

Friends of  
ACADIA  
Journal

Fall 2014  
Volume 19 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

# PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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

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Bar Harbor Village Green  
Thompson Island Information Center  
Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds

**Acadia weekly passes are also available seasonally at:**

Cadillac Mountain Gift Shop  
Jordan Pond Gift Shop  
Some area businesses; call 207-288-3338 for an up-to-date list of locations



For more information visit

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## — PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK —

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## ACADIA'S EXCELLENCE

At the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting in mid-July, Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele shared the impressive news that Acadia had recently earned top honors in a *USA Today* poll that asked readers to choose the best national park in the country. Just a few days later, we learned that *Good Morning America* conducted another poll in which Acadia again emerged on top—not only among national parks, but as “America’s Favorite Place.” We should not have been surprised when the *New York Times* followed with its own feature a couple of weeks later, highlighting Acadia’s trails on the front page of its travel section.

Among FOA’s board, staff, and membership, many people have felt pride in this well-deserved recognition; an equal number, however, have expressed a concern: do we really need this kind of national press at a time when Acadia’s parking lots are already overflowing and the park can feel at risk of being “loved to death”?

Over the course of the summer, I had the opportunity to visit with hundreds of park visitors and FOA supporters, and almost all shared this same schizophrenic response to Acadia’s recent media prominence. Everyone agreed with the top rankings but they worried about how they might impact Acadia’s future. They wished Acadia’s merits might stay a bit more below the radar.

This kind of modesty is not unusual among Mainers. But it is not realistic to think that we can keep Acadia a secret. Nor is it practical to wish for more days of rain or fog as a strategy to discourage more visitors; during her August visit here, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewel spoke of a day in Acadia nearly forty years ago, eating lobster in a tiny tent in the pouring rain, as among her most memorable national park experiences!

Why does Acadia rate so high among so many different audiences? Because it is a family-friendly park? Because its staff is absolutely committed to the park and its visitors? Because it is within a day’s drive of the



Friends of Acadia

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**We hope that Acadia will set the standard in terms of youth engagement in parks and thoughtfully managing the delicate balance between an outstanding visitor experience and the need to protect Acadia’s natural and cultural resources.**

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entire northeastern United States? Because Friends of Acadia has helped add a margin of excellence to park resources and operations for nearly thirty years?

Yes to all of the above! People feel passionately about Acadia, and often come back again and again over the years. Places as diverse as Cadillac Mountain, Ship Harbor, Schoodic, and Isle au Haut stay with you long after you are there. Our love for this place is profound, often personal, and as varied as the many different trails in Acadia. However, I believe that the reasons behind Acadia’s sweep of this summer’s popularity contests run still deeper.

What makes Acadia absolutely unique in my (admittedly biased) experience is its

remarkable relationship with the surrounding local communities. Acadia’s boundary weaves in and out of more than a dozen small fishing harbors, historic villages, summer colonies, bustling sea-ports, tourist destinations, and offshore islands. This porous, crooked boundary and Acadia’s relationships with its countless neighbors are complex—as is the charge to manage natural and cultural resources across the checker-board ownership—but ultimately, they are a large part of what makes the Acadia experience so rewarding and memorable.

I often think about how lucky I am to live in a place that has Acadia National Park as its backyard, and how different my hometown would be if it were not for the park. I also believe, however, that the benefit is mutual, and that Acadia is just as fortunate to have such a diverse and caring community and thousands of engaged neighbors and friends who give back so generously to the park. Indeed, this synergy has defined Acadia from its earliest days and continues to be its hallmark, whether described on the front pages of our national press, or in quiet trailside or kitchen table conversations.

Here at Friends of Acadia, we will embrace the challenge of making “the best” even better. We certainly don’t need to be in the headlines, but hope that Acadia will set the standard in terms of youth engagement in parks and thoughtfully managing the delicate balance between an outstanding visitor experience and the need to protect Acadia’s natural and cultural resources. With the support of an engaged membership and creative and committed partners throughout the park and community, it is an exciting time indeed as we approach the park’s centennial in 2016. We appreciate your interest and hope that the following pages will inspire even greater involvement. ❁

—David MacDonald

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# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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## Fostering Stewardship and Promoting Science Literacy

In my work as superintendent of Acadia National Park, one of my key goals is to engage youth of all ages in Acadia National Park and to inspire many of them to become park rangers or conservationists or just ordinary citizens who have positive memories about nature and national parks. One important way to engage today's youth is through educational activities, internships, and special initiatives aimed at young people. Acadia, like all national parks, is an outdoor classroom for experiencing living things in their natural environments and reflecting on the human history that has shaped our landscape. Children of all ages discover the wonders of nature and complexities of science as they explore Acadia National Park.

In late August, we at Acadia had the pleasure of hosting Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell and National Park Service Director, Jonathan B. Jarvis, in a visit that highlighted scientific research and youth partnerships at the park. Secretary Jewell has launched an ambitious youth initiative at the Department of the Interior to inspire millions of young people to play, learn, serve, and work in the great outdoors. Acadia National Park is playing an important role in providing educational, volunteer, and engagement opportunities to young people.

While at Acadia, Secretary Jewell spoke about her own lifelong relationship with nature and learning, saying, "These are the kinds of things we remember as children: We remember being out. We remember science because we saw it actually in action. . . . The best classroom is the one without walls."

Acadia National Park is just that sort of classroom. Through ranger-led programs, kids and their families peer closely at the sand on Sand Beach or invertebrate insects in Cromwell Brook, discover geological history laid bare on Acadia's mountaintops, and experience awe under Acadia's remarkable night sky. They see peregrine falcon chicks in the nest with the help of spotting scopes connected to a digital screen, and our friendly raptor intern. Families who



Peter Travers

Acadia, like all national parks, is an outdoor classroom for experiencing living things in their natural environments and reflecting on the human history that has shaped our landscape.

participate in Acadia Quest see more of the park and perhaps pay just a bit closer attention than they might have. Young volunteers, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members, and Ridge Runners out on the trails and carriage roads of Acadia have a service-learning experience that combines a beautiful setting, age-appropriate physical effort, and a clear sense of accomplishment.

At the Schoodic Education District, you may see kindergarteners humming to periwinkles and excitedly exclaiming as snail antennas emerge from an opening shell; seventh-grade investigators determining wind speed, measuring seawater salinity, and counting organisms as they conduct a habitat survey and graph tide pool population changes by water depth; or high school students mapping the GPS coordinates of crab carcasses along the upper shoreline. The Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) and other education programs focuses on building science literacy, introducing stu-

dents to the scientific process, learning research methods, and sharing the inspiring interconnections of Acadia's ecological and cultural components. At the same time, a constant goal for park ranger-educators is fostering a learning environment that allows students to explore nature and develop their own sense of wonder.

Each year the program hosts Maine students (including some who have never seen the ocean), and through the combined effort of partners Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute, we are able to provide a world-class educational experience with funding for transportation and other costs—without which many of these schools would not be able to participate. Similarly, the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program sponsors summer residencies in Acadia for public-school teachers every summer, then follows up by bringing their students to visit Acadia or another park during the school year (See Updates, page 21).

During her visit, Secretary Jewell remarked that "as human beings we need nature to be whole. We need nature to feed our souls." The important work we are doing with our partners in Acadia, like Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute, increases our capacity every day to accomplish the mission of the National Park Service to both preserve and provide for public enjoyment of our park's resources so that we and future generations will have access to the natural world Jewell evoked so eloquently.

We know that engaging the next generation is key to park stewardship, and that continuing our efforts in science is what will help us—and tomorrow's stewards—to make informed decisions about how to manage Acadia National Park. These interconnected goals are critical to our success as we move into the next hundred years of managing our national parks. ❖

*Sheridan Steele*  
—Sheridan Steele

### More on Park Passes

I just read the interesting article by Aimee Beal Church titled “Acadia Takes a New Look at Park Passes” [spring 2014 *FOA Journal*]. I was pleased to learn about the positive initiatives to raise revenue for the park and to have all visitors pay their fair share. The article did not mention the Golden Age Passport, which is available for senior citizens. I feel that the article would have been more complete had the passport been mentioned together with a request for a volunteer donation for those seniors using the park. While I certainly appreciate the Golden Age Passport, the lifetime charge (it was \$10 when I got my card) is ridiculously low.

Friends of Acadia is a great organization. Keep up the good work.

— Bill Davidson  
Brookfield, CT

### A Letter of Gratitude

I wanted to share our story with you and to give credit to one of your bus drivers.

My husband and our two children (age 8 and 9) went hiking up Cadillac Mountain today. However, the weather turned and it started pouring with rain. We were drenched by the time we got down and back to the Visitor Center. Once there we saw the “Campgrounds” bus and we jumped on, thinking it would bring us back to the Village Green. After an hour in heavy traffic we asked the bus driver, Sheldon, when the bus was going to the Village Green—to which he replied it was not but rather terminating at the Acadia Gateway Center [in Trenton]. He said we must not worry; there would be other buses and he would try to get us on one. The traffic, however, had caused chaos with the schedules and seeing how cold and wet we were he said we should wait at his car. He dropped off the bus and then very gave us a ride back to our campground, Smuggler’s Den. We offered to pay him but he refused. This was the kindest gesture and he went far beyond the call of duty. Thank you for your amazing bus service and for the fantastic people you employ.

Please convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to Sheldon, as he really went out of his

way to help us in his personal time and at his expense. What a fantastic ambassador for Acadia National Park and the Island Explorer bus service.

—The Weir family from South Africa

### Trail Crew Leader Shines

My name is Peter Goff and I was the co-leader (along with fellow Vermont Commons School faculty, Christie Beveridge) of our school’s annual visit to Acadia National Park. VCS has been coming to ANP for more than 15 years, and we spend a half day working with FOA every trip. Community service is a hallmark of VCS’ curriculum and our time with FOA is central to this trip’s success. Last week marked the third time we’ve been lucky enough to be paired with Anna Adams.

We’ve had some amazing crew leaders before: retired professors, professional foresters, etc. However, we have never worked with anyone with Anna’s mix of professionalism, ability to inspire, sense of humor, and teaching ability. Anna is unfailingly respectful of the group’s needs and abilities, and the first one to jump into the muddy ditch to demonstrate how to safely use a tool. She never underestimates the abilities of our students (a sure way to turn them off from any activity), and constantly (by example) inspires them to push their own limits.

My only regret is that I haven’t taken the time to write this letter in past years, but this year our kids spoke so highly of her that I had no choice!

—Peter Goff  
Vermont Commons School  
South Burlington, Vermont

### 2013 Annual Report Correction

We make every attempt to provide an accurate listing of donors in the *Friends of Acadia Annual Report*, published each summer. In July we released the 2013 edition, which sadly included several errors. Please note the following corrections:

Liz and Arthur Martinez are members of the Pemetic Society; Nora and Rob Leary are members of the Parkman Mountain Society; Priscilla and John Hirschenhofer are members of the George B. Dorr Society.

To view a corrected PDF of the *2013 Annual Report*, visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

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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.

Opinions expressed are the authors’.

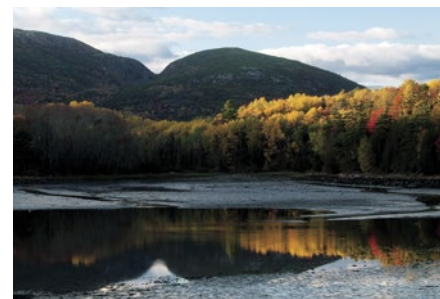
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Otter Cove at low tide  
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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# Special Person: Doug Monteith



Doug Monteith

Doug Monteith relaxes on Penobscot Mountain, with a classic Bates Cairn for support.

A ten-year career with the USDA Forest Service nurtured Doug Monteith's love for natural beauty and outdoor activities. As a weekly volunteer in the Friends of Acadia office, he understands that all of the many different tasks he accomplishes contribute in some way to protect the natural beauty of Acadia National Park.

Any Thursday morning might find Doug on a Friends of Acadia computer indexing articles in the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, clipping and copying newspaper articles, or helping to prepare a mailing. He is valued by the staff as a volunteer who is willing to do whatever is needed and who can be counted on to volunteer a few hours every Thursday. The staff can schedule projects knowing that Doug will be in the office that day to pitch in.

Doug and his wife, Mary Allen, moved to Mount Desert Island about 15 years ago, when Doug retired. In addition to volunteering at Friends of Acadia since 2012, he is one of the original "Waldron's Warriors," a group that works to maintain the Bates

cairns in Acadia according to the design created by pathmaker Waldron Bates in the early 1900s.

Doug has been active in the Footloose Friends hiking group. He has also done some work on Acadia's trails and is a volunteer "loon observer" with the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary. Additionally, Doug volunteers weekly as a valet parker at Maine Coast Memorial Hospital in Ellsworth so patients and their families can avoid long walks to the hospital entrance.

"I've been very fortunate in life," Doug comments simply. "Volunteering is one of the ways I can give back."

Doug explains that he gained a public-service orientation from day one at the Forest Service, and that has guided many of his decisions about volunteering. "I'm delighted for a way to give back that fits with my interests and abilities," he says. "FOA is a fascinating and wondrously effective organization, and it has been fun seeing some details of how it operates." 🐾

—Sharon Broom

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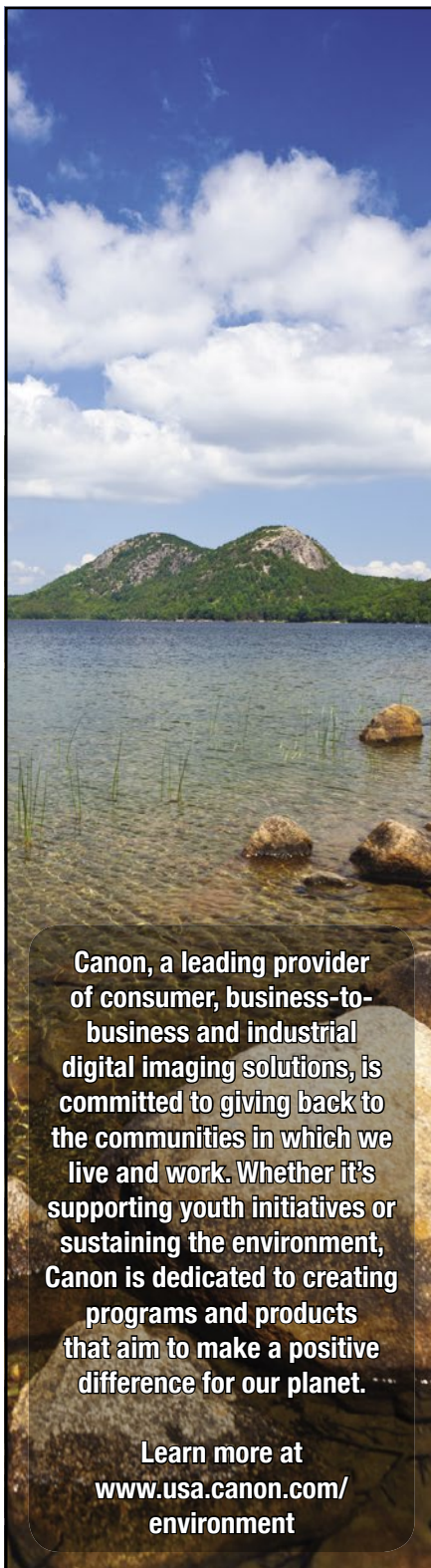
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March 1 – July 31, 2014



Aimee Beal Church

Herb-robert Geranium at Ship Harbor.



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## Acadia Night Sky Festival Events September 25–29, 2014

Since 2009, Friends of Acadia has partnered with Acadia National Park and other area organizations to host the Acadia Night Sky Festival, a community celebration to promote the protection and enjoyment of Downeast Acadia's stellar night sky as a valuable natural resource through education, science, and the arts.

Events are free unless otherwise indicated. For full event descriptions, fees (where applicable), and locations, visit [www.acadianightskyfestival.org](http://www.acadianightskyfestival.org)

### ALL FESTIVAL

10:00 am–5:00 pm *Build Your Own Night Sky Family Ornament for kids, Bar Harbor (fee)*

10:00 am–2:00 pm *Exhibit: Jane Runyeon, SERC*

7:00–9:30 pm *Bioluminescent Night Paddle, Castine (fee)*

### THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

3:30–5:30 pm *Panel: "Looking Beyond the Edges of Our Vision," Bar Harbor*

7:00–8:30 pm *Keynote Presentation: Paul Bogard "The End of Night," Mount Desert*

8:00–9:00 pm *Stars Over Sand Beach*

### FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

9:00–10:30 am *German Paper Star Workshop, Bar Harbor (donation requested)*

12:00–1:00 pm *Talk: Dr. Colleen McClung "Biology of Light," Bar Harbor*

5:30 pm *Talk: Tyler Nordgren "Stars Above, Earth Below: Astronomy in National Parks," Southwest Harbor*

5:30–7:30 pm *Talk: Bert Probst "Tonight's Sky: What to Look for at a Star Party," Southwest Harbor (donation requested)*

6:15–9:15 pm *Astro-Landscape Photo Workshops with Brent L. Ander, SERC (fee)*

6:30–9:00 pm *Film: Outdoor Celestial Cinema "Zathura," Bar Harbor*

6:30–9:30 pm *Photography Workshop with Bob Thayer, ANP Headquarters (fee)*

6:30–9:00 pm *Night Sky "Under the Stars" Boat Cruise, Bar Harbor (fee)*

7:00 pm *Acadia Sea Cliff Night Climb, Bar Harbor*

8:00–10:00 pm *Star Party at Seawall*

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

11:00 am–1:00 pm *Solar Viewing, Bar Harbor*

2:00–3:30 pm *Talk: Dr. Rich Wolfson "Wild Sun: A Drama in Three Acts," Bar Harbor*

2:00 pm *Film: "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," Bar Harbor*

4:00–5:30 pm *Talk: Wally Funk "My Life as a Mercury 13 Astronaut Candidate," Bar Harbor*

6:15–9:15 pm *Astro-Landscape Photo Workshops with Brent L. Ander, SERC (fee)*

6:30–9:30 pm *Photography Workshop with Bob Thayer, ANP Headquarters (fee)*

7:00 pm *Champlain Mountain Night Hike, Bar Harbor*

8:00–10:00 pm *Star Party on Cadillac (parking at Hulls Cove Visitor Center)*

### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28

11:00 am–2:00 pm *Celebration of the Sun, Sieur de Monts*

2:30 pm *Talk: Jon Thomas "Why Is the Sky Dark at Night?," Bar Harbor*

2:00 pm *Film: "The City Dark," Bar Harbor*

2:00–3:30 pm *Talk: Dr. Julie Rathbun "A Spacecraft to Study an Ocean on Another World," Bar Harbor*

3:30 pm *Talk: Bob Reichman "Plutoids, Dwarf Planets and other Transneptunian Objects, Oh My!," Bar Harbor*

6:30 – 9:00 pm *Night Sky "Under the Stars" Boat Cruise, Bar Harbor (fee)*

### MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 29

5:55 am *Sunrise on Cadillac Mountain*



## Where in Acadia?



Aimee Beal Church

**Where in Acadia?** Tides are an amazing natural phenomenon. Four times daily, the land along Acadia's ocean margin changes dramatically as the water rises and falls, then rises and falls again, tugged by the moon and the sun. Averaging between ten and eleven feet in Bar Harbor, local tides can be 15 feet or more during a new moon, when the moon's and the sun's gravitational forces pull in the same direction. That's 15 *vertical* feet—the actual water line can travel hundreds of yards or more where the ocean bottom slopes gently away from the land.

You've probably seen this particular bit of Acadia coast, but you may not have seen it quite like this. An unusually low tide allowed the photographer to reach an uncommon vantage point. As a hint, everything you're looking at is within the boundary of Acadia National Park. If you think you can name the two landforms pictured here, 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*.



**Spring 2014 Where in Acadia?** This vernal pool, with its blue flag iris, is one of the great treats on top of Champlain every spring. I am, and have been for about the last ten years, a Waldron's Warrior, one of the many volunteers who maintain trails in the park. My trails, Beechcroft and Bear Brook (now called Champlain North Ridge), go up and down Champlain and I hike these at least once a week from early spring until the trails become icy in the early winter. Starting in late spring, I always detour past the top of Champlain, going down the South Ridge toward the Bowl, watching first the green sprouts, then the fat buds, and finally the beautiful blue iris as they open. This is one of nature's gifts to us on the mountains.

And for those who love finding these beautiful blooms, there is another area on Champlain that also has lots of iris. It's on the Beechcroft Trail, at the bottom of Huguenot Head as you are rounding it to go up the last steep part of Champlain. On the left, the vernal pool is quite large, and in recent years there have been truly hundreds of the blue flag iris. Enjoy!!

— Ellen Dohmen, Bar Harbor, Maine

## In Memoriam

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

Frank Adler  
 Robert D. Anderson  
 Bridget Anibal  
 Barbara Arrington  
 Winona Atkins  
 Elizabeth B. Atterbury  
 Amy BarraJ  
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 Patti Reilly  
 Katherine Richards  
 Paxton Roberts  
 Katherine Roberts  
 Robert Rosander  
 Dana Roxi  
 Patricia Scull  
 Maury L. Seavey  
 John M. Sevem  
 Hannah L. Shaw  
 Otto M. Siegrist  
 Nancy Silverman  
 Rosemary Steele  
 Edward W. Stool  
 Eileen Tateo Beebe  
 Wilfred A. Thomas  
 Amory and Betty Thorndike  
 David A. Timmons  
 Virginia R. Tomasi Levy  
 W.M. von Hagen  
 Tom Walsh  
 Chrysandra L. Walter  
 Ed Wells  
 Hugh White  
 J.J. Wieckowski  
 Henry J. Winn  
 Thomas J. Witt  
 Wayne L. Worrell  
 Yulie Yang  
 Peggy Strout Young

March 1–July 31, 2014

## The Island Explorer Virtual Traffic Jam



The environmental benefits of the Island Explorer Bus System have been extensive. Since its inception in 1999, the buses have eliminated more than 1.88 million private vehicle trips and prevented emissions of more than 17 thousand tons of greenhouse gases and 26 tons of smog-causing pollutants. Every year Friends of Acadia estimates a “virtual traffic jam” that would be created by placing back-to-back all the cars and RVs that Island Explorer passengers chose not to drive. Each year, this figure is added to the cumulative total to see how far the traffic jam stretches.

In 2013, the Island Explorer carried 423,998 passengers and we estimated that another 373 miles would have been added, taking the traffic jam 3,263 miles from Acadia National Park: south past Freeport, Maine to Long Key Park in the Florida Keys, back up the west coast of Florida, past Yankeetown, then west to Freeport, Florida, and on through the Gulf states, then clear across Texas to the community of Esperanza, which in Spanish means *hope*. We *hope* you ride the Island Explorer many times this year!

# Friends of Acadia Celebrates Five Million Island Explorer Riders

By Stephanie Clement

Visitors are flocking to the fare-free, propane-powered Island Explorer transit system in droves this year as they look for ways to enjoy the park without having to hunt for parking. Fresh off of accolades from *Good Morning America* viewers who acclaimed Acadia as America's "favorite place" and from *USA Today* readers who named Acadia the "best" national park, park visitation was up 4.7% by the end of July. The Island Explorer showed even greater growth during the same time period, up 15% over 2013, and the bus system posted two 8,000-



*Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald congratulated Marisa Gray on being the 5-millionth rider of the Island Explorer, saying, "This is a widely loved system and we are deeply appreciative of the public's engagement. It wouldn't work without people like Marisa deciding to get on the bus and make it work."*

plus passenger days in July—the earliest date on record to top this threshold. On Monday, August 4<sup>th</sup>, Island Explorer ridership surpassed 9,000 passengers in one day for the first time in the bus system's history; and on Thursday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, cumulative ridership for the season surpassed 300,000, the earliest date this mark has ever been reached.

In addition to these record-breaking passenger numbers, the Island Explorer passed a major milestone at the beginning of the season. On June 30<sup>th</sup>, local resident Marisa Gray disembarked from the Sand Beach route at the Bar Harbor Village Green to the news that she was the 5-millionth Island Explorer passenger. Ms. Gray boarded the bus in the village of Otter Creek and was on her way to her summer job at Hannaford grocery store in downtown Bar Harbor. Representatives from Acadia National Park, L.L.Bean, the Maine Department of Transportation, Friends of Acadia, and Downeast Transportation greeted her at the Village Green with a goodie bag

and gift card from L.L.Bean and a Friends of Acadia gift membership. The Island Explorer partners thanked her for choosing environmentally friendly transportation.

At the event, Acadia National Park planner John Kelly commented that "The Island Explorer is key to helping people enjoy the park and reducing congestion in Acadia. We receive about the same visitation as Yellowstone National Park, but Yellowstone is about 60 times the size of this park. [Acadia is] a very small, concentrated park, and the more opportunities people have to get on alternative transportation and relieve congestion in the parking lots and roads, the better visitor experience for everyone." Each year, approximately 22% of the Island Explorer's ridership are local residents who are commuting to work, accessing lakes and trailheads for recreation, or simply using the bus system as a hassle-free way to get around the towns bordering Acadia.

The Island Explorer is supported financially

by Acadia National Park, the U.S. and Maine Departments of Transportation, contributions from L.L.Bean and Friends of Acadia, local municipal appropriations, fees from businesses that receive front door service, and passenger donations. A portion of every weekly and annual Acadia National Park entrance fee is dedicated to funding the Island Explorer's operations. The bus system partners are currently discussing ways to fund the replacement of the current aging bus fleet. The National Park Service and Maine Department of

Transportation have identified funding to begin replacing four buses per year beginning in 2017, but growth of the fleet will also be necessary once the Acadia Gateway Center opens.

Overall, the Island Explorer continues to be a significant contributor to the quality of life on Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula. The annual rider surveys conducted on board the Island Explorer prove year after year that people are thankful for the service and would like to see it extended in length of season and area covered. In July, the service was named to *Down East Magazine's* "Best of Maine" list in the "Community" category. Bus service continues on all routes through August 31<sup>st</sup> and then on a reduced basis through October 13<sup>th</sup>. Information and schedules are available online at [www.exploreacadia.com](http://www.exploreacadia.com). 🐾

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.

# Acadia Quest: Uniquely Acadia

By Paige Steele

All photos courtesy of the Acadia Quest teams



1



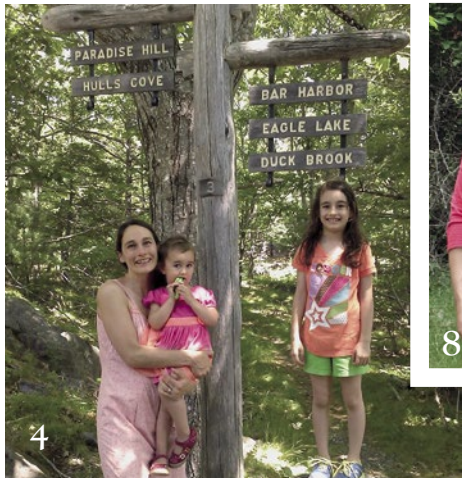
3



7

For the seventh year, Friends of Acadia in partnership with Acadia National Park issued a challenge to families to participate in Acadia Quest. Acadia Quest is a season-long program designed to encourage families and young people to develop a greater bond with the park through fun outdoor activities. This summer, the Quest was redesigned as the “Uniquely Acadia Edition” and 143 teams are exploring the carriage roads, cultural destinations, trails, and waters of Acadia National Park. Teams who complete the quest will receive a 2015 Acadia park pass as their prize. Those teams will also be entered into the Grand Prize drawing, to be held at Take Pride in Acadia Day on November 1<sup>st</sup>. Teams are posting photos of their adventures on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/friendsofacadia](http://www.facebook.com/friendsofacadia), and often express their appreciation for the variety and types of activities offered in this year’s Quest.

PAIGE STEELE is the conservation projects manager at Friends of Acadia.



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5



9



2



6

1. Team Tangled of Seal Cove, Maine, meets Ranger David Donovan at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.
2. Team Tally Ho of Blue Hill, Maine, finds the geological survey medallion atop Flying Mountain.
3. Team Svor of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, enjoys an ocean sail.
4. Team Adventure Capitalists of Bar Harbor, Maine, explores Acadia's carriage roads.
5. Team Adventure Capitalists of Bar Harbor, Maine, at the Gorham Mountain summit.
6. Team DeRevere of Mount Desert, Maine, shows off their “favorite rock” at Hunters Beach.
7. Team Bobiak of East Windsor, New Jersey, at the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse.
8. Team Svor of Chalfont, Pennsylvania, heads up the Bar Island Trail.
9. Team Haney of Mount Desert, Maine, about to dive into the Bowl.

# Old Roads to New Trails: Inaugurating a new connector in Otter Creek

By Julia Walker Thomas and Aimee Beal Church

One of the joys of backcountry camping is that simple act of unzipping your tent in the morning and stepping out into nature, knowing that anywhere you wish to go that day will be reached on your own two feet. Acadia is too small a park for backcountry camping, but starting this past June a new set of trails near Blackwoods Campground now offers visitors that same joy of finding adventures afoot. The brand-new Quarry Trail and Otter Cove Trail—connecting Blackwoods Campground with Ocean Drive and the Ocean Path through Otter Cove—were opened on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup>,

with more than 40 trail enthusiasts turning out to watch the ribbon-cutting and take part in an inaugural hike. Construction of these trails was in large part funded through Friends of Acadia's Acadia Trails Forever endowment, and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and some 200 Friends of Acadia volunteers helped National Park Service crews build them.

The trails open some fantastic new options for hikers and opportunities for car-free exploration of the park. Visitors camping at Blackwoods can now access the very popular and scenic trails on Gorham Mountain, the Beehive, Champlain, and beyond, without getting in a car nor even walking along the Loop Road. The new trails complete the last link in a “super-loop” with Blackwoods at one end, Bar Harbor at the other, and the Champlain and Cadillac mountain ranges offering myriad possibilities for the out and back legs.

The Quarry Trail can also make a special claim to promoting a car-free Acadia experience, as it was built using an old road, which dates back to the era when granite quarried in Otter Creek would be loaded onto ships



ANP Volunteer Coordinator Jonathan Gormley, FOA President David MacDonald, and ANP Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug cut the ribbon on the new trails in Otter Creek.

in Otter Cove. Acadia's Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug explains that this kind of transformation is not new in Acadia: “We used a whole section of the Quarry Road and turned that into our hiking trail. Which is a nod to history; in our rehabilitation program we've done that in any number of trails. We've reopened some trails that were abandoned in the 1940s and 1950s, partially because they're part of the cultural landscape but partially because they really made sense to the integrity of the trail system. That's one of the things that the Quarry Path does.”

Many Otter Creek residents can remember taking the old Quarry Road to the shore for fishing, swimming, or just an enjoyable walk. In the Winter 2013 *Friends of Acadia Journal's* “Where in Acadia?” feature, resident Rick Higgins remembered childhood swims from Jimmy's Wharf as the tide came in, because “the water would be much warmer from the sun beating on the mud flats.” Fifth-generation resident Dennis Smith recalls that some of his first memories are of walking down to the causeway with his babysitter and fishing for pollack—he says he's “been a fish fanatic

ever since.” Smith was interviewed for a Friends of Acadia video about the trail (it can be viewed at [vimeo.com/friends-of-acadia](http://vimeo.com/friends-of-acadia)) in which he noted that his grandfather used the Quarry Road when cutting firewood in the park—an activity frowned on by George Dorr, much to the grandfather's disgust. Smith chuckled at the memory, recognizing that although past generations had to give certain things up when the park was formed, today's generations can easily see all that has been gained in return.

It is a miracle of good planning and fiscal resourcefulness

that the 10-year trail building and renewal objective of the Acadia Trails Forever (ATF) Partnership is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and still going strong. Every year, park planners and trails personnel consider proposals to add or restore historic and connector trails using a comprehensive and well-rationalized set of guidelines addressing historic, recreation value, and other concerns. With dependable funding from Friends of Acadia's ATF Endowment, trail crews don't have to wait to find funding once priority projects have been identified. The result: hiking in Acadia just keeps getting better and better. And that's one of the joys of Acadia! 🍄

JULIA WALKER THOMAS was the seasonal communications assistant at Friends of Acadia this past summer. She is a freelance photographer based out of Sarasota, Florida and Bar Harbor.

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

# Preserving a Resilient Acadia

*Abe Miller-Rushing, Becky Cole-Will, and David Manski*

**R**apid environmental change. It is happening and the consequences are significant, even though it is tough to see as you enjoy Acadia's trails, carriage roads, and coastlines, or explore natural areas in other parts of the country or world.

In the past few issues of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, you may have read about some of these changes. They include warming temperatures, increases in large rainfall events, longer growing seasons, losses of some native species, gains in some invasive non-native species, blockages of fish passageways, and increases in air and water pollution.

The environment has changed throughout history. The shifts we are seeing now, though, are exceptionally big and widespread. And although many of these are happening over decades or centuries—slow by the standards of our day-to-day lives—many are happening more rapidly than they have in thousands, hundreds of thousands, or millions of years. In some cases the pace and magnitude of change is unprecedented.

Please, though, do not surmise that the situation is helpless. Acadia's ecosystems have changed, often in ways we would rather they had not, but they are still dynamic and vibrant ecosystems and

rank among the country's natural treasures. Rather, we encourage you to take the current situation as a call to action. We on the park staff and throughout the National Park Service certainly are, as are many of our partners such as Friends of Acadia.

## A change in approach

The National Park Service is charged with “preserving unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.” In the 1960s this mission

was interpreted to mean that we should preserve national parks as “vignettes of primitive America,” keeping the natural and cultural resources in parks static and unchanging. That approach, however, which resulted in a hands-off management approach to resource protection and conservation, has proved unworkable. Ecosystems in Acadia and other parks are changing, and our park managers cannot stop many of the changes that are underway.

Instead, we are shifting our approach to one in which we try to stop the changes we can, but also work to increase and maintain the resilience of our forests, streams, wetlands, and lakes to the changes taking place and changes that may come in the future. That is, we are working to recover and maintain the ecosystem's natural ability to bounce back after severe storms, pollution, pest outbreaks, or other disturbances.

## Improving and maintaining resilience

Just what does this look



*Acadia National Park trail crews and natural resource managers worked together on the 2009 restoration of the historic Jesup Path. The elevated boardwalk allows water to flow freely while keeping hikers high and dry during the wet spring season.*

Friends of Acadia



Tom Blagden

*The glowing colors of autumn highlight the magnificent natural resource that is the Cromwell Brook Watershed.*

like in the field? We are removing invasive species, replanting native vegetation, replacing culverts and removing obstacles to fish passage in streams, and reducing sources of pollution. We are studying and monitoring air and water quality, results of which help other agencies, such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, set appropriate standards for pollutants that might come from fossil fuel emissions or other sources. We are also working to tell the story of the changes taking place and how people can help mitigate the most damaging aspects of those changes. In many cases, interpretation and education are our most important management tools.

We are beginning to focus this approach even more, by targeting much of our work to particular watersheds. Watersheds are areas of land in which all of the water drains to the same place. Water draining through a watershed connects all of the habitats it passes through—pollution or other problems up high in the watershed can flow

downstream and affect forests, streams, or lakes lower down. By taking a holistic and systematic approach to tackling many of the problems facing a given watershed, we can help all of the habitats and ecological communities it contains become more resilient to climate change, pollution, and other rapid environmental changes.

### **Cromwell Brook Watershed**

We have identified several priority watersheds where there is much work to be done—places such as the Marshall Brook, Northeast Creek, Otter Creek, and Stanley Brook watersheds. We will continue to support research and management activities in these places. However, we are starting our targeted resilience-building work in the Cromwell Brook Watershed, which runs roughly from Dorr Mountain and the Tarn, through the Sieur de Monts and Great Meadow area, and into Cromwell Cove in Bar Harbor.

Why the Cromwell Brook Watershed?

It is ecologically important—it hosts fish runs, a large wetland, old forest stands, and important wildlife populations including bat populations that are quickly declining from disease and other threats. The Sieur de Monts area is recognized as a nationally important cultural landscape, and the encompassing watershed served as a major component of the oldest section of the park—the original Sieur de Monts National Monument, established in 1916. George B. Dorr, the “father of Acadia,” considered this area the hub of his envisioned park, and he did considerable trail and road construction and other landscape development here. Today, the watershed is a popular place for park visitors and local community members, with access to trails, the Nature Center, the Wild Gardens of Acadia, and the Abbe Museum.

Many of the challenges in the Cromwell Brook Watershed stem from past development and are interrelated—so tightly linked they are best addressed together. The

easiest place to see these connections is in Cromwell Brook itself. Many old culverts beneath roads and trails are too small to handle the large rainfall events that are now becoming more common. Resulting floods (exacerbated by both beaver dams and small culverts) can submerge the parking lot and other developed areas at Sieur de Monts, polluting the brook. Those same culverts, dams, and other alterations to the water's natural flow also block fish movements to upper and lower reaches of the brook.

Over the past few years we have begun work to address many of the challenges in the watershed. After we replaced a major culvert beneath the road entrance to the Sieur de Monts parking area, fish began passing upstream and flooding apparently diminished. We have also removed hundreds of invasive plants—particularly glossy buckthorn—from the watershed, creating an environment where more native plants can thrive. We have elevated the Jesup Path by building a boardwalk that preserves the historic trail and at the same time helps to restore the natural hydrology to the wetland. We plan to continue and expand this work in the coming years, taking on a series of

projects to ensure that the watershed has clean water, natural flowing streams, healthy forests and wetlands, a balance between the natural and cultural landscapes, and sustainable facilities that minimize their impacts on natural and cultural resources.

### Partnerships are key

The work that we have done to enhance and maintain the resilience of Acadia's ecosystems to date, and the work that we plan for the future, rely on partnerships. In the Cromwell Brook Watershed we relied on funds, staff, and volunteers from Friends of Acadia to plan and construct the Jesup Path boardwalk. We worked closely with experts at the U.S. Geological Survey, University of Maine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Survey, and Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to plan the replacement of culverts and other actions to restore fish passageways and the hydrology of the watershed.

Going forward we are working closely with Friends of Acadia to plan and implement future restoration activities, and will also work with the Town of Bar Harbor, Jackson Laboratory, and other stakeholders in the Cromwell Brook Watershed. We will rely

on the expertise of the Schoodic Institute, U.S. Geological Survey, University of Maine, and other federal and state agencies to help us with the science and technical expertise necessary to plan and implement an effort like this. And we will rely on volunteers to help with some restoration activities such as removing invasive species and replanting natives, and citizen-scientists to help monitor the effectiveness of our actions. It will take a lot of collaboration to make this approach a success.

### What the future holds

We are excited about this change in our approach to improving and maintaining the resilience of our natural and cultural resources in Acadia, and hope that this will give us the best chance to preserve them for this and future generations. We will undoubtedly learn along the way and are setting up mechanisms through monitoring and assessments to ensure that we do. As we learn, and as our rapidly changing environment presents us with new challenges, our approach may change. But that is to be expected.

As we make progress in our work in the Cromwell Brook Watershed, we plan to shift our focus to other priority watersheds where similar work is needed, such as Marshall Brook, Stanley Brook, Otter Creek, and Northeast Creek. We look forward to working with many of you as we take on this work. And we hope that it helps to inspire more environmental stewardship in this region and throughout the country. 🍂

ABE MILLER-RUSHING is the science coordinator for Acadia National Park. BECKY COLE-WILL is the park's chief of resource management. DAVID MANSKI is currently Acadia National Park's acting deputy superintendent, after serving as chief of resource management for the past 20 years.



*This undersized culvert, located where Cromwell Brook passes under the Park Loop Road, is the sole drainage for the entire Great Meadow wetland. When the Loop Road was constructed in the early decades of the park's existence, it significantly altered the natural hydrology of the area.*

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church



## A Ten-Bridge Summer

By Mark Munsell

I had been volunteering on Acadia National Park's trails for three years, working with ANP trails foreman Gary Stellflug, trailwork supervisor Christian Barter, and the park trails crew to restore trails as varied as the Goat Path, Shiff Path, and the abandoned Canada Cliffs connector, when a unique opportunity presented itself. Gary asked if I would like to work with senior crew member Brad Ryan to rebuild ten deteriorating bridges within the park. It took me about a second to say *yes*.

Most of the bridges in the park are constructed with eastern cedar and, depending on location, typically last between 15 and 25 years. During that lifespan, minor maintenance of railings and decking keep the bridges safe. At some point, that is no longer possible and the entire bridge needs to be replaced. The replacement list for the summer was a combination of long bridges and short bridges, arched bridges and straight bridges, rustic bridges and more manicured bridges—all depending on the historic style of the bridge and the trail it supports.

Bridge building is more than plopping down a couple of stringers and nailing some decking, as I soon learned. First the sleepers, or bridge anchors, must be excavated and positioned on the opposing banks of the brook or stream. Brad, a master of rock work, made sure that all of our sleepers—whether cedar timbers or rock abutments—were stronger than the original. His comment to me was, “It only takes a little longer to make a perfect foundation.”

Next, the two stringers, 8-to-12-inch diameter cedar logs that span the water and will support the decking, are attached to the sleepers. But now the real work begins. The stringers must be shaped by chainsaw until they are perfectly level from side to side (sadly, they don't grow that way). Finally, the decking must be notched and fitted to be both level and consistent across the arch of the bridge. Depending on the length of



Park volunteer Mark Munsell and Dudley relax on the bridge at the north end of Lower Hadlock Pond.

the bridge or the height above the water, a handrail may be attached.

By late summer, we had built our ten bridges on time and under budget. Volunteer labor helps. We were also aided considerably by FOA-sponsored Acadia Youth Conservation Corps crews, who carried all of the sleepers, stringers, and decking from the trailhead to the bridge sites. The 60-plus-year-old builders would not have been able to complete the project without this help.

But the project's most memorable lesson came at the very beginning. At the outset, Gary told us to go out and look at the bridge at the north end of Lower Hadlock Pond.

This is a very sweet, arched bridge with a matching handrail. He told us to just stand there until we got the “Zen” of that bridge. His instructions further noted: don't start the new bridge until you get that Zen. We got it—and the new bridge has the Zen, looks great, and is stronger than the original. It was a wonderful outcome in a wonderful summer of working in the Acadia National Park that we all love. 🐾

MARK MUNSELL, his wife, Georgia, and their yellow lab, Dudley, live in Lamoine. Mark was recognized as the Volunteer of the Year for Acadia National Park in 2012.

# Migration Is for the Birds

By Rich MacDonald

As summer wanes, tourists and summer folk are not the only ones winging their way to milder climes. Most birds will undertake their semi-annual peregrination, too. Fall migration is particularly dramatic because it is not just the adult birds vacating our northern landscape—the young-of-the-year follow on the feathered heels of their parents. The net result is millions of birds passing through Maine.

Migration is that semi-annual phenomena where animals, especially birds, move en masse from one locale to another. The driving force

behind migration is generally less an escape from cold and more the pursuit of adequate food resources. Examples of migration can be found in nearly every class of animal. Caribou migrate from feeding ground to feeding ground in the northernmost reaches of North America. The humpback whales we see during whale-watches in the Gulf of Maine over-winter on their breeding grounds northeast of the Dominican Republic. Even the delectable American lobster migrates in the spring from deeper offshore waters inshore.

We generally think of migration in terms of the obvious arrivals and departures of our feathered friends in the spring and fall, respectively. In the Acadia region, we note the arrival of large numbers of American robins in early April; harbingers of the rebirth of the landscape. Various species of birds trickle in over the coming weeks and months; then, one day toward the end of May, seemingly magically, dozens of species of our brightly colored feathered friends have appeared.



Yellow warbler

Rich MacDonald

Males establish territories, preen and croon to attract a mate, help to raise their young (or not—as with the common eider—as the case may be). Come late summer, birds begin their southern sojourn as they seek environments that can provide a steady supply of food all winter.

For many people, fall migration is more elusive: time passes and suddenly it dawns on you there have been no (*insert the name of your favorite migrant here*) in several weeks. That said, there are certainly autumnal congregations of birds that draw our attention. The northern flicker comes to mind. As September wanes into October, they are most in evidence along roadsides and in meadows, flashing their white rumps as they leap-frog ahead of us, hopefully not darting in front of our cars.

Both spring and fall migration go on for a long time; probably a lot longer than most people realize. In the spring, rusty blackbirds come through MDI in peak numbers at the end of March while blackpoll warblers

straggle through well into June.

In the midst of summer, migration may not be in the forefront of our minds...but it is already underway. By mid-July, ones and twos and tens of shorebirds—especially semipalmated and least sandpipers—are routinely observed on flats exposed at lower tide levels (a rising tide at Ship Harbor is an excellent place to search), on tidal creeks such as those at Bass Harbor Marsh and Northeast Creek, or flying fast along our rocky coastline. Shorebird migration peaks the third week of August (to truly experience the magnitude of their exodus, visit Mary's Point, New Brunswick, where thousands of these sleek fliers can be observed).

Many species of birds make incredible migratory flights. Most of “our” (in quotation marks because these birds spend most of the year on their winter grounds rather than here in the north, where we fondly think of them in the possessive) warblers are migrating to points south of the United States. The majority of migrants follow major fly-

ways, which, in turn, follow significant geographic features such as coastlines, rivers, and mountain ranges. The Atlantic Flyway spans the East Coast and is an efficient funnel moving migrants south.

Blackpoll warblers, those high-pitched songsters with the chickadee-like cap, do it a bit differently: they leave their northern forest breeding grounds and fly southeast, well out over the Atlantic Ocean, sometimes not touching ground for days. They eventually turn southwest to arrive in South America thousands of miles later, having burned half their body weight or more.

The hands-down migration champion is the arctic tern. This species, which can be found nesting on nearby Petit Manan Island in the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge, is a bird of extreme latitudes: they summer on offshore islands of the North Atlantic and winter in the Antarctic. The linear distance is nearly 11,000 miles but their actual flight path takes them around the perimeter of the ocean, with some individuals flying upwards of 43,000 miles per year!

Acadia National Park runs a fall hawk-watch atop Cadillac Mountain, where peak flights for broad-winged hawks typically occur around September 25<sup>th</sup>. Hundreds of these medium-sized buteos can be observed daily, winging it toward South America. In fact, a record 3,014 broad-winged hawks were observed on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2011 by Cadillac Mountain hawk-watchers!

Some young birds, most notably the long-legged waders such as great and snowy egrets, commonly head north—a behavior known as post-nesting dispersal—before heading south for the winter. During August and September, look for these stunningly white birds that boldly stand out on the landscape at Thompson Island, Northeast Creek, and Bass Harbor Marsh.

Why do birds migrate? The answer is actually fairly simple: reliability of food sources. First, consider that the majority of “our” birds migrate. If you are a bird in South America, food is abundant November through March and life is good. This spans the dry season, when foliage is adding substantially more new growth. This, in turn, provides food up and down the food chain: more insects and more fruits equates to the ability to support more birds.

On the other side of the avian coin, May to October is the rainy season in much of Latin America. Lots of rain equals reduced plant growth, which means fewer insects and fruit. Food becomes scarce for the billions of birds looking for a meal. Over the millennia, as many went in search of food, they found it to the north. Successive years of following this pattern led to a genetic memory of food availability being tied to latitude...and thus migration was born.

Migration does not come without costs, if you are a bird. There are predators along your path. If food to rebuild vital fat reserves is scarce, you may not have the energy to complete your migration. And storms are always a hazard, too. This system likely went along fairly smoothly for thousands of years.

Then we humans started changing the landscape. We cleared forests for agriculture and genetically modified foods to be pesticide resistant, effectively sterilizing the landscape of insects and native fruits. Our love of asphalt is slowly turning America into a giant parking lot, fragmenting the open space so vital to most birds. We erected tall buildings and towers of every sort, virtually impossible for nighttime migrants to see. We lit the landscape, making it difficult for birds to see the stars, which are important navigation cues. We turn out unwanted cats

that eat millions of birds each year. All of this has resulted in significant declines in three-quarters of North American bird species over the past 50 years.

While many species are still seeing population declines, people are waking up to the effects our behaviors have on the natural world. Increasingly, communities such as Bar Harbor are incorporating dark skies initiatives into local ordinances. Protected landscapes such as Acadia National Park, coupled with the network of lands conserved by local land trusts such as Maine Coast Heritage Trust, afford refueling stops for “our” birds and protection from predators.

The long-term prognosis for many species is unclear, but as we continually work to reduce our negative impacts on the environment, the birds can only benefit. In the meantime, look and listen for migratory birds of Acadia National Park this fall. 🍂

RICHARD MacDONALD is a local ornithologist who runs The Natural History Center, featuring adventure and nature tours, found in downtown Bar Harbor on Firefly Lane. Join Rich for Wednesday and Saturday morning bird-walks to learn more about bird identification and the ecology and life history of our feathered friends.



*Magnolia warbler*

Rich MacDonald

## New Members

*We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:*

Leila Abolfazli  
Barbara Adams  
Tegan Aherne-Dixon  
Amy Ailso  
Gina Akins  
Barbara and Yale Altman  
David and Susan Amsden  
Risa and Bernard Angst  
Chuck and Karen Anibal  
Lori and Scott Arledge  
Elizabeth Atherton  
Robin Auger  
Melissa Axelrod  
Baker Family Chiropractic  
Elizabeth Baker  
Martha Baker  
Allen Bancroft  
Ann Barrett  
Jane and Michael Basch  
Ron Bassoni  
Adrienne and Robert Beck  
Kari Bedell  
Lanier Begeman  
Constance Berger  
Julia and Mark Berry  
Kevin Blackwell  
BNY Mellon Charitable Gift Fund



Bonnell-Bradley Family  
Gretchen Borchelt  
Douglas Boston  
Boston Helpdesk, Inc.  
Paul and Paula Bourassa  
Helen and Harvey Boxer  
Janet Boyer  
Deborah Brzezicki  
Leslie Burl  
Crystal and David Butler  
Scott Byrnes  
Robert Campbell  
April B. Carlson  
Derinda and David Carpenter  
Michael Carr  
Kimberly Cashin  
Patricia Centola  
Travis Chambers  
Kyle E. Chapin  
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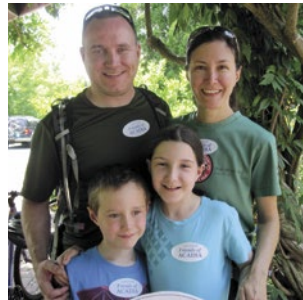
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## Updates



### Acadia Centennial Logo Selected

Catherine Breer of Freeport, Maine, was the winner of the nationwide Acadia Centennial Logo Contest sponsored by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. Her design was selected anonymously by a judging panel of representatives from ANP, FOA, and the Centennial Task Force that has been planning for Acadia's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016. Breer received a prize of \$3,000 for her winning design. The logo will serve as the visual signature for the yearlong celebration and will be repro-

duced on event publicity materials as well as merchandise such as t-shirts, calendars, and more.

The contest called for entries representing the centennial slogan of “Celebrate our past; Inspire our future” and also including an iconic image of Acadia. Featuring a historic Bates cairn and a distant view from one of Acadia's mountain-summit hiking trails, along with native blueberries that are so closely associated with Acadia and the Maine coast, the winning logo gives a nod to past, present, and future.

Winner Catherine Breer wrote of having her design selected: “I have been coming to Acadia since my children were small, always camping at the same campground on Somes Sound. We have hiked the Bubbles, eaten popovers at the Jordan Pond House, listened to the waves crash at Thunder Hole, swum at Echo Lake, and taken in the view from the top of Cadillac Mountain. The natural beauty and diversity of Acadia never ceases to amaze me, and has always been an inspiration to me as an artist. To be part of the preservation of this magical place is both an honor and a privilege.”



More than 70 representatives from Acadia-area organizations and businesses turned out for the spring meeting of the Acadia Centennial Partners, held at the Ellsworth City Hall. Pictured are: (front, from left to right) Maine State Representative Louie Luchini, Maine State Representative Brian Hubbell, Maine State Senator Brian Langley, Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele, and Ellsworth City Manager Michelle Beal; (back) Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald, Ellsworth City Planner Michele Gagnon, and Mount Desert Elementary School Principal Scott McFarland.

The Acadia Centennial Partners (ACPs) will be at the heart of the 2016 centennial, generating and orchestrating a year-long celebration that will celebrate 100-plus years of world-class conservation, inspire and launch the next century of stewardship at Acadia, and model a strong relationship between a national park and its surrounding communities. To learn how to get involved as an ACP, visit the Friends of Acadia website and follow the link at the bottom of the home page.

## Blackwoods Lights Rehabbed

Acadia National Park is renowned along the East Coast as one of the best places to view dark, starry skies. To enhance this visitor experience, park maintenance staff have been working on converting the light fixtures at Blackwoods Campground to night-sky-friendly fixtures that provide illumination only where needed and shine downward to prevent brightening the sky with artificial light.

The project was funded by a \$25,000 grant to Friends of Acadia from the Yawkey Foundation. Musco Lighting donated technical expertise and the light fixtures, which were installed at the restrooms, amphitheater, and entrance station at Blackwoods. An added bonus is that the new lights are LEDs, which will reduce the park's energy bills. The project is expected to be complete this fall, and additional fixtures will be purchased from Musco to start a similar retrofit at Seawall Campground. Thanks to this public-private partnership, Acadia is setting an example for other national parks and local communities that aim to improve and preserve dark, starry skies as an important natural resource for all to enjoy.

## Teacher-Rangers Bring Parks to Students, and Students to Parks

In 2013, Friends of Acadia provided funding that enabled Acadia National Park to increase the number of Teacher-Ranger-Teachers (TRTs) at the park from four to seven. These teachers spent six weeks in Acadia attending ranger-led programs, sharing field teaching techniques, creating lesson plans, and communicating with visitors. As part of the program, the teachers commit to sharing their experiences at Acadia with their schools, and they commit to bringing their classes back to Acadia or another public land closer to their school. Among the teachers last year:

- Melissa McDonald, from the Gilboa-Conesville Central School in New York State, brought 31 middle-school students and chaperones to the Schoodic Education Adventure, an overnight residential education program at the Schoodic Education and Research Center.

- Judith McConnell, from the Owings Mills Elementary School (Maryland), invited the Maryland Department of Natural



Teri Green

*Students of TRT Teri Green from Cave Hill School in Eastbrook, Maine, explore the stream outlet at Sand Beach.*

Resources to present the program “Scales and Tales” at her school, due to a travel ban that prevented her from taking her class on field trips.

- Karin Lingley, from the Robbinston Grade School in Downeast Maine, brought her entire school to St. Croix Island International Historic Site and later traveled to Acadia National Park with grades 3–8 for field experiences at Cadillac, Thunder Hole, and Sand Beach.

- Ronny Armstrong, from Boswell High School in Fort Worth, Texas, took his students to the Fort Worth Nature Center, a city-owned nature center with trails and education programs, which was named a National Natural Landmark by the National Park Service in 1980.

- Kate Drummond, physics and chemistry teacher at Skowhegan Area High School in Maine, brought her students to ranger-led educational programs in Acadia National Park.

- Teri Green, from the Cave Hill School in Eastbrook, Maine, brought her entire school (pre-K through 8<sup>th</sup> grade) to explore and learn about Sand Beach and Great Head on Mount Desert Island.

- DeLene Hoffner, 4<sup>th</sup>-grade teacher at the School in the Woods in Colorado Springs, CO, took her entire school to Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site, which features a reconstructed adobe fur trading post where Native Americans and trappers, travelers,



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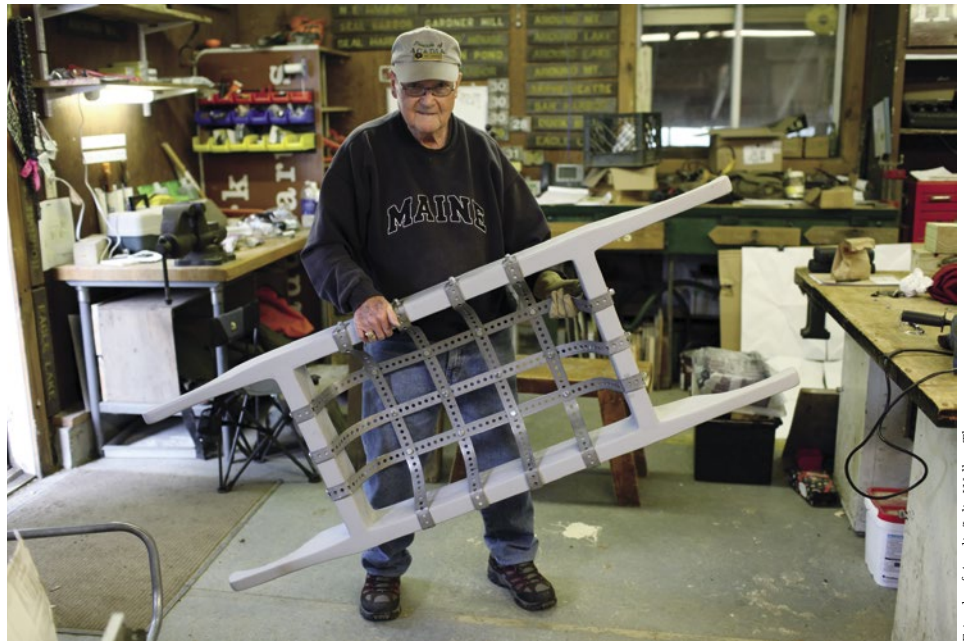
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Standing in the Acadia trails workshop, volunteer Mel Timmons demonstrates how light, indeed, is the park's new, state-of-the-art rock gurney.

Friends of Acadia/Julia Walker Thomas

and traders exchanged goods along the mountain branch of the Old Sante Fe trail.

The work of these TRTs and the follow-up visits to national park sites and preserved lands is inspiring a new generation of students to appreciate and care for nature and our national parks. Thanks to all FOA donors who help make these experiences happen.

## The State of the Art for Acadia's Trail Crews

A rock gurney is a handy tool for trail crews and Ridge Runners, who often need to carry large native rocks to build retaining walls, bridge footings, or Bates cairns. Two or four people working together can carry a boulder weighing up to 400 pounds using a gurney, which—up till now—has typically been constructed of 2x6 lumber with a basket woven of metal straps.

That lumber adds up to 45 pounds, which isn't much compared to a boulder but makes a tiring burden to lug up and down Acadia's mountain trails. With this in mind, FOA volunteers Mel Timmons and Jim Linnane worked last winter with boat-builders at Morris Yachts to come up with a better design. Using carbon-fiber fabric, fiberglass, and vacuum-infused resin in a process more commonly used to construct luxury yachts, the team designed and built a rock gurney that can carry half a ton without even flexing, yet weighs a mere 16

pounds. Morris Yachts donated some of the materials and all of the time, shop equipment, and expertise that made it possible. That's a real gift to the folks who work hard to care for Acadia's trails.

## Jordan Pond Parking

Many visitors noticed several changes to the parking arrangements in the Jordan Pond area this summer. By placing granite coping stones along the roadway, park road crews intend to prevent roadside parking along the Park Loop Road—greatly improving safety in this congested area. To offset 40 spaces lost by closing the shoulders, the park reconfigured the three lots around the Jordan Pond House.

The restaurant lot gained spaces for 6 cars, 4 ADA-compliant vehicles, and 3 buses; the north lot gained spaces for 42 cars but removed 4 bus spots; and the boat ramp area gained spaces for 33 cars and 3 RVs—for a net gain of 36 car spots, 4 ADA spots, and 4 Bus/RV spots. Of course, riding the Island Explorer or your bicycle is still the best way to avoid parking hassles at this very popular destination!

## New Friends

Two new full-time staff members have brought diverse skills and experience to the FOA office in recent months. We welcome Shawn Keeley, who joined the development department as senior development



officer; and Paige Steele, who joined the conservation staff in the newly-configured role of conservation projects manager.

PAIGE STEELE grew up near Tulsa, Oklahoma, where her love for the outdoors was fueled by family vacations to many national parks and her career in conservation began as a volunteer naturalist at Oxley Nature Center. Acadia National Park drew her to College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, where she met her husband, Zack. She particularly loved exploring Acadia's trails and the surrounding islands, working summers as a registered Maine sea kayak guide. Paige comes to Friends of Acadia from the Wells National Estuarine Research Reserve in Wells, Maine, where she was the interpretive education associate (2009–2013). Says Paige, "I believe that creating a culture of conservation in modern society benefits humanity just as much as the communities of flora and fauna in need of protection. Whether it is teaching students about wildlife habitats, leading sea kayaking tours along the coast of Maine, or training volunteers to lead interpretive programs, each experience is rewarding to me as participants see the world in a new light. I am so excited to share my passion for people and nature at Acadia National Park through Friends of Acadia!" Paige and Zack recently married atop Cadillac Mountain and visited three national parks on their honeymoon.



Paige Steele

Friends of Acadia/Julia Walker Thomas

SHAWN KEELEY is returning to MDI after a nine-year stint in Vermont, where he was the manager of private philanthropy at



Shawn Keeley

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beat Church

the Institute for Sustainable Communities (2011–2014) and the director of development at the Green Mountain Club (2006–2011). Shawn graduated from College of the Atlantic in 2000 and worked for the college from 2003 to 2006 as the alumni relations and development coordinator. As a former MDI resident, Shawn knows Acadia well and looks forward to reintegrating with the community. He notes that "Acadia's mountains, lakes, trails, and ocean have provided me with adventure, inspiration, and a strong connection to nature. I feel incredibly fortunate to join the team at Friends of Acadia to help ensure the park remains a magical place for those of us who love Acadia and those who have yet to discover it." Shawn lives in Bar Harbor with his wife, Sarah, and two children, Noah and Aliyah.

The Friends of Acadia Board of Directors welcomed three new members at their annual meeting in July: Bill Eacho, Story Litchfield, and Julie Veilleux. If you're noticing many of these "new board member" notices in recent issues of the Journal, you're not mistaken; the board is temporarily increasing their numbers to accommodate increased demands on their volunteer responsibilities during the Acadia National Park 2016 centennial and related events.

BILL EACHO comes to Friends of Acadia from a career in business and diplomacy. From 1999 to 2009, he oversaw a diverse portfolio of investments as CEO of Carlton Capital Group in Bethesda, Maryland. Previously he was CEO of Atlantic Food Ser-

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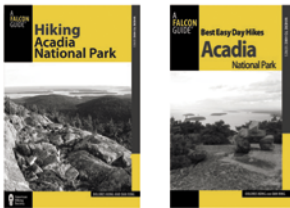
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You are strongly urged to discuss your gift intentions with Friends of Acadia at an early stage in your planning. Please call the Friends of Acadia office, or have your attorney or financial advisor call, if you have any questions or require additional 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.

vices and Chairman of UniPro Foodservice, a \$20 billion revenues foodservice distribution cooperative. From 2009 to 2013, he served as U.S. Ambassador to Austria, where he led the multi-agency U.S. government presence and was very involved in the State Department's efforts to enhance European energy security. Bill received a Master's degree in Business Administration with Distinction from Harvard Business School and a B.A. combining Political Science and Economics from Duke University. He currently serves on the board of the Salzburg Global Seminar, the Austrian American Foundation, and the International Foundation for Electoral Systems.

Bill says, "Our family has enjoyed Acadia for twenty years, so it is the place where our boys grew from tiny toddlers in backpacks on the trail to 6'3" tall young men who I can barely keep up with. We love the trails of Acadia, and are grateful to the wonderful staff who maintain them. While we enjoy them most in summer, we also have cross country skied here in winter, an amazing experience. It is a special place, and we are grateful for the opportunity to help preserve it for future generations through the work of

FOA." Bill lives with his wife, Donna, and three sons in Seal Harbor and Chevy Chase, Maryland.

STORY LITCHFIELD was born and raised in Edgartown on Martha's Vineyard. Her career as a professional photographer took her all over the world, including a historic trip to China in 1979 as photographer for the Boston Symphony. Other photography commissions included the Red Sox and publications such as *Architectural Digest*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, *National Geographic*, *Yachting*, *Cruising World*, the *New York Times*, and the *Wall Street Journal*.

After raising two sons in Maine, Story now lives year round in Northeast Harbor, where she is the principle broker in the LandVest, Christie's Great Estates office. She says, "My work allows me the opportunity to work with exceptional people and to visit magnificent places; my 'office' is often the verdant woods, a spruce clad island, or beautiful rocky beaches. Acadia's trails are adjacent to my home, and I walk them often, always appreciating the views, the wildlife, and the peaceful presence that is found there."



The Friends of Acadia "Imprecision Drill Team" was formed in the 1980s by a dozen fun-loving FOA stewardship volunteers. The team was the brainchild of volunteer Howard Solomon, who had noted several faux-military-type drill teams marching in Washington, D.C. parades. One such group of lawyers walked while opening and closing briefcases. Another drill team flipped lawn chairs as they went. This year some 30 Imprecision Drill Team members proudly marched down the streets of Bar Harbor on July 4<sup>th</sup> and in the Southwest Harbor Flamingo Festival parade the following weekend.

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JULIE VEILLEUX grew up in Hingham, Massachusetts and graduated from Wheelock College in Boston with a BA in early childhood education. Her first teaching job was on Little Cranberry Island, Maine, teaching five students in a one-room schoolhouse. Years later and with a child in tow, she and her husband, Greg, returned to this area and settled in Bar Harbor. In 1994 they opened up Window Panes Home and Garden retail store, now in its 20<sup>th</sup> year. Julie's community involvement is significant. She helped the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to establish the successful Early Bird PJ Sale, has served on the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors and the MDI YMCA Board of Directors, founded and served as president of the Bar Harbor Merchants Association, and with her husband helped to establish the Eden Farmers Market. Currently, she sits on the Women's Health Center Advisory Committee and chairs the Products Working Group of the Acadia Centennial Task Force.

In their spare time Julie and Greg spend as much time as possible in what she refers to as "her backyard," Acadia National Park, "hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, kayaking, yoga, photography, and enjoying quiet time on the coastline listening to the surf while being grateful for the beauty that surrounds me."

She adds that she is "proud of the work that FOA does. I want to make sure that we continue the stewardship of this incredible jewel!"

## Take Pride in Acadia Day

Come one, come all to celebrate Acadia's carriage roads and prepare them for winter! Saturday, November 1, 2014 is Take Pride in Acadia Day, when hundreds of volunteers (truly *hundreds*—it's awe-inspiring) will gather at park headquarters and join work crews to journey into the park and rake leaves from the carriage road ditches and culverts. The goal of the day is to clear the drainage systems of leaf dams and blockages, to prevent erosion during winter's freeze-thaw cycles, spring ice melt, and seasonally high run-off.

Volunteers can register online at [friendsofacadia.org/events/take-pride-in-acadia-day](http://friendsofacadia.org/events/take-pride-in-acadia-day), or contact Paige Steele, FOA Conservation Projects Manager, at 207-288-3340 or [paige@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:paige@friendsofacadia.org). Groups are welcome to register to work as a team. All volunteers are treated to a "CCC" lunch of chili, cornbread, and cider (plus a fourth "c" of "cake"), and the Acadia Quest grand prize winners will be selected that afternoon. It's a wonderful opportunity to spend time in the park, working together with park enthusiasts to protect a resource that we all enjoy. 🍷



Friends of Acadia once again teamed up with Friends of Blue Hill Bay in July, for a shoreline cleanup of Long Island. Parts of the island are protected by Acadia National Park conservation easements.

Friends of Acadia

## Working Together for National Parks

The National Parks 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Action Coalition has been working in Washington on behalf of national parks in four areas: advocating with Congress for adequate National Park Service (NPS) operational funding, reauthorization of fee legislation for national parks and other federal agencies, wildfire funding, and park roads and transit systems. Friends of Acadia is a member of the coalition, which is an affiliation of conservation and tourism organizations organized by the National Parks Conservation Association.

Congress has not yet passed the Interior Appropriations bill for FY 2015. The House bill, which has passed through the Appropriations Committee, includes a modest increase in funding for park operations, but level funding overall for the NPS. It also recommends a one-year extension of the legislation that enables the NPS and other federal land management agencies to charge and retain fee revenues. The draft Senate version of the bill also includes this provision, and recommends higher funding for national park operations and programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund by shifting \$470 million that was in the House bill for wildlands firefighting to disaster funding accounts.

Both the House and the Senate bills recognized that the National Park Service's centennial is approaching. In addition to recommending more operating funds, both chambers suggested establishing a "Centennial Challenge" with \$10 million to enhance operations, matched by private philanthropy. In the administration's budget, President Obama also asked to increase the funding available for a centennial initiative by \$400 million per year. To date, no bill has been introduced in Congress.

In addition to the one-year extension of the fee legislation for national parks that is included in the FY 2015 appropriations bills, Representative Rob Bishop (R-Utah) introduced HR 5204, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Modernization Act of 2014. It was passed by the House Friends of Acadia Journal

Natural Resources Committee and has been forwarded to the House Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy, and Forestry, as the bill would also affect national forests, which are overseen by the Department of Agriculture. The bill would extend the fee legislation for five years and is generally supported by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Action Coalition, but with a few recommended changes.

To encourage more funding for park roads and transit systems, the coalition sent letters to the chair and ranking members of the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs; the Committee on Environment and Public Works; and the Committee on Finance to encourage the reinstatement of the Transit in Parks (TRIP) program and to lay out the need for additional funding for federal roads inside national parks. The TRIP program was eliminated when Congress reauthorized the federal transportation bill. The TRIP program had provided critical capital funding for the Island Explorer.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Action Coalition has not only been busy with legislative advocacy; they have also been working to familiarize members of Congress and their staffs with the significance and extent of the National Park System. The first activity was a familiarization trip in late August from Capitol Hill to Harper's Ferry National Historical Park. Additional trips may be planned to other sites near Washington.

Friends of Acadia is fortunate to be able to work with highly professional colleagues in Washington who share an interest in the protection of national parks as important destinations that preserve some of America's greatest scenic lands, historic sites, and natural and cultural resources. The National Parks 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Action Coalition and its member organizations provide a critical link for legislative updates, access to Capitol Hill, and expertise in the political process. Many thanks to all involved! ♡

—Stephanie Clement

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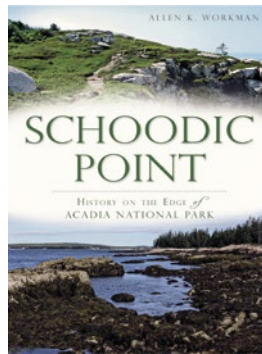
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## Reviews

*Schoodic Point: History on the Edge of Acadia National Park*  
By Allen Workman  
The History Press, 2014  
160 pages,  
Softcover



There are a number of good reasons to read Allen Workman's *Schoodic Point*. If you live around Schoodic Point or visit it, Workman's history will help you see the landscape in new ways, attending to traces of the changes it has experienced since the arrival of European settlers. For example, if you have ever wondered about the apple trees that show up in this part of Acadia, or about the origin of the flat, open area near Schooner Commons on the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus, Workman's book will provide the background you need. But *Schoodic Point* goes beyond the important work of researching and bringing together maps, records, and interviews that characterizes many local histories; Allen Workman has a story to tell. Like any good story, it resonates with ideas and concerns that extend far beyond the details of its setting.

One idea has to do with the interaction between people and the land in what Workman calls the "precarious balance" that emerges when the land is only marginally suited for human habitation and agricultural use. *Schoodic Point's* history alternates between relatively short periods of human activity and longer periods when it was ignored and forgotten. Sometimes a period of activity ended when a resource (timber, soil) was used up; other times the abandonment was brought about by changes in human systems beyond Schoodic, such as general economic collapse or the shift from salted fish to fresh fish shipped on ice. The decades of abandonment between periods of use provided time for the land to recover, but also opened opportunity for damaging use of land that had no apparent value and that no one cared about. Delivery from such periods of abandonment and risk typically

came with assistance from well-financed investors who could conceive of new ways to use the land and who had the means to develop such uses.

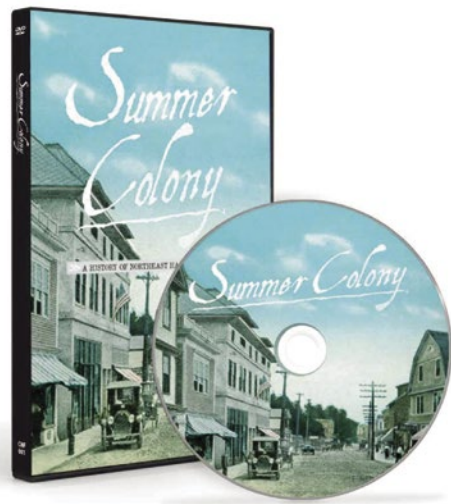
Workman's history of Schoodic Point also stimulates reflection about the role and shifting goals of conservation organizations. It serves as a case study of the way that conservation programs are often not clearly planned and understood in advance, but instead emerge provisionally, as opportunities arise. For example, the Navy's arrival at Schoodic Point initially might have been a sacrifice of conservation values at Schoodic Point in the service of developing the Ocean Drive road on Mount Desert Island, but it also turned out that the Navy's investment in roads and other infrastructure enabled the development of Acadia National Park as we now know it at Schoodic. *Schoodic Point* follows this story of finding a balance between use that preserves the land and use that depletes it up to the present day, looking at the recent acquisition by conservation interests of Schoodic Woods, just north of Acadia National Park, protecting it from threatened overdevelopment. Workman succeeds in leaving his readers with a sense that his book brings them up to date on an ongoing story.

The book is a treasure. We are very fortunate to have Allen Workman and other local historians like him, who take the time to learn about and retell stories like this.

BILL ZOELICK is the director of education research at the Schoodic Institute, and a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors. He lives in Prospect Harbor.

*Summer Colony: A History of Northeast Harbor, Maine*  
By Jeremy Lunt  
Narrated by Steve Zirnkilton  
2013 CNF Productions, 103 Minutes

*Summer Colony* explores the past, present, and possible futures of the village of Northeast Harbor. Jeremy Lunt, creator of this robust documentary film, is a son of the village: his father served for nearly two



decades as a selectman and is now the town manager. Lunt is thus well positioned to weave together resources that tell the story of this remarkable place: vintage and contemporary photographs, paintings, a few film clips, a pleasing musical background, and voices—current and historical, celebratory and critical, summer colony and native.

Deft editing of interviews is a grace of *Summer Colony*. Lunt builds the story through a chorus of many storytellers, whom we meet repeatedly as they speak to diverse themes. As Durlin Lunt, Wini Smart, Harland Carr, Peter Godfrey, Fred Rogers, Mike Kennedy, Terry Renault, Gunnar Hansen, and Bob Pyle talk with us, distinctions of “from here” and “from away” tend to blur, as Jeremy Lunt probably intended. (Special commendation must go to Bob Pyle, Northeast Harbor’s longtime head librarian. He is invaluable here as a local historian with welcome anecdotes and clear analysis.) These living voices are joined by some from the past, as narrator Steve Zirkilton speaks as Samuel de Champlain and Bishop William Doane.

*Summer Colony* is good history. From first settler John Manchester, it tracks the arrival of Harvard president Charles W. Eliot, Bishop Doane, and others, who seeded a summer colony more cerebral and clerical than that of Bar Harbor. The middle passage of the video characterizes the development of this distinct community through perhaps three generations from 1880 through World War II.

Both native and summer colony voices affirm the relatively egalitarian ethic of the Northeast Harbor summer community—

or, at least, the convivial communication between year-rounders and summer people who were, after all, mutually dependent. But there is counterpoint. We hear two voices say that the swimming club became a clear class divide. We are reminded that briefly, in the 1920s, churches and the Neighborhood House hosted gatherings of the Klu Klux Klan—as, also, in Bar Harbor.

As *Summer Colony* comes to the present a tension develops in the narrative. Pride is taken in stable summer colony families and village resistance to casual tourism—in pointed contrast to post-1947-fire Bar Harbor. However, concern grows over changes in the commercial strip, with more galleries and fewer stores for the needs of daily life. Storytellers recognize the fundamental force driving this change: as rising real estate values encourage sales from year-round residents to folks from away, more village homes go dark for nine months.

A village with an \$800-million tax base can pay its bills and afford amenities but may become impossible as a home for those whose services are needed by summer residents. As *Summer Colony* suggests, the descendants of native settlers and early rusticators who seek a viable community in the 21<sup>st</sup> century must now rediscover the mutual dependence that created their happy village.

JACK RUSSELL is a historian, a Friends of Acadia Board member, and the author of a forthcoming collection of essays on the natural history of Acadia National Park. He lives in Mount Desert.

*How to Get Kids Offline, Outdoors, and Connecting with Nature: 200+ Creative Activities to Encourage Self-esteem, Mindfulness, and Wellbeing*

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Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2014  
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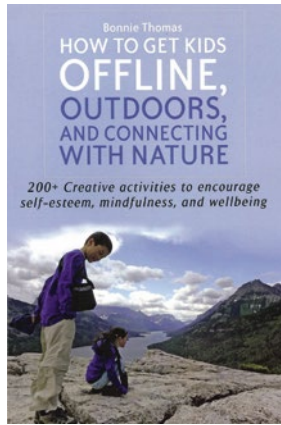
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Aimee Beal Church

Drainage rock work along Jordan Pond Trail.



health practitioners using art and nature in their practice. But much of the book is devoted to a family audience, chockablock full of visual, artistic, educational, and fun outdoor activities for all seasons and geographies, from national parks to urban settings.

The book includes many new nuggets of gold, like humming for a periwinkle. Place a live periwinkle snail in the center of your palm and rest your chin on the base of your hand. You should be eye to eye with the periwinkle. As you start to hum “your voice will reverberate through your hand and entice the periwinkle to come out of its shell. Some snails are shyer than others but if you hum a little song and be patient, it will come out to say hello.” Thomas challenges us to explore and create during the dark hours, too, with everything from making tin-can or snow lanterns, going on owl walks, or hunting for bioluminescent mushrooms.

As the mother of a 4-year-old, I am constantly looking for meaningful ways to engage my daughter in outdoor activities. Thomas includes detailed instructions for classic activities like building with found objects, including acorn-cap finger puppets, fairy houses, and driftwood boats. But Thomas also reminds us to bring the inside world outside—a bistro or bakery with old kitchen items reminds me of my mud-hamburger stand back in the Maryland mountains of my childhood.

Whether the ideas are revelations or gentle reminders, *How to Get Kids Offline, Outdoors, and Connecting with Nature* is a must-have for your bookshelf. I can't wait to get out with my daughter and decorate our surrounding forest with some of Thomas' great ideas.

LISA HORSCH CLARK is the director of development at Friends of Acadia. She and her daughter, Grace, can often be found hiking Acadia's trails and biking or skiing on the carriage roads.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org), or visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).

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## Reflection and Foresight

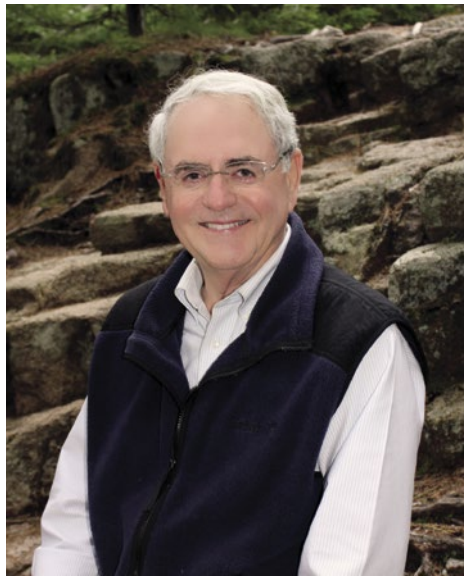
I remember when my wife and I took our first trip to Europe. We were in our twenties and wide-eyed. We passed a second-hand furniture store in London and I exclaimed, "I see that what we call *antiques* in America they call *used furniture* here!" A little later we were sitting in a city park—Hyde Park, I think—and gazing up at the towering trees that had obviously been in place for many decades, if not a century or more. I realized how fortunate we were to be enjoying these trees, and that those who planted them were in an important way our benefactors.

Both of these experiences were moments of reflection—stepping back and seeing things in a wider perspective than just the current moment. Reflection helps inform human vision and foresight. That is, looking back helps us to look ahead.

Sitting under those magnificent trees, the light went on! It became clear to me that much of our experience, for better or for worse, is significantly the result of the works of those who came before us, each building one upon another on the accomplishments and achievements (or mistakes and disasters!) that came before them.

We are truly part of a continuum. We are the beneficiaries of those who preceded us and, whether we are conscious of it or not, we are the benefactors who will create, modify, ignore, damage, enhance, influence and, I hope, improve in so many ways the world that those who will follow us—our beneficiaries—will experience. Then our beneficiaries will become the benefactors, and so it will continue on and on.

Today, as a part of Friends of Acadia, I have joined in the task of caring for this special place as someone once cared for that park in London. I—along with everyone who enjoys, lives near, visits, recreates in, and is inspired by Acadia National Park—am the beneficiary of the inspired individuals who created Acadia, who gave generously



Friends of Acadia/Almece Beat Church

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**If we, as today's stewards of Acadia National Park, have the foresight to anticipate the challenges and the opportunities around the bend and tackle them as effectively as the challenges we've already faced, then we can feel confident our beneficiaries will enjoy the same Acadia experience that we do—and will be inspired to pass along that gift.**

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of land, resources, money, time, and love; and the many who continued to support, protect, and preserve the park. Those who cared and care about the trails, the carriage roads, the plant life, the clean air and waters, the peaceful nooks, the majestic vistas, and the myriad other resources we appreciate so deeply.

A decade or a century and more from now, how will Acadia look to our beneficiaries? Will they be grateful for the gift of fine

trails and carriage roads, but dismayed not to hear seasonal warblers singing in Acadia's forests or puzzled as to why, when the opportunity was there, we did nothing about congestion in the park? Will they have to reserve in advance to drive up Cadillac? Or might they see no children or young families visiting the park? No! If we, as today's stewards of Acadia National Park, have the foresight to anticipate the challenges and the opportunities around the bend and tackle them as effectively as the challenges we've already faced, then we can feel confident our beneficiaries will enjoy the same Acadia experience that we do—and will be inspired to pass along that gift. And a great gift it is, indeed.

Many of our readers know that Friends of Acadia is developing programs to support a carefully thought-out strategic plan, focusing on the role we can play to help our partner, Acadia National Park, seize opportunities and minimize threats to the park. We will work on protecting, preserving, and enhancing the visitor experience at Acadia. We are reaching out to America's youth to engage and inspire them with the park's many wonders. We are conscious of many threats to Acadia's natural resources and we are committed to understanding and helping the park minimize and mitigate them. And we will continue to support the significant achievements that our benefactors left us—such as Acadia's beautiful hiking trails and well-maintained carriage roads—and will remain mindful of the generations that follow us, as we take the long view in our work to help care for this remarkable place.

✪

—Edward L. Samek

## LIVING ON BEAUTY

By Susannah Jones

Why is it important for me to give to Friends of Acadia? I am an octogenarian and a long-time, very modest giver. I had always felt that a small gift was almost meaningless in such a big enterprise, but at least it was a gesture. If you live long enough, small gifts mount up, and one can take real pride in having become a friend over time.

I live primarily on Social Security and Beauty. If you think that one takes care of my immediate needs and the other feeds my emotional wants, you are mistaken. They both do both. I am able to garner enough from Social Security to contribute to Maine Public Broadcasting and enjoy beautiful orchestral and chamber music concerts on the radio or watch a stunning nature program on TV. Likewise my annual donation to Friends of Acadia (more on this in a bit).

Beauty plays its own practical role in significant ways. My husband and I had the shell of a little guest house put up when we moved permanently to Mount Desert Island in 1987. We finished the interior ourselves. There is scarcely a day that this little cottage has not been occupied by renters or by family members or friends. Not a season passes when long-time visitors or ones who have yet only heard or read about Acadia National Park come to climb the mountains, swim in the lakes, sail the ocean, and visit the islands. It is as wonder-



Susannah Jones at her home in Bernard.

to be married in Maine and dreamed of Acadia National Park. I was thrilled to offer as a wedding gift the little house where she had spent her earliest years. Her mother, who had started as a renter and had become a true friend, having acquired her own little house on MDI, offered to do the flowers for the wedding. Imagine my amazement to look out of the window in late March and see this gardener-friend removing weeds from my long-neglected garden. "Doing the flowers" meant so much more than providing a vase of roses on the day. All spring she worked, and I relished the summer-long thrill of a garden breaking into bloom.

The wedding is the bride's and the groom's, and it is not for me to describe it except to say that it was exquisite beyond words. But when the bride wrote me to send me photographs of one of the most wonderful days of my long life, I was compelled to add a third word to the list of what I live on: Gratitude.

I am old with all the limitations of age. I can no longer drive. Yet even that is less provoking when one is already in the very place one wishes to get to. Giving to Friends of Acadia is the best way I know to care for and enjoy such a bounty of beauty as that provided by Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island. ❖

SUSANNAH JONES lives in Bernard, Maine.

# BE A FRIEND OF ACADIA!

Our 3,700 members from all over the world help to fund essential park projects and new initiatives, benefitting trail and carriage road maintenance, youth programs in the park, land and resource conservation, and much more.

Member benefits include a subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you're a vital part of FOA's work to preserve Acadia for this generation and for all time.

Help us to protect Acadia by joining Friends of Acadia. 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.



For more information visit  
[www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)



scan to join or  
renew online





Julia Walker Thomas

*Paddlers enjoy a fall day on Northeast Creek.*

## 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.