



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Spring 2015
Volume 20 No. 1

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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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.

The Acadia National Park \$25 weekly pass and \$50 annual pass are available at the following locations:

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Road)

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Jordan Pond and Cadillac
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Annual park passes are also available at certain Acadia-area town offices and local businesses; contact the park at 207-288-3338 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/fees.htm> to find additional pass sales locations.

For more information visit

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HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

I remember my one and only traffic jam in Acadia. It was the early 1980s, and the *Queen Elizabeth 2* was in Bar Harbor. I was to drive my grandfather partway up the Cadillac Mountain Road to see the famous ship before lunch. Three hours later, we returned home, frazzled and hungry, having gotten only a distant glimpse of the ocean liner but an up-close view of bumper-to-bumper congestion along park roads that I was accustomed to having all to myself. I was in shock.

This one frustrating experience thirty years ago has been the absolute exception during a lifetime of enjoying Acadia; most days, I have the trails or carriage roads all to myself, or close to it, particularly in the mornings or evenings. The park has greatly improved how it handles crowds and truly strives to make every visitor's experience positive and memorable.

Nevertheless, what was once an unexpected surge on that rare day when the *QE2* sailed into port has now become an almost-daily situation for both park managers and visitors during peak season. Acadia's popularity is on the rise, and people are expecting more of the park than ever before. In particular, the number of vehicles and the size of some commercial motor coaches are straining the park's narrow, winding roads, relatively low bridges, and small parking lots—built that way by design to minimize impact on the land and maximize our enjoyment of the stunning natural surroundings. Despite the great success of the Island Explorer bus system at taking hundreds of thousands of cars off the road each season, as Acadia's roadways and parking lots become full to overflowing, visitor experience, public safety, and natural resources can be jeopardized.

That is why Friends of Acadia is very supportive of the National Park Service's recent launch of a park-wide transportation planning effort that will take a comprehensive look at how visitation at Acadia has increased—and changed—since the park



Friends of Acadia

Superintendent Sheridan Steele and his staff are moving to take immediate steps to gather better data, pilot new ideas, and make progress in the coming months.

last conducted such an exercise nearly 25 years ago. While so much is different—the cruise ship boom, the Island Explorer, the advent of portable electronic devices and 24/7 connectivity—much also remains the same, in terms of Acadia's most popular destinations (Cadillac, Sand Beach, Jordan Pond) and the fundamental geometry of Acadia's historic road system.

And while the park's planning process will take time, I am encouraged that Superintendent Sheridan Steele and his staff are moving to take immediate steps to gather better data, pilot new ideas, and make progress in the coming months. Here at Friends of Acadia we are doing whatever we can to help, exploring how to enhance the Island Explorer bus service and the ferry linking Bar Harbor and the Schoodic Peninsula, updating the data collection and methodology for calculating visitation to

the park, adding seasonal interpretive staff to the summit of Cadillac Mountain, and supporting the park's experiment of piloting two "car-free" mornings on Acadia's roads in May and September.

The car-free experiment appears to have struck a chord already: some Acadia-lovers from near and far are making plans to be here with their bicycles on May 16th or September 26th for this rare opportunity. Others have expressed concerns that this effort might exclude visitors who are reliant on their cars to access park sites. Friends of Acadia will work with the park and local businesses to spread the word about the car-free mornings so that visitors are not surprised by closed gates and know their options for exploring the park those days. (See page 25 for additional details.)

I've noticed that although the number of bicyclists using the park has increased significantly in recent years, one rarely sees families or kids riding on the famed Park Loop Road—it's simply too dangerous with the number of cars, the size of motor coaches, and the frequent use of the right lane for parking. I hope that the car-free mornings in Acadia will buck that trend.

Will there be bumps along the way as we try to improve our Acadia experiences in sharing and getting around this heavily-visited and beloved national park? Absolutely. But with the strong interest in this topic that has been expressed to me among FOA members and the general public, and with your commitment and involvement in the planning, we will be headed in a promising direction. Please take Superintendent Sheridan Steele up on his invitation on page 3 in order to get involved! 🍷

—David R. MacDonald

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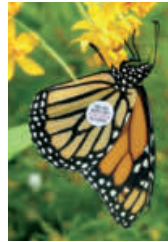
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GETTING A HANDLE ON ACADIA'S GROWING POPULARITY

Many of you have heard me talk about good days and bad days in Acadia. A great day is when I hear a young person exclaim “this place is awesome!” or “this is the best vacation ever!”—both of which were heard on the Cadillac summit last year. A not-so-good day is when I see cars pulled off into the woods or parking on the Jordan Pond House lawn because frustrated drivers couldn't find space in the lot. Or worse yet, when there are so many cars and buses on Cadillac that we have gridlock and *no one* is enjoying themselves.

Last summer, when *Good Morning America* viewers named Acadia “America's Favorite Place” and *USA Today* readers named Acadia “America's Best National Park,” I was pleased and concerned at the same time. I always want more people to enjoy *their* national parks but I do worry about crowding and congestion detracting from the high-quality experience that our visitors expect and deserve. All indicators (total visits, Island Explorer ridership, Visitor Center numbers, etc.) are showing steady increases; my personal observations tell me that at some times and in some places Acadia has too many people or vehicles to assure visitor satisfaction.

On many days there are hundreds of cars parked in the right lane of the Loop Road, 75 or more on the shoulder of Eagle Lake Road outside the Eagle Lake lots, and many more lining park roads wherever there are not “parking management” coping stones. In addition to the issue of crowding, there is a concern for safety as children and other pedestrians exit vehicles into travel lanes of busy roads or are otherwise vulnerable to drivers who may not be looking for kids to pop out in front of them. How should park managers deal with this growing problem? How should we handle increasing conflicts between vehicles and road bikes, or buses that are too long to make tight turns or too tall to fit under historic bridges? Should we fo-



Peter Travers

If we can properly manage the increasing use on Schoodic, perhaps its lessons can be applied to the MDI portion of Acadia.

cus on reducing the numbers of vehicles while still encouraging more people?

These are questions we hope to address in the park-wide transportation planning effort we are launching at Acadia. In addition to internal steps, we will be seeking as much public input as we can obtain through public meetings and workshops, from online outreach, and from partner organizations like Friends of Acadia. With Acadia's centennial fast approaching, we want to develop transportation strategies that will better protect both park resources and the park visitor experience into Acadia's second century. Personally, I would like to see more people getting out of their cars to hike, bike, and ride the Island Explorer; all of which would benefit the park by reducing the numbers and impacts of cars while at the same time providing a better connection to the natural environment.

You may have heard of Schoodic Woods, the new development taking place on the Schoodic Peninsula. Conservation buyers

purchased the 3,200 acres immediately adjacent to the park's Schoodic District and are now constructing a campground, information building, day use parking lot, 8.5 miles of bike paths, and 4.5 miles of hiking trails all to be operated by park staff. These wonderful new facilities will certainly increase the use on Schoodic but we want to manage that growth in ways that will not overwhelm the Schoodic loop road and small parking pullouts. To that end, we will encourage visitors to take the ferry to Schoodic or leave their cars in the new day-use parking lot. Biking on Schoodic is already a wonderful experience given the spectacular scenery and the almost-flat road; with a new cross-peninsula bike path to close the loop, people will soon have a safer and much more enjoyable experience. If we can properly manage the increasing use on Schoodic, perhaps its lessons can be applied to the MDI portion of Acadia.

We will also be experimenting with two “car-free” half days this season: May 16th and September 26th, when the Park Loop Road will be closed to autos until noon. One “silver lining” of the government sequester in 2013 was that walkers, runners, and bicyclists had a terrific experience and were able to thoroughly enjoy the natural values of Acadia without the noise, fumes, and potential hazards from hundreds of automobiles and buses sharing the road. We hope the transportation planning effort will provide some new ideas as well as public support for other approaches to assure the best park experience for the most people as we enter Acadia's second century. ■

Sheridan Steele

—Sheridan Steele

Great Skiing on Acadia's Carriage Roads

What a glorious day we had skiing seven bridges on wonderfully groomed trails. We thank Friends of Acadia for your ongoing support of the winter grooming of ski trails. It is a true delight to go to the website, check out the trail conditions, and know that skiing will be great. We thank the volunteers who go out ahead of us to groom the trails. With the great amount of snow we've had this season, it has called for extra resources—including many volunteer hours. Thank you for the fine trails!

—Mary and JR Krevans Jr.
Bar Harbor, Maine

We have been coming to ANP for decades and, for the past five years, during winter as well. Having slogged through ungroomed trails for those winter years, imagine our surprise/delight when we decided to try Eagle Lake. We had no idea you groomed them! Well, that sent us to the website from which we also tried the Hadlock Loop. What a great service! Thank you!

—Mark H. Weber
Deerfield Street, New Jersey

Remembering Leila

I spent years doing those trails [the carriage roads] with Leila Bright. Year around. We even snowshoed when we couldn't ski. One day the wind chill was -20[F] and we walked in the woods from Brown Mountain Gatehouse! She absolutely loved the park trails and I am so happy her family is honoring her. Keep up the great work!

—Marilyn Forsell
Loleta, California

Cherished Memories of Acadia

Please accept this gift to help with your ongoing work to preserve Acadia for us and generations to come. Our parents, Charles and Ruth Jucius, were longtime residents of Bar Harbor, where they ran a laundry and dry cleaning business on the site of what is

now the Harborside Hotel. To our good fortune we were able to observe and explore the rebirth of Acadia after the "Fire of '47."

We left Bar Harbor in the mid-sixties but have always been drawn back to favorite places and to do the hiking and biking that never gets old. My brother and I return every year for our class reunions in August. He and I always take some extra days to explore Acadia.

In their retirement years our parents (now deceased) took many trips to camp in Acadia and invited many family members to join them. They cherished their time and their experiences there and always talked fondly of them. This gift is a residual of a memorial fund and we hope you can find a good use for it.

—Charles A. Jucius Jr.,
Robert A. Jucius, and
Penny C. (Jucius) Nutting

The enclosed check is in memory of my brother, Joseph G. Murray (1929 – 2014). All of the Murrays were born and grew up in Bar Harbor. Joe graduated from BHHS [Bar Harbor High School] in 1947 and soon thereafter he was involved in fighting the horrible fire of October 1947. Joe eventually made it to Duck [Brook] Bridge where he and a couple other men sought refuge from the blaze.

Joe had a special place in his heart for Bar Harbor and Acadia.

—Rosalie K. (Murray) Dorman
Casselberry, Florida

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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'.

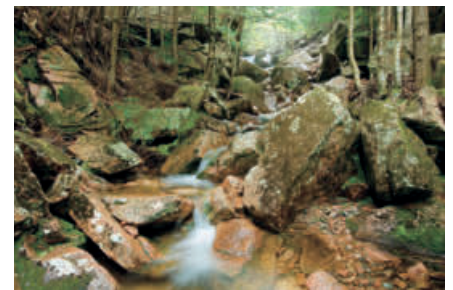
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The Gorge Path in Spring
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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CHRIS FOGG : AN EXTRAORDINARY LEADER

The National Park Service has a dual mission to protect natural and cultural resources and to provide for visitor enjoyment. This mission tension can sometimes lead to conflict between park resource managers and the surrounding gateway communities that thrive economically on tourism. Mount Desert Island's communities depend greatly on tourism, but Acadia has been fortunate to have had an extraordinary leader, Chris Fogg, at the helm of the largest economic development organization in the region, the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce.

Chris Fogg started his role as Executive Director of the Bar Harbor Chamber in 2006. Since that time, he and his staff have grown the chamber's membership to more than 500 businesses, opened a new visitor



Perhaps the greatest gift that Chris brought to his job, however, was the ability to work with partners, including the Town of Bar Harbor, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

center and waterfront information kiosk in downtown Bar Harbor, and increased revenues from diversified sources. Under his leadership, the chamber's welcome center in Trenton also developed into a better resource for visitors with new displays, a hotel reservation system, a store featuring local products, and an activities desk where visitors could secure tickets on boat trips and other tours.

Chris understands the need to serve visitors well, but his approach has been more nuanced than that of many destination marketing organizations. He developed advertising to encourage people to ride the Island Explorer. He guided two visitor donation programs that provided funding for park and town projects, and he established a recycling program—purchasing, placing, and managing recycling bins throughout downtown Bar Harbor.

Perhaps the greatest gift that Chris brought to his job, however, was the ability to work with partners, including the Town of Bar Harbor, Friends of Acadia, and Acadia National Park. When the federal sequester delayed the full opening of the Park Loop Road in the spring of 2013, Chris stepped up and offered the chamber's financial and volunteer assistance to clear the road of debris and open temporary restrooms. This resulted in the park opening the road to Cadillac Mountain two weeks earlier than they had thought they could. When the government shutdown happened later that year, Chris helped highlight the need for sufficient federal funding for our national parks through opinion editorials published in the newspaper, meetings with the Maine Congressional delegation, and public forums.

Chris' love of Acadia is strong and runs in the family. His wife, Erin, worked as Friends of Acadia's communications coordinator from 2007 to 2008 and is now Director of Development Operations at The Jackson Laboratory. Chris, Erin, and their sons, Ike and Lincoln, enjoy Sand Beach and walking the carriage roads and

the Park Loop Road before the snow falls. Chris has also been an active member of the Acadia Centennial Task Force. He served as chair of the Marketing Working Group and helped the group develop a comprehensive marketing strategy for the centennial, its associated programs, and the many partners involved in the celebration, through earned media, donations, social media, and advertisements.

In recognition of his leadership, Chris was asked to join the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors. At the 2014 annual meeting, Friends awarded the Bar Harbor Chamber the "Community Preservation" award for their excellent work to highlight park issues and find solutions within the local community during the sequester and government shutdown. The Maine State Chamber of Commerce also has recognized Chris' leadership, awarding him the 2014 Chamber Executive of the Year award.

At the end of January, Chris left his position with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to start a new job as the President and CEO of the Maine Tourism Association, a statewide nonprofit organization of more than 1,600 tourism businesses, which produces print and digital guides for visitors, operates the state tourism information centers, and advocates for the tourism industry in the legislature. It's no surprise that he has been targeted for a statewide job, but we trust that he will hold Acadia in his heart as he starts this new position. Maine will benefit from a tourism leader who approaches promotion with the goal of protecting the natural and cultural resources that draw people here. ♣

—Stephanie Clement



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2015 Calendar of Events

- June 6** National Trails Day
- June 13** Wild Gardens of Acadia Benefit Plant Sale
- July 8** Acadia's 99th birthday (1916)
- July 8** Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
- August 8** Benefit Auction
- Sep. 10–14** Acadia Night Sky Festival
- November 7** Take Pride in Acadia Day

For more information and online registration, visit
www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/events

Where in Acadia?

Where in Acadia? We tend to effuse about Acadia's historic carriage road bridges, and deservedly so—each one is unique, is masterfully constructed, and harmonizes perfectly with its natural surroundings. But not every beautiful bridge in Acadia is a carriage road bridge, though some might be overlooked by those traveling the park at 25 miles per hour.

To balance that significant hint, we must add a challenge. The National Weather Service has reported that eastern Mount Desert Island received some twelve feet of snow this past winter. Can you identify this park bridge as shown under all that fluffy white stuff?

If you think you can name the spot pictured here, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory from this place if you can! We'll print our favorite response along in the next issue of the *Journal*, and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writer.



Friends of Acadia



Winter 2014 Where in Acadia? The photo looks like it would be Northeast Creek, not far from where you would put in with canoes or kayaks from Route 3. We love kayaking there in the fall, picking cranberries and enjoying the magnificent reflected color. One memorable trip was with friends who bought a trip at the Friends of Acadia Auction, hosted by Sheridan Steele, and it was fascinating to journey down those quiet waters with the park superintendent!

—Freddy Shaw
Glyndon, Maryland

A TALE OF TWO PATHS

By Gary Stellyflug



These gracious stepping-stones replaced a historically inaccurate bridge over Little Harbor Brook on The Asticou & Jordan Pond Path.

Since 1999, the Acadia Trails Forever program has built, rehabilitated, and reopened miles of trails in Acadia's historic trail system. Originally envisioned as a 10-year program of active rehabilitation plus endowment funds for maintenance in perpetuity, the program has now extended to 15 years (and counting) through careful management and leveraging of FOA funds.

The 2014 Acadia trails program was the largest the park has seen during that time, with 33 National Park Service staff, 16 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members, and FOA volunteers who contributed more than 3,000 hours to the program. Surprisingly, the large crew's work was much centered on only two major efforts: the Asticou & Jordan Pond Path and the Gorge Path.

The Asticou & Jordan Pond Path Shown on path maps as early as the mid-1880s, the Asticou Path was a major connection between the Jordan Pond House and the rusticator enclave of Northeast Harbor. This route also forms multiple connections with the popular trails of Sargent South Ridge, Asticou Ridge, Penobscot Mountain, and Little Harbor Brook. No less than seven other connections existed in the past that have since been abandoned. Asticou is an important trail indeed, and a perfect example of the generally level and broad graveled walking paths of the late 1800s.

In recent years, most hikers on their way to popovers and other destinations probably never noticed the issues the Acadia crews were seeing: low walls that had fallen and slid out of their original location,

culverts no longer functioning, water running along the eroded treadway, muddy spots holding puddles long after rainstorms, and the stairway on Faint Hill (near the Asticou end of the path) collapsing—all leading to sidestepping and trail braiding.

Throughout the summer and fall of 2014, a tremendous amount of work was done by park trails crew, the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and Friends of Acadia's stewardship volunteers. As with all such projects in Acadia's historic and culturally-significant trail system, we first examined existing construction and historical records to design specifications for the work. The crews opened up and rehabilitated two historic stone culverts and added 29 new culverts at low-lying areas, built to mimic historic stone. We reset many coping stones along the trail as they had been

in the past, and rebuilt 111 square feet of low trailside wall. We restored hundreds of feet of side drainage ditches alongside 4,413 feet of new raised-tread causeway. We installed 300 stone and 32 log checks, which control erosion along with 23 stone-lined drains while maintaining the smooth and even visual impact of the trail. We reset or added 45 stone pavers or stepstones.

The new drainages, walls, and tread-stabilizing checks work to keep the gravel surfacing in place along the entire 2.2 miles of trail. This gravel tread now has had a fine coating of local gravel mixed into the top layer to give it a more natural and historically accurate appearance. In most instances we used pits that had actually been established during early gravel projects, probably over a century ago!

In the steps area of Faint Hill, we examined a number of old photographs and took detailed measurements of the existing work. This enabled us to create a historically accurate stairway built to modern and long-lasting specifications. In all we added or reset 146 stone steps, copying the extant styles.

We installed three temporary bridges to move material then removed them as the

work neared completion; most of the materials used in them will be reused on other projects. Then we built five new bridges, each with a distinctive yet subtle arch that reflects early Acadia bridges and creates a visual theme along this path. Over Little Harbor Brook we removed a historically inaccurate wooden bridge and replaced it with stepping stones, guided by photographs from the 1920s era.

Last but hardly least we revegetated areas and replanted where our construction or previous braiding had left ugly scars along the trailsides. An agreement between Friends of Acadia and adjoining landowners allowed trail work to extend two-tenths of a mile onto private land west of the park, ending at the Asticou Map House.

The Asticou & Jordan Pond Path has been returned to its early 1900 splendor, with its features in good working order and its cultural integrity restored. Throughout the season we often met folks who hike the Asticou on a regular basis; some remember it from fifty years ago! All were delighted and excited about the results they saw as the summer progressed. The trail is gorgeous.

The Gorge Path

This path was described in guidebooks as early as 1871. It was mapped by the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association in the 1890s then greatly improved and endowed in 1929 as a memorial path to Lillian Endicott Francklyn (a former New York City debutante who died prematurely) by several of her friends. The constructed improvements represent some of the finest watershed-area stonework on any trail in the Acadia system. To the casual observer the Gorge was a fine trail. We saw a different story. Throughout this trail, lack of maintenance had led to the development of substantial erosion and collapsing stone stairs and retaining walls. What was once a smooth stone-paved walkway had become a difficult hike, with loose gravel and stones, exposed roots, and sloping steps. Many stones had been dislodged by ice or flowing water. These problems led to the loss of the cultural character of this trail. Subsequent erosion was leaching soil and nutrients into the stream, degrading the aquatic environment.

As with the Asticou Path, we first built a plan that would marry historical design

with modern engineering. We matched the patio stone walkway styles and also stepstones at a few different spots. For the most part, we added little to the construction of the trail—a lot of work involved resetting existing stones. However, there were a number of careful additions, and walls were added in some areas that had totally failed. In one instance the path was re-routed over a 75-foot section in response to environmental stream-crossing concerns. In all, we rehabilitated or built 118 feet of causeway, 226 feet of benchcut, 3 stone drains, 590 square feet of retaining wall, 440 step stones, and 1,200 feet of stone paving along the Gorge Path.



(Left) On “Faint Hill” near the Asticou end of the path, 146 stone steps were added or reset. **(Right)** The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, sixteen teens mostly from the surrounding communities, spent half of their season working on these two major path projects.

“Buildings, too, are children of Earth and Sun.”
-Frank Lloyd Wright



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(Top) Robyn King, ANP museum technician, and Gary Stellpflug work to restore the Francklyn memorial plaque. (Bottom) The restored plaque back in place on the Gorge Path.

The Lilian Endicott Francklyn plaque had been removed in late fall of 2012. Its pins had degraded and it was loose in its cliffside perch. In the winter of 2013, Acadia trail staff worked with cultural resource staff to clean the plaque and give it a fresh coat of wax. It was reinstalled in 2014.

The Gorge Path goes all the way to the Cadillac summit. Between the gorge notch and the summit, the trail has a different character with no construction. A small crew carefully worked this section, halting erosion and gullying with carefully set, natural-looking steps. In the fall, Friends of Acadia's pilot "Cadillac Summit Stewards" team re-blazed the upper portion of the trail to help hikers descending from the summit to stay on track.

As a nod to the historical integrity of the trail system's configuration, the gorge notch intersection, where the Gorge Path meets the A. Murray Young Path and the connector to the Dorr Mountain summit, was returned to its pre-1975 arrangement. Then, the trails had been altered to meet at a four-way intersection. We returned the intersection to an offset alignment, in which the two descending trails enter the Gorge Path at different spots.

As an interesting side note, in the fall Maine State Department of Environmental Protection personnel hiked the Gorge Path to ensure we are following our best erosion control management practices. We

are, and all is in order! Most of our larger projects need environmental compliance, as Acadia's trails often pass alongside or through streams, ponds, or wetlands.

This season's project completes work in this entire area, and hikers may now access the Gorge from Bar Harbor via the new Kebo Brook Trail and walk the rehabilitated pathway to the summit of Cadillac. 🐾

GARY STELLPFLUG is the trails foreman at Acadia National Park.

Editor's note: Trail work on the Asticou & Jordan Pond Path outside of park boundaries was supported with generous funding from the National Parks Conservation Association and Nature Valley.

LOVING WINTER, ACADIA-STYLE

By Paige Steele



Friends of Acadia/Amee Beal Church

Skiers of all ages and abilities enjoyed the amazing snow conditions on Acadia's carriage roads this winter.

It was quite a winter in coastal Maine. Schools were closed, roofs collapsed, and town maintenance funds ran dry from a relentless string of winter storms. But a certain subset of Mainers (plus a good number from further afield) were cheering each subsequent dump of snow: those who know the joy of cross-country skiing on Acadia's historic carriage roads. Skiing was so popular this year that one #SkiAcadia update on Friends of Acadia's Facebook page reached more than 19,000 people and parking lots were overflowing every weekend. A brilliant mix of epic winter conditions, amazing volunteer groomers, and the generous Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment provided outstanding cross-country skiing conditions for thousands of visitors to Acadia this winter.

Winter With a Capital "W"

Weather's contribution to skiing was undeniable this year. In mid-January, the snow began to fall and did not stop until records were broken and Hancock County was buried in more than a hundred inches of snow. That, combined with consistently cold temperatures that preserved snow and prevented ice from forming, resulted in above-average conditions for skiing in Acadia.

Super Groomers

The Acadia Winter Trails Association's volunteer groomers matched the intensity of the snowfall with their dedication. A group

of eleven volunteer groomers put in over 400 hours this season to groom ski routes on the carriage roads. One loop takes about three hours to pack and track for skiing. To complete an entire section (from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center or Brown Mountain Gatehouse) takes 5–10 hours to touch up; 10–20 hours after a storm.

To help the team keep up, three new volunteers completed training this season. In January ANP Ranger Chris Wiebusch led trainings in safety and snowmobile engine mechanics. After attending these sessions, new groomers shadowed master groomers throughout the season to gain experience operating the equipment in various snow conditions.

Equipment

In 2005, the family of Elizabeth "Leila" Bright established The Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment to support cross-country skiing and winter carriage road grooming in Acadia National Park. The Bright Endowment covers equipment maintenance, volunteer training, and program supplies. Over the last ten years, much equipment was acquired using a spend-down equipment fund from the Bright family, allowing for the expansion of the program. Thanks to their generosity, we are now able to run a grooming team at two locations, Hulls Cove Visitor Center and Brown Mountain Gatehouse, using two snowmobiles at each location. This allows groomers to go out in pairs, which cuts the grooming time in half and yields more skiable routes for all.

In addition to the Bright Endowment, the Acadia National Park staff is a tremendous asset to the program, maintaining the equipment and saving expensive repair costs. The newer machines, purchased in recent years with the last of the equipment fund, performed wonderfully this year—but the bounty of snow proved too much for our decades-old Skidoos and they are slated to be replaced in the near future. FOA staff

and the volunteers are now looking for new equipment—and additional funding to purchase it—that is specifically designed for ski grooming and will help the volunteers to work more efficiently.

Appreciation

Cross-country skiers were overwhelmingly happy with the grooming during this remarkable winter. Friends of Acadia would like to give a huge "thank you" to the volunteer groomers, Acadia National Park staff, and the support of the public that make ski grooming in Acadia National Park possible. Below are some comments and kudos from the Acadia ski community:

"I can't thank the groomers enough!!"
—Kristen Hardy

"I'm looking forward to a nice long skate (ski) on these lovely smooth trails. Thank you again, your good work transformed this winter into awesome!" —Charlotte Clews

"It has been amazing!! Thank You, Thank You volunteer groomers!!"
—Kristy Sharp

"We started Witch Hole before the groomers came by, and we were the first ones in the new tracks after they went by. Happiness is fresh ski tracks! Thank you!!!!" —Meghan Khairallah

To find grooming reports next winter, visit www.facebook.com/FriendsofAcadia or friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/acadia-winter-trails-association/. If you were one of the many who benefited from the great skiing this winter, we hope you will show your appreciation through a gift to the Acadia Winter Trails Association Equipment Fund so that we can maintain a high-quality program. ❄️

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

THE CHAMPLAIN SOCIETY TRANSCRIPTIONS: ACADIA'S NINETEENTH-CENTURY ORIGINS

By Catherine Schmitt and Maureen Fournier

The notebooks are thin and bound with string. Some have hard covers, brown and marbled; others are covered with thick, blue paper, faded and brittle. Inside, cursive handwriting in black ink fills the blue-lined paper. The notebooks date from 1880 through 1889; it is a wonder they have survived this long. But their content is even more incredible: hundreds of pages describing the natural and human environment of Mount Desert Island as viewed through the eyes of college students.

The notes were written by the Champlain Society, a group of young men from Harvard who spent their summers on the island, studying plants, birds, insects, fish, geology, hydrology, and meteorology. Led by their “Captain” Charles Eliot, son of Harvard President Charles William Eliot (convention includes the middle initial, “W,” in the name of the father to distinguish the two), the Champlain Society conducted the first natural history surveys of Mount Desert Island. Though they were not the first scientists to come here, they were the first to spend extended periods of time, engaging deeply in this place.

They also have a direct connection to the creation of what would become Acadia National Park.

In partnership with the Northeast Harbor Library and the Maine Historical Society, we have been working to digitize and transcribe the notebooks, a gift of the Eliot family to the Mount Desert Island Historical Society.

The collection includes logbooks from the Champlain Society’s encampments. They spent the summer of 1880 and 1881 camping in canvas tents in Asa Smallidge’s field on the shore of Somes Sound near the outlet of Hadlock Brook (“Camp Pemetic”). In 1882 they moved to the Savage property at the head of Northeast Harbor (“Camp Asticou”). Yacht logs detail excursions made in the Eliots’ sailboat, *Sunshine*.



Most of the Champlain Society’s journals are in the collection of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society.

The Champlain Society members took themselves seriously. An organized club, they kept records of their meetings during the winter months at Harvard. Each scientific “department” submitted reports of their findings. There is also an exceptional compilation of Charles Eliot’s notes on the history of Mount Desert Island.

“The records of the Champlain Society are perhaps the most valuable records possessed by the Mount Desert Island Historical Society,” said Executive Director Tim Garrity. “The Champlain Society began to assess the cultural and scientific value of this unique place.”

Scanning and transcribing the notebooks is a slow process. Word by word, conversations unfold across the pages, interrupted with photos, sketches, poems, and songs:

After the moon rose all hands abandoned the tent and watched the sky. The dark, deep, cold, spaces between the broken patches of drifting clouds, the white and radiant clouds themselves, and the brilliant

bursts of light with which the moon surprised us now and then, made a very beautiful sight.

While this beautiful scene continued the fellows stood about, and once in a while a song of the gentle kind was raised; but after about half an hour the clouds became very thick again, and reading and writing in the tent were again resorted to.

(August 8, 1881)

From their notes, we can trace their movements across the island as they collected specimens, made observations, and talked to local residents about place names and legends. They provide an entertaining and at times hilarious window into the social life of Rusticators. We know the hills they summited and the trails they used; their sketches became some of the first published maps of Mount Desert Island. Their science is valid and valuable—researchers today are using their data to assess how the island has changed over the last century.

But we are motivated by another aspect of their story.

As far as we know, the Champlain Society, especially members Charles Eliot and Edward Lothrop Rand, were the first people to call for protection of the Mount Desert Island landscape.

Twenty-three-year-old Charles Eliot wrote in his personal diary in 1883, “The scenery of Mount Desert is so beautiful and remarkable that no pains should be spared to save it from injury—to the end that many generations may receive all possible benefit and enjoyment from the sight of it.” Eliot brought his concerns to his club, who took up his cause and expressed their vision in their notes. And Eliot continued to think about how to protect the island as he went on to apprentice with Frederick Law Olmsted and become a landscape architect.

Charles Eliot helped create The Trustees of Reservations in Massachusetts in 1891. Six years later, at the age of 37, he died of spinal meningitis. Committed to carrying on his son's legacy, Charles W. Eliot used The Trustees of Reservations as a model when, inspired by his son's vision, he worked with George Dorr to form the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations and acquire the first land holdings that eventually became Acadia National Park.

Thus the origins of Acadia can be found in the fragile journals of young scientists studying the island environment in the 1880s. And these naturalists helped to show the importance of protecting the island's diverse flora and fauna for science.

At the dedication ceremony for Sieur de Monts National Monument in 1916, George Dorr said that the park should be "a sanctuary and protecting home" for the whole region's plant and animal life. "Make it this, and naturalists will seek it from the whole world over, and from it other men will learn similarly to cherish wild life in other places."

For Dorr, the history of scientific work on the island foretold the island's scientific future.

"During the early summer, when I was at Washington working on this matter of the Park's establishment and was plunged for weeks together in its oppressive heat, it struck me what a splendid and useful thing it would be if we could provide down here, in a spot so full of biologic interest and unsolved biologic problems, so rich in various beauty and locked around by a cool northern sea, a summer camp—some simple summer home—for men of science working in the Government bureaus, in the museums and universities. They would come down to work... on a fresh field of life, bird or plant or animal, and then go back invigorated, ready

to do more valuable work the whole winter through in consequence of this climatic boon and stimulating change."

There is no greater evidence for the stimulating change effected by time spent in Acadia than the Champlain Society notebooks and the cadre of students, researchers, and volunteer citizen-scientists who continue that work today.

"The Champlain Society's foundational work and George Dorr's vision have lived on and have helped to create a thriving scientific community in and around Acadia," says Acadia's science coordinator, Abe Miller-Rushing. "Seeing visitors, community members, and children follow in the footsteps of the Champlain Society, recording observations of plants and animals and connecting with nature, is one of the most exciting things happening in Acadia today. It's especially appropriate as we approach the park's centennial."

In sharing the Champlain Society's story, we have found that it resonates with audiences of all ages and backgrounds, making science interesting and engaging even to non-scientists. The Champlain Society also offers a fresh look at Acadia's past.

"One of the great promises of the digital age is that invaluable historical materials, heretofore hidden or inaccessible, will now be brought into public light, where

they can be appreciated, and where they can contribute to our understanding of history," says Tim Garrity.

Our work continues. To date, six of the original logbooks have been scanned and submitted for online access. Anyone can now accompany the Champlain Society members as they explore, study, and camp on Mount Desert Island. Read their words with gratitude for their legacy: the conservation of lands that became Acadia National Park. ♣

MAUREEN FOURNIER lives in Somesville with her husband, Gerry, and is a seasonal ranger in Acadia National Park. She volunteers for the Mount Desert Island Historical Society during the winter months.

CATHERINE SCHMITT lives in Bangor and is the author of *A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine from Cape Cod to Canada*.

To access the online Champlain Society logbooks on Maine Memory Network, search www.mainememory.net and type "Champlain Society" in the search box. You will then view all of the "historical items" which lists the digital versions of the logbooks as well as their corresponding transcriptions. Check back in late spring for additional logbooks to be available.



Members of the Champlain Society at Hadlock Brook in 1881.

M.P. Slade/ Courtesy Mount Desert Island Historical Society

REFLECTING ON TEN WONDERFUL YEARS OF PHILANTHROPY

By Lisa Horsch Clark



Bright Family Photo



NPS/AYTT



Friends of Acadia/Almece Beal Church



Friends of Acadia

(Top left) Leila Bright enjoyed Acadia National Park in all seasons. **(Top right)** The Acadia Youth Technology Team developed a video setup using equipment donated by Canon U.S.A. that enables more park visitors to observe nesting peregrine falcons and their chicks. **(Bottom left)** Dick and Noelle Wolf, hosts of the 2013 FOA Benefit Preview Party, accept a custom walking stick from Friends of Acadia Board Chairman Ed Samek. **(Bottom right)** Members of the George B. Dorr Society enjoy a carriage ride in Acadia for one of the group's first annual outings.

It wasn't until my LinkedIn colleagues began emailing me congratulations, that I realized I had been at Friends of Acadia for ten years. A decade is a personal record for job longevity for me but it is also unusual for a fundraising professional and the world we live in today. Many Gen-Xers and Millennials zigzag through their professional lives, moving on to great new opportunities at the cost of institutional knowledge and long-term relationships. The fact of the matter is: I still feel new. I

go to work every day realizing there is so much more I can know about the needs of the park, the dreams of the staff, and the history and goals of our members.

During my time at Friends of Acadia, I have witnessed greatness in philanthropy. One of my earliest and greatest joys was working with the family of Leila Bright. The Brights hailed from Pennsylvania and were longtime summer residents of Northeast Harbor and Islesford. In the 1990s Mr. and Mrs. Bright

moved to Maine full time to also enjoy the rich winter season. Skiing was a late-in-life passion for Mrs. Bright. She enjoyed both the excellent grooming done by the Acadia Winter Trails Association, a committee of Friends of Acadia, and also breaking her own trail. In a recent conversation, her son Jim Bright recollected that pioneer trail groomer Dr. Bob Massucco would often see Mrs. Bright skiing directly behind him as he set new tracks in freshly fallen snow.

It seemed fitting for the family to remember her with a memorial gift—the Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment—to support the dedicated volunteer groomers, providing them with more and better equipment and needed supplies to keep Acadia’s carriage roads in top shape for winter park visitors. After the record snowfall we had this year, we are thankful for all that Mrs. Bright inspired and all that her family made possible for incredible skiing in Acadia.

Another milestone gift early in my time at FOA was the first of two gifts from Dick and Noelle Wolf to support the Acadia Land Legacy, a partnership of Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Acadia National Park. The size of the gifts—more than \$1 million to date—is impressive, but equally important to me is all that their gifts have leveraged for land protection in and around Acadia. An early advocate of the revolving fund model, Dick knew their investment would return to the fund for future land purchases when Land and Water Conservation Funds became available to Acadia National Park. To date, nine critical properties in and abutting the park have been protected with Acadia Land Legacy funds; in 2011, the first of the funds revolved back to be used for future projects. With good luck and the help of many friends, we hope that Land and Water Conservation Funds will be increased in 2016 in celebration of the National Park Service’s centennial. I appreciate all the Wolfs have done for land protection in Acadia.

When I arrived at Friends of Acadia, FOA leaders had already negotiated a successful partnership and sponsorship grant with Maine-based outdoor retailer L.L.Bean. The Island Explorer bus system, which by last fall had carried more than 5 million riders, was made possible through their generous grants. The gift and partnership also served as a model for the next national corporate sponsorship with Canon U.S.A., established in 2013.

Through financial and in-kind support of Wild Acadia, a set of restoration, research, and outreach initiatives, Canon U.S.A. enables the park, FOA staff, and volunteers to manage invasive species,

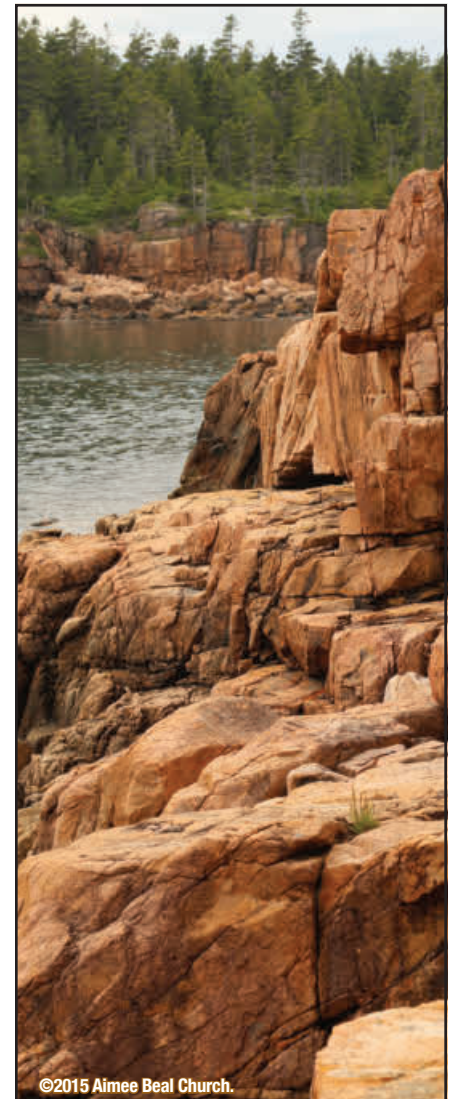
modernize water quality monitoring, and produce high-quality videos and photographs documenting conservation programs to share with the public. The long-term goal of the partnership with Canon U.S.A. is to ensure that Acadia is protected for today’s visitors and the many millions more who will visit in the future.

Thinking about the future and reflecting on the past, I would be remiss if I didn’t share my great joy of working with members of the George B. Dorr Society. The George B. Dorr Society of Friends of Acadia was established in 2005 to recognize those members and friends who have made future provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans, regardless of value. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, a gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park.

Not only were we able to recognize the “father of Acadia” when we established the society, we are able, on an annual basis, to also recognize so many thoughtful members as they include Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The group is a hodgepodge of people—young, old, year-rounders, summer friends, annual visitors—a real mix of personalities and backgrounds, with loving Acadia often their only common connection. They are the society’s best advocates, telling friends what they have done for Acadia and encouraging them to also consider joining the Dorr Society with a planned gift. They delight in seeing each other at our annual gatherings, often the only time they see one another during the year. The gathering is my favorite day of the year.

I am a lucky woman, I know. To be able to work with donors and members who love Acadia as much as I do is a pleasure, and I will forever be grateful for this experience in my life. ♡

LISA HORSCH CLARK is the director of development at Friends of Acadia. She joined FOA in 2005, leaving a long career in fundraising in higher education to raise funds to preserve and protect our beloved park. She and her daughter Grace can often be found hiking Acadia’s trails and biking or skiing on the carriage roads.



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ROYAL MIGRANTS

By Aimee Beal Church



Before beginning their metamorphosis, monarch caterpillars fasten themselves to milkweed or other plants, becoming motionless in a “J” shape.

Deep in the rugged, forested mountains north of Mexico City, a butterfly has just taken flight. Not just any butterfly, not just any flight—this large, graceful, and intricately-marked creature is a monarch butterfly leaving Mexico’s Monarch Butterfly Biosphere Reserve, where it has lived all winter since it flew here from Mount Desert Island, Maine, last fall. It is beginning a journey that should bring its children or grandchildren back to summer breeding grounds—perhaps even back to Maine. Will its progeny survive the 2,500-mile trip? Will there be milkweed—the only plant monarch caterpillars can eat—to grow this year’s butterflies until the autumn generation makes the return trip to Mexico?

Monarch butterflies have likely graced the fields and shorelines of Maine for many years. Earliest reports in Acadia National Park date back to the mid-1930s, when they were reported on two different and creditable occasions, according to ANP biologist Bruce Connery. Monarchs are getting a lot of press these days, for unfortunate reasons. The 200-square-mile Biosphere Reserve that used to harbor up to a billion adult monarch butterflies each winter—the insects clustering so thickly on treetops that they would break branches and paint the mountainsides orange—has seen dramatic declines in monarch numbers in recent years. Here in

the north, biologists and citizen-scientists who track the monarch migration have seen a parallel decline.

Ann Judd at the Charlotte Rhoades Park and Butterfly Garden in Southwest Harbor has for some years now recorded when the first monarchs arrive in the garden—usually the last ten days in June. But few and possibly no monarchs have arrived for the past two summers. She recalls, “Last year we were jumping up and down in the butterfly garden in July. I took a picture but it had the wrong markings—one extra line.” It was a viceroy butterfly, which mimics the monarch’s markings but is smaller and does not make the two-way migration that gives the monarch its claim to fame.

Another special quality of the monarch is its graceful appearance in flight. Says Judd, “the monarchs have a beautiful flight pattern. They glide like birds. They swoop and they play, and are very easy to watch and photograph.” Smaller butterflies have a rapid, fluttery flight, Judd says, which makes them very hard to follow with your eyes.

The monarch caterpillar’s diet is also distinctive. The milkweed leaves that they eat exude a toxic white sap, which renders the caterpillars themselves toxic to predators such as birds, lizards, and frogs. Adult monarchs sip flower nectar but retain the toxicity. But if the caterpillars’ limited diet offers unique protection, it also makes them uniquely vulnerable. No milkweed, no monarchs—and the plant, especially the common varieties that grow best in croplands, pastures, and roadsides, has greatly declined due to increased herbicide use (especially glyphosate, which is used heavily on crops genetically modified to resist it), development of former agricultural lands, and frequent roadside mowing.

Milkweed is found across Maine, but only one species, common milkweed or *Asclepias syriaca*, is thought to be native to Mount Desert Island. Only one specimen exists in Acadia National Park’s herbarium collection,

collected from Bar Island in 1977. Other patches are found in at least a half dozen other locations in the park, although their health and whether they are used by monarch butterflies are unknowns. *A. syriaca* is planted at the Wild Gardens not only because of its importance to monarchs, but also because it is valuable for stabilizing disturbed areas and open woodlands and for promoting insect communities. Wild Gardens of Acadia Head Gardener Geneva Langley is helping the park search historic documents to learn if the species was reported at other times over the last hundred years.

Today, private and public gardens across MDI are stepping up to plant milkweed, establishing “Monarch Waystations” with help from experts like Ann Judd and the nonprofit Monarch Watch (monarchwatch.org), which offers instructions and sells seed kits. Ann Judd has worked with several MDI garden centers to stock the three types of milkweed native to Maine: *A. syriaca*, *A. incarnata* (swamp milkweed), and *A. tuberosa* (butterflyweed). Each has different habits and needs: common milkweed, a rhizomatous spreader, is hardy and will take over once established, so should be segregated from an ornamental garden; swamp milkweed is a well-behaved garden plant that works in a sunny and moist spot; and butterflyweed likes a warm, sunny spot but might need to be replanted from year to year.

Thuja Garden in Northeast Harbor planted a certified Monarch Waystation last year, releasing purchased adult monarchs into it in July (caterpillars can also be purchased online). As at Charlotte Rhoades, these adults produced caterpillars that went on to metamorphose in the garden and emerge as butterflies. Charlotte Rhoades gardeners tagged about 300 monarchs that were raised there last summer. It is believed that a successful summer population will produce a migrating generation that will find its way to Mexico in the fall.

Fortunately, there is a way to find out. Adults can be tagged in the fall with a sticker bearing a unique code, registered with Monarch Watch. Researchers in Mexico look for these tags on dead butterflies—which they find by the hundreds of thousands after winter storms—and work through the Monarch Watch database to determine who tagged it, and where. At the same time, anybody finding a tag on a dead butterfly along the migration routes can send the information to Monarch Watch (the tag includes instructions). The database thus gives a picture of the butterflies' migration and allows studies on topics like monarch orientation and navigation.

Other MDI entities getting involved with this effort are schools and libraries. Both Charlotte Rhoades and Thuya have worked with local students to raise and release monarch butterflies and plant monarch-friendly gardens. Beth Brown, until last year a K–2 teacher at Pemetec Elementary in Southwest Harbor, would bring her class on a field trip to the butterfly garden, then Ann Judd would provide monarch chrysalides for the kids to hatch. They would sticker the adults before releasing them. Brown recalls "...the joy on children's faces to see the metamorphosis take place," adding, "they were so enthralled in the process. Even though they would do it three years in a row, the kids never lost interest." The school eventually planted a butterfly bush and some milkweed outside Beth Brown's classroom, and the kids would release their butterflies there.

Northeast Harbor Library's children's librarian, Eileen MacLean, started raising monarchs in the library in 2009, when several summer residents came to her at the end of the season with chrysalides they had been raising. They asked if she would finish raising the butterflies in the library. Since then she has had butterflies in the library almost every summer. Each summer Ann Judd provides some caterpillars to get her started; when MacLean sees butterflies outside she will also search the library's butterfly garden for caterpillars and chrysalides to bring inside. She says she hesitated over disturbing those "wild" butterflies, but "knowing how threatened the monarchs are, I'm concerned about natural predators and want to give every butterfly whatever extra help I can." Kids at the library love watching the new butter-

flies hatch. It takes four to five hours for a new butterfly to open its wings and dry out; MacLean will invite kids back to help her sticker and release the adults after that time. She will also help anybody to sticker monarchs they have raised at home, as will Kate Pickup-McMullin at the Southwest Harbor Public Library. Pickup-McMullin raises butterflies in the library and releases them at Charlotte Rhoades, "dragging along" any patrons she can finagle each time she has one to bring over.

Some of these local organizations have been looking into a collaboration with Acadia National Park to benefit monarchs, as part of Acadia's centennial celebration next year. Park managers have recently learned that they are likely to have a small initial project funded by the National Park Service. Should the funding come through, the park will start by identifying locations inside and outside the park where stands of milkweed exist or have existed. Interested organizations and individuals will be able to help identify such locations outside park boundaries. Native milkweed will

then be planted in disturbed or identified recovery areas. Follow-up surveys from June through October will document caterpillars, adults, eggs, and chrysalides in new and established milkweed stands.

Meanwhile, ANP staff and volunteers will document sightings of adult monarchs through the summer and early fall. Findings will be used to create educational materials and programs, to build awareness and encourage stewardship for monarch butterflies. Bruce Connery notes that monarchs are one of the many migratory species that both make up and depend upon the complex environments and ecological communities found in Acadia and the surrounding coastal regions. "By monitoring their status and that of the physical and biological conditions upon which they and other species depend, we can identify and apply protective measures for their conservation across Acadia's many landscapes." ❖

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



Ann Judd

A tagged monarch butterfly at the Charlotte Rhoades Butterfly Garden in Southwest Harbor.



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October 1, 2014 —
 February 28, 2015

Cadillac Summit Numbers and Observations

By the Cadillac Summit Stewards: Kristin Dillon, Abby Seymour, and David Sneed

The Cadillac Summit Stewards spent last fall season developing this pilot program, with an eye toward its continuation through many seasons to come. Whether we were atop Cadillac interacting with visitors or at Park Headquarters learning about Cadillac's history, our goal mirrored that of the National Park Service: to preserve this special place for the enjoyment and inspiration of visitors today and in the future. We took time last fall to examine the summit as a whole and from many different angles. There are so many it can, at times, be hard to keep track of them all. However, we Summit Stewards dedicated ourselves to keeping all of the angles accounted for and pointed in the right direction. This means that we re-blazed trails, looked at parking issues, mapped current signage, and interacted with visitors. In a few short weeks we talked with more than eight hundred visitors on the summit.

Here's what we have learned so far: Cadillac attracts so many visitors that problems are likely inevitable. But Cadillac is larger than any problem to be found upon it, so any problem can be solved with time and energy. Thus, it is with a smile that we look down from Cadillac's summit, knowing it's all worth it.



(Top) Abby Seymour records the location of a new sign using GPS. (Bottom) Cadillac Summit Steward Kristi Dillon re-blazes the Gorge Path to help hikers stay on the trail.

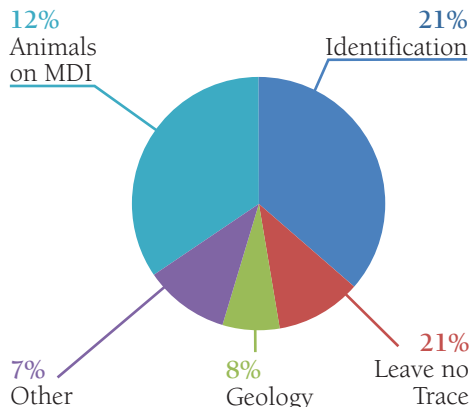
Summit Steward Activities

- Trained and worked with Acadia National Park departments including Interpretation, Law Enforcement, Natural Resources, and Trails
- Interacted with 827 visitors, including answering questions, providing orientation, and taking their photos
- Recorded visitor and traffic observations on an hourly basis
- Updated exclosures to social paths to aid in revegetation and marked sites with GPS
- Educated visitors about Leave No Trace principles and installed 5 LNT signs to help protect sensitive alpine vegetation
- Reblazed hiking trails and removed 23 visitor-built cairns on Cadillac Mountain to aid with hiker orientation
- Assisted with the Acadia Night Sky Festival

Visitor Activities

- Taking pictures
- Hiking
- Watching sunrise & sunset
- Watching hawks
- Biking
- Meditating
- Getting married

Resource Questions



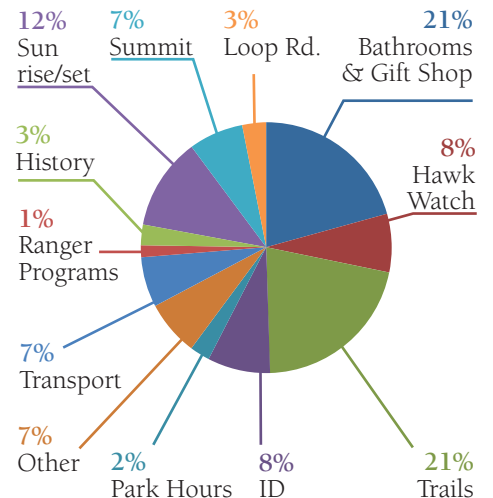
TOP 3 RESOURCE QUESTIONS

- Where can we see bears/moose?
- What is that bird?
- What is that tree?

TOP 3 ORIENTATION QUESTIONS

- Where are the bathrooms?
- Where is HawkWatch?
- Where is the Gorge Path?

Orientation Questions



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Updates

Acadia's Record-Breaking Year

Acadia National Park had record visitation numbers in 2014, including the highest number of total recreational visitors in 15 years. Approximately 2.56 million people came to enjoy all that Mount Desert Island, the Schoodic Peninsula, and Isle au Haut have to offer. Terrific weather, a strengthening national economy, and high-profile national publicity may all have been factors.

The free, propane-powered Island Explorer bus service also broke several records, with total ridership topping a half million for the first time in one season and daily ridership topping 9,000 on two separate occasions.

These numbers highlight the need for careful planning to preserve the visitor experience in all areas of the park.



Park visitors on the Cadillac Summit walking path.

Cromwell Brook Baseline Study

An important early step has been taken in the new "Wild Acadia" watershed-based natural resource monitoring and rehabilitation partnership program of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, with the completion of a baseline inventory of the Cromwell Brook Watershed. In fall of 2014 FOA hired a consultant who walked the entire length of the brook—through park lands to the Tarn, Sieur de Monts, and Great Meadow, into the Town of Bar Harbor and through private lands with landowner permission, all the way to the ocean at Cromwell Harbor. She used GPS and digital photography to map and document the exact course of the brook and problem areas in the corridor, such as eroding stream banks or new populations of invasive plants.

In addition, a wildlife intern co-sponsored by FOA and College of the Atlantic completed a fish assessment and exotic (non-native) fish survey in the Cromwell Brook Watershed, collecting several species of minnows and two game fish species. No previously recorded exotic species were collected. The intern also used game cameras to understand the movement of deer and other mammals through the watershed and tracked tagged bats to assess habitats and behaviors for these mammals, likely to be proposed for federal listing under the Endangered Species Act.

ANP resource managers will use all of this data to track improvements throughout the Wild Acadia project. Water-quality and wetlands monitoring will continue in 2015.

Other work in 2014 on this pilot program included preparing three areas at Sieur de Monts, including the historic spring pool, for revegetation with native plant species, and beginning conversations between Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the Bar Harbor Public Works Department regarding future culvert replacements under roads throughout the watershed. A grant from the National Parks Conservation Association is helping to support Wild Acadia efforts in the Cromwell Brook Watershed.

Acadia National Park's natural resources are increasingly threatened by rapid environmental change due to climate change, invasive insects and plants, and diseases such as white nose fungus in native bats, coupled with historic infrastructure problems such as undersized culverts. Recognizing that each of Acadia's watersheds is an interconnected system, this watershed-based approach to habitat rehabilitation will give Acadia's native plant, fish and wildlife populations their best shot at recovery after major environmental disturbances. The Cromwell Brook Watershed pilot project will also inform Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service about the funding, staff, and research required for comprehensive rehabilitation of other park watersheds.



Friends of Acadia/Almea Beal Church

Cromwell Brook snakes through Great Meadow on its way through the Town of Bar Harbor and to the sea.

Acadia Centennial Website

In January, the Acadia Centennial Task Force, a partnership of Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia, launched a new website to promote and encourage participation in the year-long 2016 celebration of the founding of Acadia. Found at www.acadiacentennial2016.org, the site features historical and visitor information about the park, information for organizations and individuals wishing to get involved in the celebration, media resources including an image library of historical and scenic photos, a secure donation platform for gifts in support of centennial projects in Acadia, a timeline of the history and pre-history of Acadia, and listings of those already involved—the Acadia Centennial Partners (ACPs). A second phase of the site, due to launch in June 2015, will add a searchable event calendar for centennial events and a searchable listing of official centennial merchandise and services.

The Acadia Centennial Task Force started planning a community-based, world-welcoming celebration in 2012, with working groups focused on products, marketing, branding, Maine-wide efforts, and a variety of themes from history to arts. The website will be a central feature of the centennial

marketing effort and a key tool for anyone planning a 2016 Acadia visit.

Part of what makes Acadia unique among national parks is its closely interwoven border—and relationship—with the coastal Maine communities that surround it. Acadia's centennial celebration will be a grassroots and broad-based series of events that models a strong relationship between a national park and its surrounding communities; it is on the centennial website that the many individual ACP offerings will be collected and presented as a cohesive whole. Any business, organization, or individual who feels a special bond with Acadia is invited to join in the celebration.



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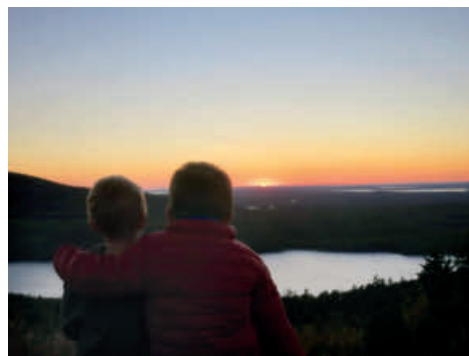
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The 2014 Acadia Quest offered a "Uniquely Acadia" adventure for more than 100 teams. Clockwise from top left: Team White Wing Scoters on Cadillac Mountain; Team Bobiak explores the Wild Gardens of Acadia; Team Throckmorton catches a sunset; Team Turtle goes tide pooling. All photos courtesy of the Quest teams.

Acadia Quest 2015

Acadia's own experiential scavenger hunt returns! What better way for kids and families to explore Acadia together than through the fun and varied challenges of the Acadia Quest. For 2015, teams will explore the sights, smells, sounds, and feel of Acadia National Park to complete the Quest, earn their Quest badge, and be entered in the grand prize drawing the first weekend in November. Some new surprises are in store for veteran Questers, including the Jesup Path's new "Sensory Trail" and a Speed Quest designed for visitors here only a short time. The Acadia Quest challenges will appeal to all ages and ability levels.

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

Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale

The Wild Gardens of Acadia benefit plant sale will be held on Saturday, June 13th at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church on Mount Desert Street in Bar Harbor. Held rain or shine from nine to noon, the sale is the largest fundraising event for the Wild Gardens each year and helps to support garden maintenance, internships, and educational activities.

The plant sale features perennials, annuals, vegetable seedlings, and more, all donated from area landscapers and garden centers, private estate gardeners, and Wild Gardens volunteers' own gardens. Your purchases will help ensure that thousands of Acadia's visitors will be able to learn about Acadia's native plants in habitats representing those found in the park. For more information, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

Acadia Park Pass Art Contest

Every year, Acadia National Park sponsors a contest among local schoolchildren to create the artwork for the park's annual entrance pass. Friends of Acadia provides a \$50 prize for the winner and Eastern National, which runs the park bookstore, provides an Acadia-themed goodie bag. This year, Mount Desert Elementary School fifth grader Susannah Chaplin's drawing of a loon with Acadia's glacially-smoothed mountains in the background was selected from among many fine entries to adorn the park's wallet cards, which last year replaced the old window decals.

Miss Chaplin's family connections with Acadia National Park go back at least four generations. Her father and grandfather have both been active volunteers in the park, and her grandfather also worked for Acadia for a time. Her great-grandfather helped to build some of the carriage road bridges, and her great-great-grandfather helped to build Acadia's road system.

ANP Assistant Fee Program Manager Sarah Milligan and FOA Conservation Director Stephanie Clement made the award presentation on March 12th at Mount Desert Elementary School. Milligan told the assembled students that some 8,000 pass-

es featuring Miss Chaplin's artwork will be sold this year. In addition her drawing, along with several finalist entries, will be displayed this summer at the park's Bar Harbor Village Green visitor center.



Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

FOA Conservation Director Stephanie Clement (left) and ANP Assistant Fee Program Manager Sarah Milligan (right) present the annual Park Pass Artwork Prize to 2015 winner Susannah Chaplin of Mount Desert.



Friends of Acadia/Stephanie Clement

Mark your calendar for the Wild Gardens of Acadia Benefit Plant Sale, Saturday, June 13th, 2015.

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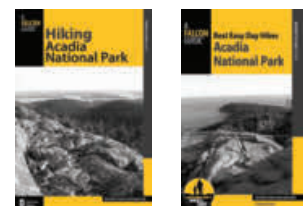
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Two park visitors enjoy a car-free moment on the Cadillac Summit road.

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

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

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

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

You are strongly urged to discuss your gift intentions with Friends of Acadia at an early stage in your planning. Please call 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 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.

Car-Free Mornings in Acadia

Acadia National Park will pilot the idea of “car-free mornings” on the park’s motor roads this year, with two Saturday mornings, spring and fall, selected to test the concept: May 16th and September 26th, 2015.

During the “sequestration” road closures of spring 2013, many park visitors—including but by no means limited to bicyclists—appreciated the opportunity to enjoy Acadia’s scenic and historic motor roads in the warmer months, free from the noise, bustle, and potential risk of auto traffic. As part of a comprehensive transportation planning process initiated in 2014, the two car-free mornings will allow park planners to evaluate visitor response, any challenges, and potential benefits.

In May, the Park Loop Road—with the significant exception of the section from the Stanley Brook Road to the Jordan Pond House—and the Cadillac Summit Road will be closed to all autos except official park vehicles. In September, Island Explorer buses and concessions-operated buses will be operating on the Loop Road. No cruise ships are scheduled to be in Bar Harbor on either day. Park gates will close at midnight the night before each test and will re-open at noon on both days. The fee booth at Sand Beach may be staffed on May 16th, but they won’t start charging entrance fees until the road fully opens at noon; September 26th is fee-free for National Public Lands Day. All users will be expected to follow one-way traffic rules, and any roller-bladers, roller-skiers, and skateboarders should complete these activities by noon.

Friends of Acadia and Bike MDI volunteers will assist park staff at many road entrances to explain the situation and help out any motorists who unexpectedly find themselves at locked gates. In addition, Friends of Acadia will help fund stepped-up Island Explorer service to meet the anticipated increase in demand during September’s car-free morning.

Canon Supports a Third Year of Wild Acadia

Canon U.S.A., a leader in digital imaging solutions, has renewed its monetary and in-kind support for Friends of Acadia’s “Wild Acadia” initiatives for 2015, enabling important work to continue in water-quality moni-

toring, invasive plant management, and the Acadia Youth Technology Team.

The formal, continuous water quality monitoring program at Jordan Pond had a successful second season in 2014. Initiated in 2013 thanks to Canon’s support, the program installed an advanced water-quality measurement buoy in Jordan Pond. In 2014 the monitoring capability of the NexSens Data Buoy was expanded with the installation of sub-surface light sensors to measure decreasing light in the water, augmenting the continuous measurements of organic matter and algal biomass. In 2015, there will be an increased focus on public outreach through the dedicated project website and physical kiosks located at the Jordan Pond House. In addition, park staff will investigate the feasibility of deploying an underwater camera to take photos of a Secchi disk, the device traditionally used to make visual measurements of water transparency.

For the past two years, Canon’s funding has expanded the Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT), enabling the park to treat 27 of the most highly invasive exotic plants, which threaten habitats and change Acadia’s natural scenery. In 2015, the EPMT will launch an expanded effort to manage the Norway maple and other invasives in the Cromwell Brook Watershed (see page 20 for other work being done in this watershed). Once frequently planted in the Acadia area as an ornamental specimen tree, Norway maples are a highly destructive species that produce chemicals that prevent native plants from germinating and growing in their natural habitat.

During the 2015 summer season, Canon’s support for the Acadia Youth Technology Team will further their work on improving existing projects and discovering new technology tools to connect visitors with Acadia’s natural environment. Proposed projects include the continuation and enhancement of short-format conservation videos; QR coding in the park linking to information about the park’s history, resources, and protection efforts; and the exploration of additional webcams in Acadia to bring the park to the people even when they are far away.

As in past years, Canon equipment will be used by Friends of Acadia staff to document Friends of Acadia programs and events, helping us to better inspire and engage members,

MICHAEL L ROSS
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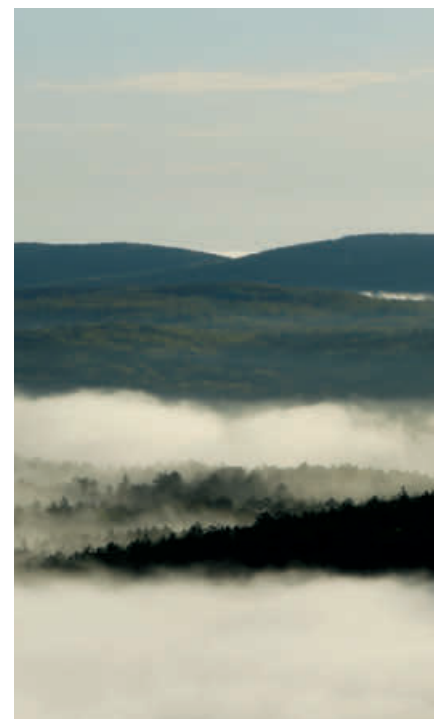
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volunteers, and the public in protecting the park. Finally, Canon equipment will help Acadia to grow its suite of citizen-science programs aimed at engaging the public in hands-on science focused on biodiversity and Acadia's changing landscape—to which time-lapse photography, photo points, and photo-documentation all lend themselves well. More than 5,000 volunteers participate in park citizen-science projects each year and Acadia seeks to expand this in future years.

News of Friends



NEW FRIENDS

Friends of Acadia welcomes MIKE MADELL, the new deputy superintendent at Acadia National Park. Madell, a Michigan native, is a 27-year veteran of the National Park Service, serving most recently as superintendent of Mississippi's Vicksburg Military National Park for the past five years. He has also served as superintendent at both Little Rock (AK) Central High School National Historic Site and the Missouri National Recreational River.

When he interviewed for the deputy superintendent's position, Madell was asked why he wanted to come to Acadia. "It's Acadia," he explained to the *Mount Desert Islander*. "It's an amazing, magical place, and one where not that many vacancies occur. So when this one came up, it was absolutely a no-brainer to apply."

The Friends of Acadia board and staff welcomed Mike Madell to Acadia at the February 2015 meeting of the FOA Board of Directors. We look forward to working with him on many projects over many coming years for the preservation and protection of Acadia National Park.

IN MEMORIAM

It was nearly thirty years ago, as Friends of Acadia's founders were filing articles of incorporation and drafting the goals and purposes of our fledgling outfit, when they had the very good fortune to cross paths with one of those rare individuals who would greatly affect this organization's early work and lasting impact on our beloved park.



John Kauffmann loved the great outdoors.

Steve Freleigh

JOHN M. KAUFFMANN moved to Mount Desert Island in 1981 at the urging of his long-time friend Dick Saltonstall, who professed to need John's help with his new project of running the *Bar Harbor Times*—but who also knew that Acadia was a perfect match for John's love of the outdoors and his commitment to conservation.

John's warm smile, graceful pen, keen eye for unique landscapes, and planner's mind for how to protect them were immediately at home here. He became involved in many organizations including Friends of Acadia, College of the Atlantic, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Forest Society of Maine, and the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary. He served as FOA's first board chairman from 1986 to 1989, helping to guide this organization through its formative years.

Although he came with a distinguished career as a planner within the National Park Service, equally at home in the halls of Congress or the wilds of Alaska, what I re-

member most about John was his absolutely pure love for the great outdoors and strong conviction to "do right by the land," even if it caused political headaches or inconvenienced people—including himself!

Impassioned debates around the boardroom table or by a roaring fire at his home at Oak Hill in Somesville would always end with a warm smile, a handshake, and plans to get out and explore a trail or beaver flowage and hatch plans for our next conservation collaboration. Throughout his long involvement with Friends of Acadia, John was particularly dedicated to helping to complete Acadia's land acquisition boundary and to ensuring that the National Park Service resisted pressure to over-commercialize the visitor experience.

John was the principal architect behind the park service's master plan and authorizing federal legislation to protect millions of acres in Alaska's Brooks Mountain Range. Closer to home, he was extremely generous in donating thousands of acres of his own land for lasting protection in the White Mountains of New Hampshire and on the shores of Somes Pond here in Mount Desert.

John M. Kauffmann died peacefully at his home in Yarmouth on November 16, 2014, following a long life, fully lived. His legacy here at Friends of Acadia and throughout this park and our community will continue for generations to come in the form of the many people he inspired and the places he preserved. [David MacDonald]

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New Ferns on the Jordan Pond path.

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

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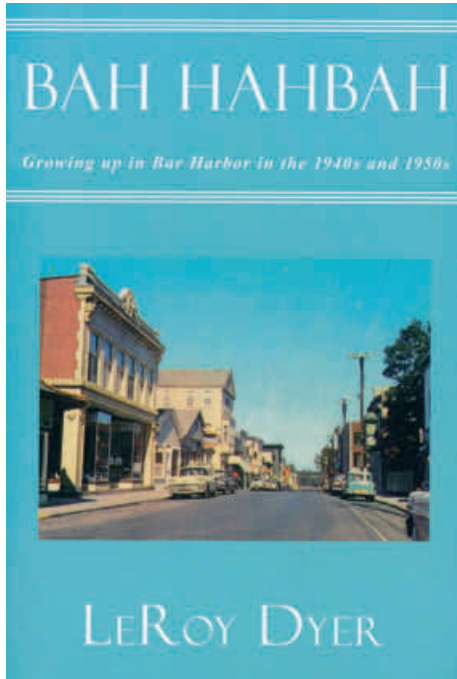
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Self-Published, 2014
Paperback. 232 pages

LeRoy Dyer's memoir of the first decades of his life offers an uncommon look at life in Bar Harbor before the 1947 fire changed it forever. With a vivid memory for detail he tells the story of an unremarkable childhood in a remarkable place. Sledding and marbles, accidents and summer jobs, favorite teachers and local sports heroes—these are tales any grandparent could tell. What sets this book apart is the setting of the young Acadia National Park's premier resort town, and the plain fact that Dyer has managed to collect so many stories into, well, a book.

A theme throughout is the contrast, in Dyer's young consciousness, between himself and his peers, and "the rich" (his words) who filled the town each summer. Caddying at the then-exclusive Kebo Valley Golf Course brought him into regular contact with wealthy summer folk, but his adventures sneaking into various places usually reserved for summer residents, including a

run-down Building of the Arts, reveal more about the mixture of starry-eyed curiosity and mild resentment he felt as a kid. Yet the main characters in the story are the townsfolk who peopled Dyer's year-round world; since it's easy to find books about the rusticators and summer colonies that loom large in Acadia's early years, Dyer's memories are a welcome addition to the total literature on Acadia National Park.

There are other stories of note to those who love Acadia. Lifeguarding at Sand Beach, assisting a surveyor working on the Loop Road and picnicking on the Porcupine Islands all highlight ways the park has changed (and resisted change!) over the years.

Some technical faults may mar some readers' enjoyment of this memoir. They might be tempted to skip over the descriptions of Bar Harbor High School faculty or Hancock Street neighbors. Resist that temptation. By the time the reader reaches the child's-eye view of the Fire of '47 at the end of the book, all those details have together brought that child very much to life; as 13-year-old LeRoy sits high in an elm by his home, watching the blaze sweep over Cadillac, the reader is there with him—and our understanding of that pivotal event is that much richer.

—Aimee Beal Church

A Snowy Owl Story
By Melissa Kim. Illustrated by Jada Fitch.
Islandport Press, 2015
Board book. 24 pages.

My 19-month-old son is the target audience for board books. As a father and a birder I am the target demographic to read to him *A Snowy Owl Story*.

My toddler likes to turn the pages of the board book and look at the pictures. I enjoy the subject matter and the story. Anyone interested in wildlife in the news or birds will no doubt be aware of the influx of snowy owls the last two years into areas far south of their usual winter range. This is due to an abundance of lemmings



in their home territories and consequently an abundance of baby owls being successfully raised and fledged. *A Snowy Owl Story* is described as based on a true story. I enjoyed reading Melissa Kim's narrative to my budding birder—the same stories we see in the news about the owls in our own community. Snowies at the airport, snowies in the park, snowies on rooftops in town.

As anyone who has read board books to a toddler knows, they can turn the pages themselves as you read to the end of the book—then turn to the front and read it all over again. I am not sure if the attention span of someone who just discovered his nose is more or less than that of a snowy owl, but I know you can read the same book more than a half dozen times in a row before they want to move on. To this end I enjoyed Jada Fitch's artwork: it is fresh, crisp, and a welcome change from other board books with overly bright primary colors.

This book is the first in Islandport Press's new series, "Wildlife on the move," and is published in coordination with Maine Audubon. Ten percent of the proceeds from the book go to help fund Maine Audubon's outreach program for underserved schools.

—Mike Staggs

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Advocacy Corner

MONEY WELL SPENT

Friends of Acadia's Advocacy Committee is a group of board members, staff, and volunteers each with a background and interest in government and public policy. The committee met in January to set advocacy goals—the whats and the hows—for the next two years. As a result of their work, Friends of Acadia will put its advocacy energy toward these objectives:

- Reauthorization of the federal National Park Service (NPS) fee legislation, which allows Acadia to keep 80% of fees collected in the park. The current legislation will sunset in fall of 2016; without it, Acadia will lose an important source of revenue.
- Reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) with full and permanent funding. LWCF, paid for by fees on the extraction of the country's natural resources like oil, is the primary source of funds for Acadia to acquire lands within park boundaries. The fund needs to be reauthorized in 2015.
- Strong federal appropriations for Acadia. It has always been Friends of Acadia's position that Congress should better fund the national parks. While the current Congressional climate may not be favorable to funding increases, the NPS centennial may offer an opportunity to encourage Congress to act.
- Establishment of a public/private matching program to support national parks for the centennial. In FY 2015, \$10 million was appropriated for this purpose, and President Obama has recommended \$50 million in FY 2016. A permanent, more robust program is needed to raise public/private investments in national parks.
- Improved funding for national park transit systems through the reauthorization of the federal transportation bill.

The committee also discussed a variety of ways to “advocate smarter” on behalf of Acadia over the next two years. FOA staff and Advocacy Committee members will

continue to lobby on Capitol Hill. A group met with the Maine delegation in January, and FOA President David MacDonald will visit again in March as part of the National Parks Friends Alliance, an informal affiliation of friends' organizations. Friends of Acadia will also continue to host members of Congress and their staff here at Acadia, but our aim will be to provide in-depth experiences, such as an introduction to the Acadia Youth Technology Team, rather than generic park tours. The Advocacy Committee will also explore ways to use technology such as QR codes in the park to encourage Acadia's visitors to advocate for the park.

The good news is that President Obama's FY 2016 budget, released in early February, calls for a 17% increase in NPS funding over FY 2015 levels, including an additional \$239 million in operational funding. This increase would return operational dollars to pre-sequestration levels. The proposed budget recommends robust funding for LWCF; the President requested \$400 million for LWCF and also asked that Congress reauthorize the fund and guarantee another \$500 million. If the budget passes as written, Acadia is slated to receive more than \$2.4 million for the purchase of several priority parcels of land, including a five-acre property on Round Pond that FOA and MCHT purchased from a willing seller in 2011. The organizations are holding the land until federal funding enables the park to purchase it. The private funding will then revolve into future priority land acquisitions for Acadia.

Overall, the National Park Service budget is about 1/15th of 1% of the federal budget. All of us at Friends of Acadia feel that this is money well spent, and we are working in partnership with fellow park advocates to remind Congress about how important national parks are as we enter the next century of conservation. 🌲

—Stephanie Clement

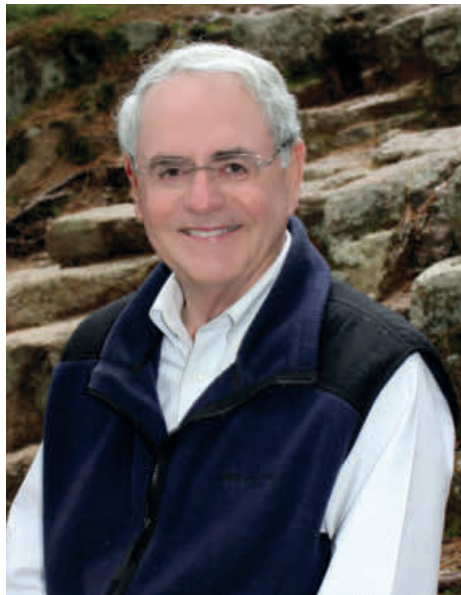
Friends of Acadia Journal

WE ARE THE FUTURE... AND THE PAST

The future *and* the past? This may seem contradictory, confusing, or just plain wrong. But, like so many things, meaning and “truth” depend on where you stand. If you were looking at our *today*—spring, 2015—from 1916, the year of Acadia National Park’s birth; or from the vantage point of 1986, when Friends of Acadia was formed—you would clearly view 2015 as the future.

If those who preceded us had not worked to respect, protect, and preserve Acadia National Park, ours would be a very different—and diminished—experience. We, who are *their future* benefit greatly from what they did. They have become *our past*. Now, it is our turn—in fact our responsibility and obligation—to plan for *our future* so that our children, our grandchildren, and the generations to come will be able to look back to how we thoughtfully, wisely, and effectively planned for *their present* in what they will see as *their past*.

For example: it’s easy to understand why the Cadillac summit is one of the busiest spots in Acadia. At 1,532 feet it features sweeping views, a rare sub-alpine environment, and the first sunrise in the continental US in wintertime. When you get up so high—to stand on the shoulders of Acadia—your view of the world is altered: broader, more encompassing, more



inspiring! No wonder Cadillac’s summit sees up to six thousand visitors *per day* during Acadia’s peak season.

But look closely and you’ll see that the Cadillac summit is challenged by buses too large to safely navigate the Summit Road’s hairpin curves and threatened by a century of visitors’ footsteps on delicate native flora. Today, Friends of Acadia is partnering with Acadia National Park to research, design, and pilot solutions to identified challenges and threats as quickly as possible, to assure that the Cadillac summit will continue to inspire visitors well into the future.

Similarly, we are engaged with the park on such concerns as 1) the impact of auto congestion on the visitor experience and park preservation, and 2) how to connect youth with Acadia in the 21st century, which likely means balancing the *timeless appeal* of parks to kids with the *changing appeal* of parks to kids—and understanding the difference.

The conservationists and stewards who today are Friends of Acadia stand on the shoulders of those individuals who came before us: the park founders, CCC crews, land donors, Hudson River School artists, generous financial supporters, and so many others who for more than a hundred years have created and protected the Acadia we know and love today. Among the accomplishments of Friends of Acadia over our almost-30-year history are the restoration and endowment of the carriage roads and hiking trails; the creation and funding of youth-stewardship opportunities like the Ridge Runners, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and Acadia Youth Technology Team; and the introduction and support of the environmentally friendly Island Explorer bus system.

•••

I know that “without *you*, there is no *us*.” Whether you are a volunteer, a donor, or other supporter, those achievements would not have happened without support from you and those like you. This is the time of year that Friends of Acadia reaches out to all members to ask them to renew their membership for another year. I hope that each of you who are a member will do so. I hope that those of you who are not yet members but enjoy this magazine and enjoy the park and will consider joining this year.

Thank you for sharing your love and appreciation for Acadia National Park. 🌲

—Edward L. Samek



Spring in the Mist on Beech Cliffs.

Friends of Acadia/Aimee Beal Church

LIVING AND WORKING BETWEEN MOUNTAINS AND SEA

By Gail Leiser

I'm one lucky woman. For almost 30 years I've been able to call Bar Harbor home and have Acadia National Park as my backyard. What a gift to raise a family and run a business in a small town, surrounded by the mountains and the sea!

My husband, Rick, and I own Galyn's Restaurant. There is no doubt that without Acadia we would not have the successful business we have today. Acadia draws millions of visitors and we get to meet and serve thousands of them. They come to Acadia and soak in its magic. Some, like us, decide to stay forever. Others come back year after year, longing to make this place home. Many are here for the first time, but almost always vow to come back.

Galyn's staff is made up of local folks as well as seasonal residents. But regardless of where they've come from, having access to Acadia is a big part of their reason for working on Mount Desert Island. Where else can you watch the sunrise from a mountaintop, take a run through the woods, or bike along the ocean before heading into work?

Over the years we've had the opportunity to get to know many of the visitors to Acadia who also frequent Galyn's. Two of our favorite guests are a retired couple from Pennsylvania. They come to Bar Harbor for two weeks every year to volunteer with Friends of Acadia and help maintain the trails in the park. They've spent a lifetime enjoying Acadia, and now they give back through

opportunities offered by FOA. They are wonderful role-models for us and our staff members and they provide a valuable service to Acadia.

Because of our work schedule, Rick and I actually spend very little time in the park during the summer season. We do enjoy taking a "vacation day" occasionally and driving over to Schoodic to sit on the rocks, soak in the sun, and enjoy the quiet and the view of our island home. It's just an hour away, but a great place to slow down for a bit and appreciate nature's gifts.

Late fall and winter are our time to really enjoy Acadia. With or without snow, the park is a beautiful place in winter—and the views are fabulous when there are no leaves on the trees! We are fortunate to live very near to some of the connector trails Friends of Acadia has helped to create, and the Kebo Brook Trail has become a favorite. A short walk out our front door leads to a lovely walk through the woods and on to multiple hiking trail options.

When the snow flies it's time to strap on the snowshoes. With a blanket of snow Acadia seems like the setting of a fairy tale—glistening and quiet, the landscape takes on new shapes and textures to create a profound beauty and sense of calm.

Our family and business are very pleased to support Friends of Acadia and the important work it does. We are very fortunate to have a strong local organization partnering with the National Park Service to help to preserve Acadia for generations to come. ❧

GAIL AND RICK LEISER moved to Bar Harbor in the spring of 1986 after a late fall stay in Blackwoods Campground. They raised three children here and now enjoy sharing Acadia with their grandchildren. Their restaurant, Galyn's, is open from mid-March through November. www.galynsbarharbor.com



Rick Leiser

Gail Leiser, snowshoeing on the Hemlock Road near Sieur de Monts this winter.

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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.



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Erick Swanson

Drake wood ducks on a western-MDI pond

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.