakes. The midday sun brightens

tree-covered trails and sparkles off the lakes and ocean. The evening hours cast long shadows over the trails, and vistas of the setting sun are truly priceless.

Likewise, each season is different. Running in the spring, you notice the budding trees and melting snow that causes brooks and streams to gush past the trails. Summer, the busiest time of year, has trees in full bloom and displays the blueness of the lakes and ponds. Perhaps my favorite season to run is the fall with its crisp, fresh air and colorful foliage that cannot be matched. Winter brings a peaceful feeling

## IN NOMINE

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45 years at Acadia  
Acadia National Park staff  
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Joanna Wilhelm  
Daniel Williams  
Martha Williams  
Diana Wister  
Volunteers at Harrison Middle School Library  
Wonderful times at Acadia  
Matt, Tom, and James Zampa



Friends of Acadia

A pair of runners take advantage of a sunny fall day while FOA volunteers help to maintain the paradise.

of desolation. Cascading water turns to ice formations along the trail, and the bare trees expose views you never knew existed.

A run on the carriage roads is truly like traveling back in time, to an era of untouched nature, a respite from the rigors of everyday life. And while I enjoy running with groups, there is no place I'd rather run alone than Acadia. For me, there's a peaceful tranquility here that's tough to put into words. It's a place where runners can easily enter "the zone." Cell phones or iPods are never an option; all you need is nature, combined with the beating of your heart, the rhythm of your breathing, and the sounds of your feet striking the soft roads.

Running has always been a major part of my life and I've run the carriage roads from the very beginning—making them a truly special place for me. In fact, above my desk at the State House hangs a painting of the carriage roads by Bar Harbor artist Liddy Hubbell. It shows Gilmore Meadow, with the wooden signposts signifying one

of my favorite intersections on the carriage roads. Here, runners are faced with two very difficult options: one road leads to the long, steep climb up the "Seven Bridges," and the other ascends McFarland Hill—the only hill on Acadia's carriage roads that has brought me to a walk. As I look up at the painting, I'm reminded of the difficult challenges that lie ahead—and remember that if you persevere, you will be rewarded, because the view at the top is simply amazing. 🌲

LOUIE LUCHINI, an Ellsworth native, was an 11-time All-American runner at Stanford University and ran professionally before being elected to the Maine House of Representatives, where he currently serves as chair of the Veterans and Legal Affairs committee. He is also the assistant coach of the Ellsworth High School cross country team and continues to race—he holds the course record in the Bar Harbor Half Marathon, the only competitive event held on Acadia's carriage roads.



# Embrace Restraint at Acadia National Park, Rock by Rock

By Charlie Jacobi

*A version of this article first appeared in the Bangor Daily News.*

From time immemorial, humans have constructed cairns—rocks piled or balanced so as to stand out in a landscape—to mark travel routes, and that functionality is easily understood. But there is a creative, artistic side to all of us as well, and a desire to leave our mark on our surroundings. In a national park with seven-digit visitation annually, an area created primarily for its natural beauty, is it OK to express that creative side through cairn construction if you are not a member of the trail crew?

After 30 years of observing, hiking, photographing, and reveling in Acadia National Park, personally and professionally, I can say unequivocally and without hesitation: It is not.

We would not tolerate spray paint at Thunder Hole, nor someone scratching his or her name across Acadia's beautiful pink granite. Constructing rock "art" is no different. While one can make the argument that it is relatively harmless along the shoreline where the next big storm may take it out, what is a photographer searching for the "natural beauty" of the park to think, or to do, when 50 or 100 cairns populate the view? What are other visitors to think when they see this? Did the cairn builders consider how their actions might affect other visitors?

Cairn building causes even more damage on the mountaintops of the park, where visitors remove rocks from the already thin mountain soil to build cairns or add rocks to the cairns that mark the trail, cairns built by park staff for the purpose of guiding hikers and minimizing their collective footprint by concentrating use. Plants growing around a rock removed from the soil die. Soil erodes. And a perhaps a frustrated hiker is led the wrong way by an errant extra cairn or two.

Outdoor enthusiasts in Acadia and elsewhere are asked to follow seven "Leave No Trace" principles to minimize their impacts

on the environment and avoid disrupting the enjoyment of other visitors. The most challenging principle to embrace is to "Leave What You Find."

While picking tasty blueberries is permitted, "Leave What You Find" asks all of us to exercise a little restraint to allow others to discover and enjoy the wildflowers, the beach cobbles, the cultural artifacts, the natural beauty and a lot more. If even one in 100 visitors picked a wildflower in the park, more than 20,000 of them would be gone. We have to share the magic of Acadia, all 2.25 million of us.

A single cairn may seem harmless, but it's often like the broken window syndrome in a run-down urban neighborhood. Before

you know it, they're everywhere. If it were not for Friends of Acadia's crew of Ridge Runners and a group of dedicated volunteers on cleanup duty and teaching "Leave No Trace," what would Acadia's shorelines and mountaintops look like today? I can tell you. They would be blanketed by piles of rocks and holes in the soil.

So if you or your children can't resist that creative impulse, construct your cairn only on the cobble beaches, take your picture, knock it down, and leave all the rocks right there where you found them. Then others will discover the same natural beauty as you.

All who visit are stewards of Acadia Na-



*A rock "sculpture" at Little Hunter's Beach*

Friends of Acadia

tional Park and the wondrous experiences it offers. Only through our care will it continue to be a source of wonder and inspiration for all visitors, for all time.

Our most conservation-minded president, Theodore Roosevelt, understood this restraint. Describing the Grand Canyon, he once said, "Leave it as it is. You cannot improve upon it. The ages have been at work on it, and man can only mar it."

Apt words for Acadia, too. 🌿

CHARLIE JACOBI is a natural resource specialist at Acadia National Park.

# Acadia Takes a New Look at Park Passes

By Aimee Beal Church

Back in 1987, when Acadia started charging an entrance fee, I wasn't the only "local" who felt resistant and perhaps a bit hurt to be required to pay to enter "my park." Wasn't I born here? Didn't my ancestors live here before Acadia even existed? Didn't I need to go through the park just to go about my daily life?

Well...yes, yes, and no. Just 15 years old at the time, I didn't have a learner's permit, let alone depend on park roads for a daily commute. (At 15, I didn't even have to pay, though I didn't know it then—kids under 16 were and still are free.) But with a few more years' wisdom I realized that my first two "arguments" were also, well, silly. If I had been born at Boston's Massachusetts General Hospital, could I get an exemption from the toll on the Tobin Bridge? Of course not—no more than descendants of that city's grand old families get free tuition at Boston University. We place many valuable resources in the care of state and federal governments, agreeing to support them collectively with our taxes but also often agreeing that those who use them most should support them a bit more.

But the pride I now feel when I purchase my Acadia entrance pass goes beyond that. "No thanks," I say to the friendly ranger who offers me a carriage road map along with my pass. This is my park and I know it like the back of my hand. On my car windshield, the annual pass sticker with its distinctive artwork and proud "I support Acadia National Park" proclaims my allegiance no matter where I drive. I'm content for my taxes to support all 401 units of the National Park Service, but Acadia is my park and I want to see it the most lovingly cared for, best-supported park it can be. The entrance fee program, which keeps 80% of dollars collected here in Acadia, is one way to ensure that all visitors "give back" a little to Acadia.

If you're reading this, chances are you agree. So why tell my little tale of enlightenment now? Because the entrance fee is fair only if everybody pays it, and up until now this has



*Cyclists stop at the Sand Beach Entrance Station. There are more than a dozen places in and around Acadia to purchase entrance passes during the high season, so it can be a quick and easy part of your visit.*

been a real problem at Acadia.

Acadia's history of having been created through hundreds of individual gifts of land contributes to its unique character but also gives the park a complex boundary, interwoven with the surrounding communities. It's likely there are more ways to enter the park than there are park rangers. There's really no practical way to sell passes at every entrance or check that all visitors have paid. Plus, many people don't realize a fee is required whenever and however they enter the park, whether they've passed by a fee station or not. Currently, two out of three Acadia visitors pay their entry fee, but that rate is far lower at spots like the Great Head trailhead where "savvy" visitors park to visit Sand

Beach for free.

After studying the issue for the past few years, park rangers are now working to increase those numbers. Chief Ranger Stuart West says that the most common response he hears to this news is "It's about time!" He adds, "people see there's a direct relationship between what the park brings in for fees and what the park can or can't do. With sequestration, this especially hit home." The first step is a shift from annual pass window decals to a wallet card. Once signed by up to two pass holders, the card can be used only by those holders (a photo ID will be required) entering the park in any passenger vehicle, or by bicycle or on foot. One pass will cover everyone in a vehicle. Weekly



passes will still be issued as an auto hangtag, and existing window decals will remain current until they expire this year.

The second step will be educating visitors. New signs wherever visitors drive into Acadia will clarify that a pass is required. Yes, this includes the Eagle Lake carriage road entrance, Parkman Mountain lot, Echo Lake Beach, and all those other lots right off state roads. Throughout the park, rangers will be checking for valid passes (remember to display yours in a hangtag or on the dashboard). At the Cadillac summit, passless visitors will be asked to purchase one at the gift shop; elsewhere, rangers will give a couple of warnings before they write up a ticket. If a car's occupants have already hit the trails/carriage roads/beach, rangers will leave a bright green informational card under the windshield wiper.

West acknowledges that even well-intentioned visitors can find it inconvenient to purchase a pass if, say, they're driving straight from Southwest Harbor to Echo Lake Beach. It's helpful to know that passes are available at some local businesses and town offices; call the park at 207-288-3338 or visit [www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm](http://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/feesandreservations.htm) to find a nearby location. Online pass sales would certainly simplify the situation and West says that important step is on the way, but the Park Service needs to address this at the national level before NPS websites can sell passes for specific parks.

Speaking of fairness, how about tour buses and other commercial operators that bring large groups of visitors into Acadia? They're all supposed to have a permit and pay a fee to cover the entire group, but compliance has been inconsistent there, as well. New commercial use permitting rules now will make payment both easier and more enforceable.

The next time I walk, bike, or drive into Acadia, if a park ranger asks whether I've paid the entry fee I'll willingly pull out my handsome new Acadia pass card and prove that "I support Acadia National Park." And for my car window, there's always a Friends of Acadia membership sticker to proclaim my allegiance. 🐾

AIMEE BEAL CHURCH is the communications and outreach coordinator at Friends of Acadia.

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-Frank Lloyd Wright



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## Updates



Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald, 2014 Park Pass Art Contest winner Jacob Legutko, and Acadia National Park Revenue and Fee Business Manager Ryan McKelvey (left to right).

### Acadia Park Pass Art Contest

Every year, Acadia National Park sponsors a contest among local schoolchildren to create the artwork for the park's annual entrance pass, with Friends of Acadia providing a \$50 prize for the winner. This year, Mount Desert Elementary School eighth-grader Jacob Legutko's iconic drawing of the Porcupine Islands was selected from among hundreds of entries to adorn the park's new wallet cards, which will replace the window decals used in past years. ANP revenue and fee business manager Ryan McKelvey and FOA president David MacDonald made the award presentation on February 4<sup>th</sup> at Mount Desert Elementary School.

McKelvey says that as many as 8,000 park visitors will purchase the annual pass with Legutko's drawing on it. In addition, he notes that the park hopes to display artwork from some of the contest finalists at Acadia's Bar Harbor Village Green Information Center this summer.

### Be an Acadia Centennial Partner

Do you represent a business, agency, or nonprofit organization that might want to help celebrate and support Acadia's Centennial Celebration in 2016? The Acadia Centennial Task Force would like to know

about you. Almost forty organizations including schools, museums, libraries, and other nonprofits—such as the Jackson Laboratory, the Maine Community Foundation, the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, and Schoodic Arts for All—have signed on to be Acadia Centennial Partners. The guidelines for what it takes to become a partner will soon be available. They will include a commitment to produce a program, event, product or affirmation that celebrates the partner's relationship to Acadia and that ties to the theme of "Acadia's Centennial: Celebrate our Past! Inspire Our Future!" You don't have to be located in the region to be a partner. For more information, contact Stephanie Clement at [stephanie@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:stephanie@friendsofacadia.org).

### Acadia Winter Trails

The Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) volunteers worked hard this winter to keep Acadia's carriage roads groomed for traditional cross-country skiers and skate skiers. One volunteer, Mark Fernald, had logged an incredible 98 hours of grooming time by the end of March. Cold late winter temperatures helped prolong the snowpack, and skiing opportunities lasted until late March. A challenge this year was aging equipment; at least two of





Friends of Acadia/Amee Beal Church

A skier crosses the Hemlock Bridge on the Upper Hadlock loop of Acadia's carriage roads.

the snowmobiles required major maintenance repairs. Friends of Acadia owes great thanks to Alan Farnsworth and the Acadia National Park maintenance team for keeping the snowmobiles and grooming equipment in operation, as well as to the family of Leila Bright for the endowment that helps support the program. If you enjoyed skiing this winter and would like to make



Friends of Acadia

The new Otter Cove Trail will link some of Acadia's most popular hiking with Blackwood's Campground, via the Otter Cove Causeway.

a contribution to the effort, please contact the Friends of Acadia offices at 207-288-3340.

### Canon U.S.A. Renews Partnership for Wild Acadia

In January, Canon U.S.A. renewed its commitment to Friends of Acadia's Wild Acadia program, pledging \$150,000 in 2014 to support restoration, research, and outreach initiatives in and around Acadia National Park. This is the second year of partnership with Canon for conservation projects in the park. The grant enables FOA and Acadia National Park to hire experts to better manage invasive plants in the park, revolutionize water quality monitoring at Jordan Pond, and use digital video and photography to share conservation events and programs with a broad audience. New for this year's program is a greater role for the Acadia Youth Technology Team in natural resource protection efforts in Acadia. The ultimate goal of Wild Acadia is to ensure that the park's natural resources are protected for today's visitors and the many millions who will visit in the years to come.

### Spring Events

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through the fun and varied challenges of the Acadia Quest. For 2014, teams will "collect" experiences on Acadia's trails, carriage roads, water bodies, and unique destinations to complete the Quest, earn their Quest badge, and be entered in the grand prize drawing the first weekend in November. Some new surprises are in store for veteran Questers, and challenges for all ages and ability levels.

Acadia Quest registration will open in May. Visit the Friends of Acadia website then for details and to register. Teams can register any time throughout the season—we'll see you out on the Quest!

#### NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

Come celebrate National Trails Day on Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2014 with the inauguration of the Quarry Path and Otter Cove Trail, connecting Blackwoods Campground with Ocean Drive and the Ocean Path through Otter Cove. Construction of these trails was funded in part through Friends of Acadia's Acadia Trails Forever endowment. The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and many Friends of Acadia volunteers helped National Park Service crews build them.

On June 7<sup>th</sup>, trail enthusiasts will meet for coffee and breakfast snacks at 8:30 a.m. at Fabbri Picnic Area. Around 8:55, the group will move toward Otter Cove Causeway for a ribbon-cutting ceremony. A trail work project is also planned that morning following the ribbon cutting for those who are interested. This is a free event but pre-registration is requested for planning purposes. To register, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org, or register online at www.friendsofacadia.org.

#### WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA PLANT SALE

The Wild Gardens of Acadia benefit plant sale will be held on Saturday, June 14<sup>th</sup> at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church on Mount Desert Street in Bar Harbor. The sale is the largest fundraising event for the gardens each year, helping to support maintenance, internships, and educational activities. If you are looking for perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, or special plants to help fill in those holes in your garden, come by St. Saviour's between 9 a.m. and



Native Canada lilies bloom in the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

noon on June 14<sup>th</sup>. Your purchases will help ensure that thousands of Acadia's visitors will be able to learn about Acadia's native plants in habitats representing those found in the park. For more information, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

#### Montana and North Dakota Are Missing!

If you have friends or family in Montana or North Dakota, please encourage them to become members of Friends of Acadia, or consider a gift membership for their next special occasion. Their membership will extend our base of support to all 50 states plus the District of Columbia and the US Virgin Islands.

At the end of 2013 Friends of Acadia had 3,725 members—a record in FOA's history. In addition to representing nearly every state in the US, members live in 14 foreign countries: Australia, the Bahamas, Bermuda, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Japan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Federated States of Micronesia, Russia, South Africa, and the United Kingdom. About a quarter of FOA members have year-round residences in Maine. Fifteen percent of members live in Massachusetts, 10% in New York, and 9% in Pennsylvania.

Gift memberships start at \$40. The ben-



efits that will accompany your gift include a year's subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal* and a packet of six full-color "Greetings from the Heart of Acadia" note cards, produced especially for Friends of Acadia. To order a gift membership, please visit our secure online donation pages at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org) or call Sharon Broom, FOA development officer, at 800-625-0321.

## News of Friends

### NEW FRIENDS ON THE BOARD

The Friends of Acadia Board of Directors elected three new members at its November 2013 meeting: Chris Fogg, Jill Goldthwait, and Jan Kärst.

**Chris Fogg** is the executive director of the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, a position he has held since 2006. Before coming to Bar Harbor, Chris had more than 20 years of diverse travel and tourism experience, most recently as vice president of travel and tourism for the Vermont Chamber of Commerce and president of the Vermont Attractions Association, where he led the Vermont Chamber of Commerce's lobbying efforts on travel, tourism, and transportation issues. Chris is a graduate of the University of Massachusetts with a degree in tourism management. He currently serves on the Board of Downeast and Acadia Regional Tourism, the Bar Harbor Cruise Ship Committee, and the Hub of Bar Harbor. He lives in Trenton with his wife Erin (herself a former FOA staff member) and sons.

**Jill Goldthwait** grew up in New Jersey, graduated from the University of New Hampshire, and obtained a degree in nursing from Cabrillo College in California. After serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in Tonga, she moved to Maine in 1978 and worked as an emergency room nurse at Mount Desert Island Hospital. Jill served on the Bar Harbor Town Council for 9 years prior to serving in the Maine Senate, from 1994-2002. In 2012, she retired from her position as director of government affairs at The Jackson Laboratory, a position she held for nine years. Jill writes a weekly political column for the *Ellsworth American* and the *Mount Desert Islander*, and serves on the board of the Maine Seacoast Mission and Educate Maine. She and her husband

Sheldon live on Mount Desert Island. Jill decided to serve on the Friends of Acadia Board because "I spend a lot of time in the park. I'm happy to lend a hand to Acadia and its future."

**Jan F. Kärst** was born and raised in Cologne, Germany. He studied economics at University of Konstanz (Germany), and graduated with a degree in economics from Colorado College and an MBA from Fuqua School of Business at Duke University. Jan moved to New York in 1987 to work with W.P. Carey & Co., a real estate investment trust, and in 2003 he became a founding partner of W. P. Carey International LLC. He serves on the boards of the Carey Center for Global Good and Friends of Atlantik-Brücke, both located in New York. He lives in Greenwich, Connecticut with his wife Hilary and three young children. They are in the process of building a seasonal home in Seal Harbor. Says Jan, "Hilary and I have spent our summers on Mount Desert Island for the last thirteen years. I consider it a privilege to enjoy the park no matter the time of the day—either for a morning hike or bike ride, or boat trip to Schoodic, or a late night trip to the top of Cadillac with my family in tow with sleeping bags to look at the stars. This natural beauty deserves not only our respect, but also our strong sense of fiduciary duty to act as its ambassadors in order to preserve the park for the generations to come."

### FOND FAREWELLS

Longtime staff member **Terry Begley** stepped down at the end of January, after more than 18 years of service to Friends of Acadia. In that time, Terry took on nearly every aspect of this organization's work, from administrative and office work, to fundraising, to coordinating projects and events. Terry has connected thousands of kids and volunteers with Acadia and left her imprint on many wonderful trails, programs, and events here over the years. Last year's dedication of the Trenton Community Trail is just the latest example of a project that simply would not have been possible without her dedication. All of us at Friends of Acadia wish her the very best in her new adventures.

**Len Bobinchock**, Acadia's deputy superintendent for the past 25 years,



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You are strongly urged to discuss your gift intentions with Friends of Acadia at an early stage in your planning. Please call the Friends of Acadia office, or have your attorney or financial advisor call, if you have any questions or require additional information. If you have already included Friends of Acadia in your estate plans, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development, at 800-625-0321 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org) to document your plans and be recognized as a member of the George B. Dorr Society. Your gift, regardless of size, will be both welcome and important to Friends of Acadia. Thank you.



retired at the end of March. Len had been with the National Park Service for 43 years, and served as acting superintendent of Acadia on three different occasions. In 2006, the Department of Interior awarded Len its Meritorious Service Award, and in 2008 Friends of Acadia awarded him the Marianne Edwards Award for Distinguished Service, citing among other things his “balance, judgment, and unflappable good humor.”

Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele has said about Len’s service, “For 25 years, Len has been involved in virtually everything the park has been involved in. We’ve made great progress because of Len’s ability to handle daily operations in such an exceptional way.” In an interview on WNSX radio, Len cited Acadia’s great relationship with Friends of Acadia as one of the achievements of which he is most proud. Thanks, Len—you should be proud, indeed.

#### IN MEMORIAM

**Dr. Robert (Bob) Massucco Sr.** died peacefully on January 21, 2014, at his home in Somesville, and with him passed a significant chapter of Acadia’s winter trails history. Bob was the original Acadia groomer. In

the 1980s he started grooming the carriage roads for cross-country skiing, first dragging a bedspring behind his own snowmobile to pack down the snow then setting tracks with a homemade contraption built of two-by lumber and metal guides. Bob assisted with the establishment of the Acadia Winter Trails Association and continued to groom with the group for many years. His input on equipment and technique was invaluable, and his passion for cross-country skiing was legendary. After seeing dental patients all day, Bob would clear trails late into the evening. After the biggest wind-driven snowstorms, Bob recalled, he would use his chainsaw to cut through fallen trees and even through snowdrifts to get up the carriage road on the east flank of Penobscot Mountain.

Bob Massucco’s legacy can be seen in the parked cars overflowing Acadia’s carriage road lots on sunny winter weekends, in the growing popularity of skate skiing (which generally requires groomed trails) in the area, and in the enthusiasm of winter trails volunteers who can’t wait for the season’s first snowfall. All at Friends of Acadia will remember, with awe, Bob’s contributions to the wintertime enjoyment of Acadia’s carriage roads. ❧



Shadbush in bloom near Bass Harbor Head Light.

Tom Blagden

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### *Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.*

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and pass funds to Friends of Acadia tax-free.

### *Gift of Property*

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### *Gift Through a Bequest in Your Will*

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## Let's Keep Reminding Congress about Parks

Last year was not an easy year for the National Park Service or our parks' gateway communities. Federal budget cuts from sequestration caused the delayed spring opening of Acadia's Park Loop Road, reductions in visitor center hours throughout the season, and cuts to seasonal ranger positions responsible for visitor safety, interpretation, and information. In addition, because Congress could not agree on a FY 2014 budget, the national parks were closed for sixteen days in October. One study estimated the negative economic impact of this in Acadia's gateway communities to be \$16 million, the third highest figure among all national parks. Figures from the Maine Bureau of Revenue Services show that retail sales for the Bar Harbor economic summary area were down almost \$1 million, or 4%, when comparing October 2013 to October 2012. The anecdotes from businesses around town vary greatly depending on the business sector.

Fortunately, 2014 appears to be more promising. In January, as a team of Friends of Acadia board members, staff, and advocacy committee members were meeting with the Maine Congressional delegation and others on Capitol Hill, a budget deal was being brokered for FY 2014. The budget deal eliminated many of the detrimental impacts of the sequester and returned park funding levels to approximately FY 2012 levels. Acadia National Park was able to fully open the Park Loop Road on the usual date of April 15<sup>th</sup>.

Friends of Acadia is partnering with other conservation and tourism organizations in a group called the National Parks Second Century Action Coalition. Facilitated by the National Parks Conservation Association, the coalition is working collectively to

increase federal, fee, and philanthropic support for national parks. A coalition thank-you letter was sent to the appropriators for their work to restore national park budgets to pre-sequester levels, and a letter was sent to President Obama urging him to use his FY 2015 budget to double the national commitment to national parks in connection with the 2016 NPS centennial. The coalition also has been working toward the reauthorization of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, the law that allows

Acadia to keep most of the entrance fees it collects here in Acadia.

In March, President Obama released his FY 2015 budget, recommending a \$55 million increase in funding for national parks, including \$47 million for park operations. The president's proposal also recommended \$10 million to be used in a matching program to encourage private philanthropy for the benefit of national parks. He encouraged Congress to pass legislation to bolster this matching program by \$100 million each year over the next three years to invest in national parks around the centennial, along with a total of \$700 million over the next three years to reduce the maintenance backlog.

Now, more than ever, Friends of Acadia members are encouraged to weigh in with their members of Congress about the importance of national parks—their economic value, their role in protecting America's great treasures, and the restorative value they provide to each of us. To learn how to take action, visit Friends of Acadia's website <http://friendsofacadia.org/getinvolved/advocate/>.

—Stephanie Clement

**Now, more than ever, Friends of Acadia members are encouraged to weigh in with Congress about the importance of national parks.**

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Tom Blagden

*The End of Night*  
By Paul Bogard  
Little, Brown and  
Company, 2013  
336 pages, Hard-  
bound



In *The End of Night: Searching for Natural Darkness in an Age of Artificial Light*,

author Paul Bogard invites us to accompany him on a journey to “know the night,” to use the words of Wendell Berry. He urges us to reconsider the association of lightness, safety, and peace versus darkness, fear, and evil. In chapters numbered in reverse order along the Bortle Scale (used to index light pollution) he escorts the reader from the glaring bright lights of Las Vegas through urban, suburban, and rural skies into the comforting world of the dark night—an intrinsic part of the natural world until the relatively recent development of electric lights. Along the way, he provides with remarkable depth and clarity a guided tour of the many scientific, sociocultural, biomedical, ecological, and aesthetic facets of our relationship with light and dark.

Ultimately, he visits our own Acadia National Park, where he emphasizes the importance of dark sky conservation in and around this park in particular. He recognizes that Acadia is unique among the dark sky parks because it is positioned in close proximity to the urban centers of the eastern United States, where residents may be able to see only a handful of stars, let alone most constellations and the Milky Way. This allows the park to provide the first experience of a truly dark night to the millions of visitors who come from heavily light-polluted skies. Bogard truly earns the word ambassador, reminding those of us who have the privilege to live under Acadia’s dark skies about the lifelessness of artificially lit environments and inviting those who don’t to discover the sights and sounds of the living night. In a book that could easily serve as a primer for the Acadia Night Sky Festival, Paul Bogard clearly outlines the case for

conservation of the dark sky resource with intriguing personal anecdotes, scientific observations, and compassion for readers who have yet to ponder the *End of Night*. 🌌

ELISSA CHESLER is an associate professor at The Jackson Laboratory, and a member of the Acadia Night Sky Festival Organizing Committee.



*The Secret Pool*

By Kimberly Ridley  
Illustrated by Rebekah Raye  
Tilbury House, 2013  
32 pages, Hardbound

“A shimmer. A twinkling. Do you have any inkling of what I am?” So begins Kimberly Ridley and Rebekah Raye’s magical exploration of the life cycle of vernal pools— isolated, temporary woodland ponds that nurture a remarkable array of native life. In graceful, lilting free verse—marked by internal rhyme and an easy and interesting rhythm—Ridley tells how wood frogs, spotted salamanders, and fairy shrimp depend on vernal pools for protection and food during the first weeks and months of their life cycle. Sidebars of more advanced prose give additional details for kids up to age 9 or 10, but the poems—along with Raye’s lush, lively watercolor illustrations—will attract even the youngest pre-readers.

The book reads like a fantasy, as told by the pool itself, but it is well-grounded in science. Both Ridley and Raye live on the Blue Hill Peninsula, just one bay away

from Acadia, and although they generalize about vernal pools, the details are clearly specific to this area. The illustrations are stylized but accurately depict resident species—from fairy shrimp to song sparrows to spotted deer. Vernal pools have been the object of several studies in Acadia National Park in recent years, and are listed as “Significant Wildlife Habitat” under Maine’s Natural Resources Protection Act; because vernal (meaning “springtime”) pools typically dry up by late summer, they lack fish, which would eat the eggs and juveniles of the species that spawn in vernal pools. As a result, these pools are one keystone in the complex architecture of Acadia’s woodland ecosystem.

It would be worth reading this book with a young hiking companion before your next outing on Acadia’s trails. Find a small, still pool in the woods—can you see a stream leading in or out? No? Then it may be a vernal pool. Some might mistake it for a big puddle, but you (and your young companion) will know its hidden secrets. 🌌

— Aimee Beal Church

BRIEFLY NOTED  
*Photographing Acadia National Park* by Colleen J. Miniuk-Sperry  
Analemma Press,  
2014 | 224 pages,  
Softcover



For many, photography is a highlight of their Acadia visit. This compact and user-friendly guide will help you make the most of time spent in Acadia with a camera, with photography “basics” that are truly helpful; hints, history, and directions to 50 photographic destinations in the park; and a compact chart to quickly identify ideal months, times of day, and tides for each location. By an experienced photography teacher and three-time Acadia artist-in-residence. 🌌

— Aimee Beal Church



## Friendships Old and New

It's an exciting time to be involved with Friends of Acadia. Here we are, in the busy early stages of new projects to protect Acadia's unique natural resources and the Acadia visitor experience, at the forefront of efforts to advocate for more sustainable federal funding for parks, and deeply involved in dozens of community partnerships planning to celebrate with the park its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2016, just two short years away.

All this is happening while FOA continues our effort and support of our long term, important projects such as the maintenance and upkeep of the carriage roads and trail network plus the ongoing support of the environmentally friendly Island Explorer bus system.

At a recent meeting of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, we heard from retiring Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock that the dedication and impact of Acadia's friends in the private sector have given him and Superintendent Sheridan Steele confidence to tackle projects that might not have been possible in other parks. Len has been a remarkable asset for Acadia for more than 25 years, and we will surely miss his patience, his deep concern for Acadia's wellbeing, and his tremendous institutional knowledge. Len, we wish you a very happy retirement—you've earned it!

It is no new news that the "secret sauce" of almost every organization and team is the people involved. Fortunately, Acadia National Park is able to attract many talented staff members, and the special nature of this place inspires many to stay for an extended tenure. Likewise, Friends of Acadia, too, attracts the best and enjoys very low turnover among its staff and has notable devotion from board members. This allows Friends of Acadia to tackle long-term projects and continually improve its operations—including its project planning and implementation, governance and fundraising efficiency—from year to year.

While this experience and institutional knowledge have been a huge asset at



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**Friends of Acadia continues to thrive on this essential blend of our historic roots and new ideas for the future. It is important that this be reflected across our board, staff, volunteers and membership. Whether their relationship with the organization is measured in decades or months, all share a deep love for Acadia and desire to give back.**

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Friends of Acadia, we also benefit greatly from the fresh perspective and ideas that new members bring. Our board discussions encourage a wide range of ideas and opinions. From a board perspective, I can tell you that the new directors that FOA has welcomed over the last few months (see page 23) have added to the existing vitality and excitement around our board table at recent meetings. At the same time, several existing board members have stepped up to new leadership roles, becoming officers or committee chairs. In an age

when our increasingly busy world seems to demand more out of all of us every day, every hour and minute, I am very proud of the commitment and engagement that our volunteer board members are offering through their service to Acadia.

We are also incredibly fortunate to have a strong network of "alumni" who remain active with Friends of Acadia even after rotating off the board of directors. Some become Honorary Trustees, willing to help the organization with key relationships, fundraising, or policy development through committee work. Others choose to forego meetings for more volunteer time out working on the trails and carriage roads (who can blame them?).

Earlier this spring, FOA emailed an Advocacy Alert urging members to be in touch with Congress on some key funding bills; we were delighted, but not surprised, that the very first response in the form of a passionate and personal letter to all four members of Maine's delegation, came from one of our former board members.

Friends of Acadia continues to thrive on this essential blend of our historic roots and new ideas for the future. It is important that this be reflected across our board, staff, volunteers and membership. Whether their relationship with the organization is measured in decades or months, all share a deep love for Acadia and desire to give back. I hope that as you scan down the names at the front of this magazine of our board members and honorary trustees, you will consider each of us a resource should you wish to learn more about FOA's work and how you can become more involved. It is a pleasure to serve Acadia, this organization, and you—our members. Together, we are accomplishing great things. Thank you! 🍓

  
—Edward L. Samek

## LIKE LIVING IN A PAINTING

By Tyra Hanson

My discovery of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island began in the late 1970s while I was pursuing my education in interior design and my love for American art history. In 1975, while working on a research project on the art of New Hampshire's White Mountains, I discovered Thomas Cole and his student, Frederic Church—and their landscapes not only of the White Mountains and the Catskills but also of Mount Desert Island. I was intrigued and mystified by these paintings, especially Cole's seascape "View Across Frenchman's Bay, from Mount Desert Island" and Church's "Otter Creek, Mt. Desert." I knew at that moment that I would someday visit this island called Mount Desert.

Many years passed and my life took many twists and turns. I finally visited Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park when I was 30 years old, with my husband and my six-year-old son. As we drove the Loop Road, I was in awe of the views of the ocean and coastal islands; but as I gazed along the roadside I admired the well maintained

bridges, the carriage roads and trails, the flowers, babbling brooks, and rock formations—all of it was so beautiful. I thought to myself "How lucky are those who live here; what a great place to raise a child."

Within the next couple of years, we moved here. I didn't flinch when my husband came home and said "let's move to Maine." I simply said "I'll start packing." I knew no one here except my husband's family—my roots were in New Hampshire—but, you see, something was pulling me in this direction. Just as with the paintings I fell in love with years ago, I was drawn to the beauty of the unrefined rocky shore, the smell of the ocean, the clusters of pines, the color of the sky at dawn, pink granite and hackmatacks...this was going to be my home—this was going to be my life.

That was over 25 years ago, and this area has most definitely become my home and my life. I have been blessed with many things including the gifts of love, family, friends, and this beautiful national park on the rocky coast of Maine. Today I own a fine art gallery on the island, surrounded by beautiful

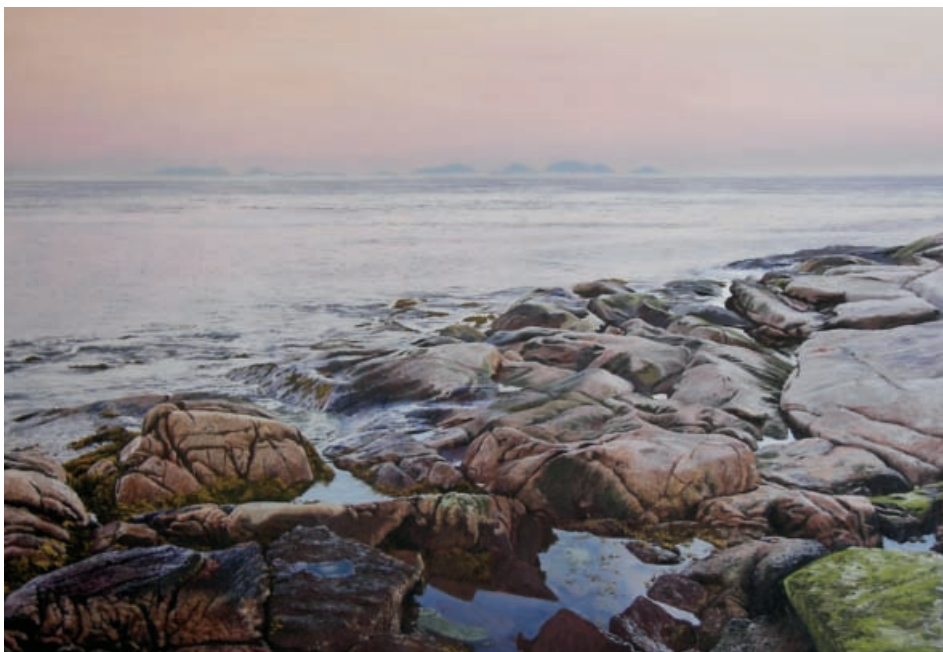
seascapes and landscape painted by a new generation of accomplished artists—who continue to introduce Mount Desert Island to the world just as Thomas Cole and Frederic Church did some 150 years ago. My wealth of memories of sharing Acadia National Park with family and friends continues to grow: spending warm summer days at Sand Beach with a picnic lunch, jogging peacefully on the Loop Road during the offseason, taking leisurely walks along the water's edge, hiking on the trails that point east to west. These memories are still being made as my son now visits with his new family and his friends.

All who visit this national park become connected to something larger than themselves, and this happens through the spiritual energy swirling in the air, water, and earth at Acadia. It is only natural to want to give back, to preserve and protect the things you are connected to. I can do this by supporting and donating to an organization focused on the future of this national park. Friends of Acadia. My support goes towards beautification projects, the creation of new trails and walking bridges, and educating our kids to appreciate these gifts that are among the most important things in life. 🌿

TYRA HANSON is the owner and founder of The Gallery at Somes Sound, celebrating America's longstanding tradition in the arts of fine furniture, painting, and sculpture. The Gallery at Somes Sound is located in the village of Somesville.



Tyra Hanson



Gallery at Somes Sound

"View of MDI from Mt. Desert Rock at Dawn" by MDI artist Ernest McMullen and shown at the Gallery at Somes Sound, demonstrates the artistic tradition that first attracted Tyra to Mount Desert Island.



# YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS IMPORTANT!

The only US national park originally created entirely by private donations of land, Acadia today is protected and enriched by the members of Friends of Acadia. Our 3,725 members from all over the world help fund essential park projects and new initiatives. From the cobblestone beaches to the spectacular night skies, and on every inch of the historic hiking trails and carriage roads—all of Friends of Acadia's accomplishments start with the dedication of members like you.

Help us to protect Acadia by keeping your membership current. To renew your membership or become a new member, use the envelope provided in this magazine, call the Friends of Acadia office at 1-800-625-0321, or visit our website.



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Tom Blagden

*Sargent Brook on the Giant Slide Trail*

## Mission

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