

Friends of  
ACADIA  
Journal

Winter 2015  
Volume 20 No. 3

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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## USING A MILESTONE TO REDIRECT THE ROAD

For many of us, a birthday ending in a zero is not something we look forward to. My recent passage into my fifties included a fair share of angst and gray hair. But aside from—and sometimes, *because of*—the gray, entering a new decade can also inspire reflection, celebration, a determination to tackle ambitious goals, and a reason to connect with friends old and new.

With Acadia National Park's 100<sup>th</sup> year just about here, Friends of Acadia is truly excited about what 2016 will bring. From the early hours of January 1, when a handful of hearty souls will hike or ski up Cadillac Mountain to greet the first Acadia Centennial sunrise, to the long days of summer full of opportunities to celebrate Acadia's past and inspire its future, we hope that all of you will be part of this historic year for our beloved park.

Acadia's surrounding communities have embraced the Acadia Centennial as a chance to convey what is unique about this park and our relationships with it; to honor the vision of park founders and the public service of thousands of park employees who have contributed to this place over the years; and to discuss and act on ways to strengthen the park going forward. FOA is grateful to more than 240 businesses, individuals, and partner organizations that have stepped forward with centennial ideas and contributions. Visit [www.acadiacentennial2016.org](http://www.acadiacentennial2016.org) for both a description of these Acadia Centennial Partners and a calendar of events that continues to expand each week.

Together with this building excitement, however, comes a natural question: with parking lots and Island Explorer buses at times overflowing this past summer, will the celebration compound an existing capacity problem at Acadia?

I believe that 2016 is an opportunity to tap new public interest around the centennial, as well as the creativity and commitment that have long run deep here at



FOA

Acadia, to take these questions beyond a single calendar year and truly set the direction for Acadia's next century.

If those who come in 2016 have greater opportunities to learn about Acadia's past and be engaged in shaping its future, then Acadia will be the better for it. Better yet, if this interaction plays out not just at busy spots like Cadillac or Jordan Pond during the busiest weeks of summer, but rather throughout the year and throughout the region in theaters, libraries, schools, art galleries, and festivals, we will be both relieving pressure on iconic park sites and deepening appreciation for all that our communities have to offer.

2016 will also be the year in which the National Park Service begins to shape alternatives under the Acadia transportation planning process it launched this year. FOA believes that Acadia must be a national leader on forward-looking and sustainable transportation practices that protect the Acadia experience and the natural qualities that inspired the park founders 100 years ago. What better time than 2016 to deepen these discussions and explore new approaches to providing the best possible Acadia experience?

I am also very pleased that the centennial year will kick off with Acadia's new

superintendent, Kevin Schneider, on the job and contributing immediately to this important work. While I had little doubt that the Acadia posting would attract a highly qualified field of applicants, I know that we are particularly lucky to have landed someone with Kevin's credentials. As both acting and deputy superintendent at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, Kevin has overseen a park with similar visitation and resource protection issues as Acadia, and has done so working closely with a successful friends group and dozens of other community partners. His earlier experience at parks like Yellowstone as well as years spent working as a communications and policy specialist in Washington make him a perfect addition to the Acadia team.

All of us owe thanks to NPS Northeast Regional Director Mike Caldwell for including Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute in the search process and for prioritizing a timely selection so that Acadia's leadership won't miss a beat at this critical time. I also want to recognize the wisdom of Kevin's predecessor, Sheridan Steele, who surprised many of us by retiring *before* the centennial. Sheridan realized that the centennial year would be a terrific opportunity for a new superintendent to be smack in the middle of a critical chapter in Acadia's history.

I hope that each of you will join Superintendent Schneider and his staff, Friends of Acadia, and our many partners in the surrounding communities in launching Acadia's second century of conservation throughout the coming year of 2016—and well beyond! ✱

—David R. MacDonald

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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## MARISE AND BOB HARTLEY: DEDICATION AND DILIGENCE

**“Walking one of Acadia’s trails brings pleasure. Working on that trail magnifies the pleasure through a sense of ownership.”**

Bob Hartley, a Friends of Acadia trail crew leader since 2009, gives this response when asked why he devotes a tremendous amount of time and labor working with other Friends of Acadia volunteers each summer to maintain and improve the trails in Acadia National Park.

Bob and his wife of nearly 60 years, Marise, personify the dedication and diligence of Friends of Acadia’s matchless volunteers. When Bob agreed to become a crew leader, Marise knew that she would have more time to spare and wanted to help Friends of Acadia in other ways. For the last seven years she has been a regular volunteer in the FOA office, working on mailings and other projects during their summer stay on Mount Desert Island.

Both Marise and Bob are especially valuable to the staff because they are willing to do whatever is needed, whenever it is needed, often on short notice. “Bob is one of those volunteers who is a stalwart,” says Anna Adams, stewardship coordinator. “He will do anything big or small that will make the trail crew volunteer program better. He is the first one to volunteer if someone needs to cancel, and if we have more volunteers than usual he will pitch in to drive an additional van.”

Anna also cites Bob’s creativity and initiative. When the trail crew volunteers helped to build the Trenton Trail at the Acadia Gateway Center, Bob fabricated what he calls a “contraption” for hauling lumber, making the work easier and more efficient. Assuming the responsibility for scheduling the trail crew volunteers in 2011—a job that Anna calls “an enormous administrative task”—he discovered a website, VolunteerSpot, that makes it easy for all of the volunteers to create and manage their own schedules. Bob also has worked on con-

struction projects including the park’s fire building and a toolshed addition.

Sharon Broom, development officer, calls Marise “a go-to person when I need a volunteer on short notice. She is always willing to come to the office and work for several hours on whatever is needed until the job is finished.” Last summer Marise contributed 40 hours to FOA, spending most of the time packaging 750 sets of “Acadia by Night” note cards and envelopes. She even took boxes of the note cards home so she could package them in the evenings.

Marise and Bob arrived in Acadia in 2008 with a long history of service to local, state, and national parks and the Army Corps of Engineers. They had traveled in a motorhome for 18 years, moving to park locations around the country to serve as hosts for a season. One example is their volunteer work at Bonneville Lock and Dam, located on the Columbia River on the Washington-Oregon border, where Bob staffed the welcome desk and Marise operated the bookstore. Describing their experiences in an article for the Escapees RV Club magazine, Bob wrote that visitors “expect something special, and they should not be disappointed... They are here on vacation looking for relaxation, information, and entertainment, and it’s my job to smile and get them to grin in return.” The article described their volunteer positions as “close to utopia.” Now they bring that same ideal of service to Acadia.

Like many people, Marise and Bob first became aware of the Friends of Acadia volunteer program when they watched the trail crew volunteers’ “Imprecision Drill Team” brandishing their tools and wheelbarrows in the Bar Harbor Fourth of July parade. Noting that these people their age were thoroughly enjoying themselves, the couple decided to find out more about the program and Bob soon joined the trail crew volunteers.

Marise and Bob spend the winter in DeBary, Florida and live from April to October in Mount Desert. The two met and married in Florida in 1956 while both were in



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

*Marise and Bob Hartley personify the dedication and diligence of Friends of Acadia’s matchless volunteers.*

the Air Force. They soon moved to Maine where Bob earned a degree in civil engineering at the University of Maine and Marise raised their two children. Returning to Maine was a homecoming for Marise, who is a native of Dexter. Bob was familiar with the Maine coast from childhood vacations when he was growing up in New York City. Their next home was in New York State for 27 years, where Bob worked for the Department of Transportation and Marise was employed by the Veterans Administration.

In addition to their volunteer activities in parks around the country, Bob has hiked the Appalachian Trail and has traveled around the world by freighter—experiences that inspired him to author two books, *Care to Join Me? Day by Day on the Appalachian Trail* and *Around the World by Freightier: Discover Your World from a Cargo Ship*. The latter was well reviewed by the Philadelphia Enquirer.

Marise and Bob have found two very different ways of supporting Friends of Acadia in volunteer jobs that suit their own interests and abilities. As Bob explains, the friends they have met through volunteering are another important reason why they serve. “I went hiking with five other guys in Baxter State Park recently and four of them were trail crew leaders,” he said. “Our closest friends in Maine are people that we know through volunteering for Friends of Acadia.” ❀

—Sharon Broom

### Experiencing Acadia

We are the Dedham sixth grade. Thank you for sponsoring our trip to the new Schoodic campgrounds. We did lots of fun things like collecting soil samples, and collecting and learning about things we find while we explored tide pools. We also learned many new things, like creatures live in a lot more places than we thought, like under seaweed.

One of the many things we loved was the night hike, and we enjoyed trying to see things and testing our senses by smelling things, looking at things, and touching things and then guessing what they were. Everyone's favorite part of the night hike was the end when we did a surprising and cool thing with Lifesavers [candy]. Thank you!

—The Dedham sixth graders  
*Dedham, ME*

### Poetry for the Park

My wife, Donna, and I did a presentation at the Oceanside Meadows Inn [Prospect Harbor, Maine] in August. The tradition there, often, is to collect donations for charity. We collected the enclosed amount for you. Two of the poems I read were published in the FOA Journal. Poetry does not always draw a big crowd, but we were pleased to have 25 or so engaged poetry and art fans. We are pleased, as well, to help your good cause.

—Doug Woodsum  
*Smithfield, ME*

### Protecting Natural and Cultural Resources

Recently Acadia National Park sought to rehabilitate Kebo Brook Bridge as part of a larger effort to maintain seven historic motor road bridges. Although a cultural resource listed on the National Historic Register, the bridge traverses Kebo Brook, a protected stream. In order to protect water quality, resource staff advocated heavily for environmental considerations to take priority during the rehabilitation. Our contractor exceeded our expectation by designing and installing a one of a kind tem-

porary boardwalk. The wooden structure allows personnel easy access to the granite stones located inside the barrel, prevents material such as grout, sandblast cast-off, and limestone from entering the stream, and preserves the stream banks and sensitive mosses by reducing foot traffic.

This project encapsulates many of the values Acadia staff work to protect. Further, creating buy-in for resource protection with the contractor was essential to developing and implementing this solution.

—Chris Buczko, Acadia National Park environmental protection coordinator

### Pleasure and Respect

I have supported Friends of Acadia for a number of years now. John and I are on Mt. Desert for only one week with our five children, living in my grandfather's house (built in 1905). We now have 13 grandchildren ages 11 to 27. Our children, and theirs, are enthusiastic cyclists and climbers. We use all your trails and carriage roads with great pleasure and, I trust, respect. Thank you for all you do to keep the park in such good shape.

—Molly and John Beard  
*Wayland, MA*

### Dedicated Volunteers Feel Appreciated

Thank you so much for the [volunteer appreciation] party you threw for us. The trivia game was a lot of fun and a great idea for a cocktail-type party. One of the coolest parts of being an FOA volunteer is how appreciated I always feel and how much you all do to make the volunteer experience rewarding. Thank you for the party and the other 364 days of the year!

—Jenn Brandt  
*Mount Desert, ME*

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

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

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Rachael Gerhard

Katrina Gerhard on the Ship Harbor Nature Trail

## Acadia on Wheels

For several months I have observed the renovation of the inner loop at Ship Harbor to make it handicapped accessible. This new reconstruction is vastly improved over the earlier renovation in 2001.

A few weeks ago when my partner, Joe Snider, was hosting his sister and her daughter and granddaughter for a visit to the island, we introduced his grandniece to the handicapped loop. Joe's grandniece Katrina is seventeen and confined to a wheelchair. She is an amazing wheelchair competitor and travels far and wide for competitions. She is also an amazing young woman full of life, energy, and enthusiasm for adventure. When she heard about the new handicapped trail, she was ready to try it out. We were not allowed to help one tiny bit...no assisting on the hills! Here are a few photos showing Katrina using her wheelchair on the trail. You can see that she was enjoying the experience. Katrina will be a freshman at the University of Illinois this fall as a pre-med student and is on the school's wheelchair racing team.

—Ellen Church  
Bass Harbor, Maine

*Editor's Note: We caught up with Katrina via email in mid-October, the week after she raced in the Chicago Marathon. We asked her about that experience, and about her visit to Acadia. Here's what she told us:*

This was my first time in Maine and I'd never seen Acadia before. It was so beautiful! I was spending a weekend with my mother, grandmother, and great-uncle (who lives there). I enjoyed visiting and it was really nice to have an accessible trail.

I liked the hiking trail [Ship Harbor] a lot, especially where it looks out over the little bay. The trail was a little bumpy because of the stones, but I was able to get around on it very well. Another accessible trail that I went to was at the very top of Cadillac Mountain, where the ramp sort of winds in and out of the steps. That was cool.

I haven't been to many parks or hiking trails recently, but in my experience, they aren't very wheelchair accessible. I think that people sometimes feel that it would be too much effort to make a trail that's catered to such a specific need, but it means a lot to me when people take the time to make something accessible.

*And the marathon?*

Yes! I did the Chicago Marathon last week. It went wonderfully. I finished 7<sup>th</sup> and qualified for the Boston Marathon with a time of 2:01:58. It was my first marathon ever, and I'm very pleased with how it went.



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Notes from Friends continued...

## Caring for the Carriage Roads

*Editor's Note: We received a number of letters about the opinion piece, "Carriage Road Courtesy for All" in the spring 2015 Journal and a response letter, "More on Carriage Road Courtesy," published in the summer 2015 issue. The common theme in all is the great care and appreciation so many people have for the carriage roads, and we share some excerpts in that spirit.*

Horse manure scent dissipates quickly. Sure, the droppings remain. But they are easy to avoid, and they remind us that Acadia, for the carriage horses and their drivers, is a working landscape.

This reminds me of a story in my latest book, *Nature Wars*. De-natured urbanites buying country abodes in bucolic Ottawa County, Michigan, on the shores of Lake Michigan, expected a kind of outdoor museum in which the views never changed and the smells were all pleasant. The concept of a working landscape didn't occur to them. But the county is 38% farms, with their requisite noise, dust and smells. So to help educate them, the county in 2003 published a brochure that included a scratch 'n' sniff sample of what manure smells like.

In 1899, more than 1,000 horses arrived on Mt. Desert Island by ferry each summer to transport rusticators and "excursionists" (now called tourists) and, no doubt, flummox sensitive-nosed summer people.

—Jim Sterba  
*New York, NY and Mount Desert, ME*

As a dog owner who enjoys walking the carriage roads and hiking the trails with my dog, I am mindful of the need to clean up after my pet. There is no article of clothing I own that doesn't sport "poop bags" in its pockets, and my hiking backpack or waistpack always totes its supply of plastic bags as well. That dogs are permitted in Acadia (unlike many other national parks) is a great privilege, and so whether it is the law or simply the right thing to do, I try to be conscious of cleaning up after my dog. Therefore, it always has confounded me how the large amounts of horse manure is "allowed" to remain on the paths.

Horse-drawn carriages in Central Park and in other urban environments have the horses outfitted with odd-looking "slings" that catch the waste before it hits the ground; perhaps something similar could be made available to riders on the carriage roads in Acadia. Why not have horse riders abide by the same rules that dog walkers are asked to obey? It will make the carriage road experience more enjoyable for everyone.

—Laurie Feldman  
*Newton Centre, MA and Hall Quarry, ME*

These roads were built for carriage rides in the mountains. Using horses on these roads is historically accurate and appropriate. When I see a carriage and horses on these roads, I am absolutely thrilled.

For 10 years, I have driven a horse and carriage on Swan's Island. Whenever my horse left manure on the road, islanders would thank me for the additional compost for their vegetable gardens. Unlike dogs, horses are herbivores, like deer. They do not eat meat. Horse manure, moose droppings, or deer droppings do not smell anything like dog poop. Farmers live with their manure every day, and recycle it to replenish this country's precious topsoil.

—Linda Cabot Black  
*Cambridge, MA and Swan's Island, ME*

The carriage roads were built specifically for horse and carriage by Mr. Rockefeller. I have driven and rode my horse on them for many years and the tourists I have met are thrilled to see a horse and carriage go by. No one has ever asked us to remove our equines' manure and if they did I would do my best to oblige. In some instances it is not safe to stop your horse to do this due to a crowded area or a nervous horse and does the National Park Service want us to toss it into the woods? It is almost impossible to carry it with you astride a horse and cumbersome in your carriage. I believe I am speaking for many equestrians who make a long journey each year to enjoy this amazing park with their horses and Mr. Rockefeller would be pleased it is still used for what he intended.

—Carol Carpenter  
*Monson, MA*

## IN NOMINE

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June 1–September 30, 2015



*A venerable carriage road sign.*

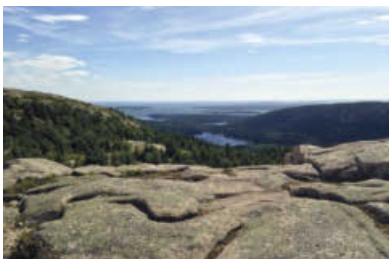
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**Where in Acadia?** A peaceful carriage road curving uphill in the late afternoon sun. Classic granite coping stones on each side. Low clouds kissing mountain summits in the distance. Is this one of your go-to favorite stretches of Acadia's historic carriage road system, or do you see a surprisingly unfamiliar view? If you think you can locate this section of carriage road (using either intersection numbers or land-forms), email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:editor@friendsofacadia.org) and include a personal story or memory from this place. We'll print our favorite response in the next issue of the *Journal* and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writer.



### Summer 2015 Where in Acadia?

This picture is the view from Sargent Mountain looking out towards the Western Way. Upper Hadlock Pond is the closest body of water followed by Lower Hadlock Pond. Greenings Island and the entrance to Southwest Harbor are in the distance. One great way to traverse this location is to start from Jordan Pond House and proceed up Penobscot and across to Sargent then descend toward Parkman Mountain and down the Giant Slide trail to Route 3. The route up Penobscot and Sargent is mostly over multicolored lichen-covered granite, which is visible in the picture. And you can take a dip on the way in the mountain pond that is nestled between Penobscot and Sargent.

—Frank Roberts, *Arlington, Virginia and Southwest Harbor, Maine*

Early in the summer of 2015 I completed a fundraising walk for the College of the Atlantic where I climbed 40 of ANP's named peaks in one 27 hour stretch (I was trying for one day but didn't make it). After knocking off a lot of the western-side peaks in the dark and early morning hours, the day started to turn hot. I call this section the "Acadian Six-Pack" because you can do a nice loop to hit Parkman, Bald, Gilmore, Sargent, Penobscot, and Cedar Swamp mountains in quick succession. I had to take a short nap at this spot on top of Parkman Mountain—a couple who summited after me was a little worried when they found me sprawled on the rocks! What an amazing spot.

—Darron Collins, *Bar Harbor, Maine*

# CELEBRATING A CENTURY OF ACADIA

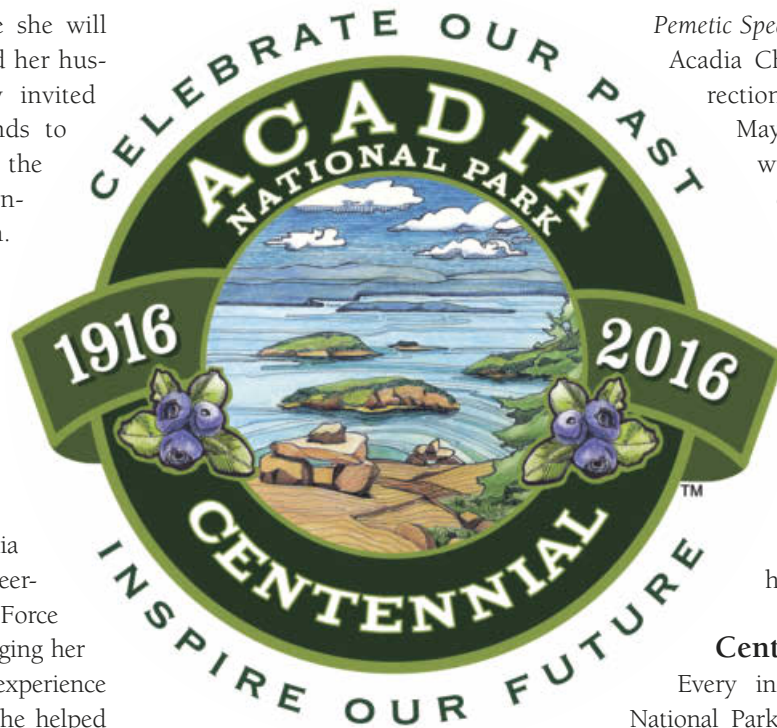
By Aimee Beal Church

Julie Veilleux knows where she will be on January first: she and her husband, Greg, have already invited their grown son and his friends to come up from Portland to greet the first sunrise of Acadia's centennial year atop Cadillac Mountain. Showing off a display of Acadia Centennial products in her Bar Harbor shop, Window Panes, Julie can't suppress a grin when she talks about the Acadia Centennial. "It's exciting. It's a big deal to celebrate 100 years—a party that nobody should miss!"

Julie, now a Friends of Acadia board member, started out volunteering on the Acadia Centennial Task Force when it was just gearing up, bringing her love for the park and her long experience as a local retailer to the effort. She helped with the contest to select the Acadia Centennial logo and contributed many hours to the centennial products component of the celebration—planning how the logo would be licensed and how to inspire businesses to become Acadia Centennial Partners (ACPs) by designing their own centennial products and services, donating a percentage from the proceeds to benefit the park.

By all measures, that effort is already a success, with products from hats and magnets to centennial-themed books and limited-edition artworks available or on the way. She exclaims, "I am so excited about the products that have sold thus far—to know that people are buying into this and want to collect these pieces. It's awesome to be able to be a partner in this way, to do our share and when it's done be able to say, wow—*look what we were able to give back for park projects and programs.*"

Choral conductor and composer George Emlen has ties to Acadia through both family and music. Since 1979 he has led groups



including the Mount Desert Summer Chorale and the Acadia Choral Society; the latter has commissioned from him a new work as part of the 2016 celebration. Explaining the genesis of *Pemetic Speaks*, scored for one cello and chorus, George describes a hike up Pemetic Mountain in October. "It was a beautiful day, and I sat there on the rocks and looked around, and just started scribbling. It was magical the way the words came. *Pemetic* is the Native American name for the mountain range of MDI, and this piece represents the voice of the island—as it spoke to me that day, and as it speaks to anybody who sets foot here.

"There's a lot of support for this whole celebration and it's clear that Mount Desert Island has been incredibly fertile ground for the arts for a long time—certainly throughout the history of Acadia it's been an amazing magnet for artists of all kinds. How can you not be inspired when you come to Acadia? That's what happened to me on Pemetic."

*Pemetic Speaks* will be premiered by the Acadia Choral Society, under the direction of Dr. Jamie Hagedorn, on May 7th and 8th. George Emlen will also contribute to the Acadia Centennial as a conductor, organizing and leading the Centennial Singers, a group of 100 singers brought together especially for the August 27<sup>th</sup> ceremony at Jordan Pond honoring Acadia and the National Park Service in their 100<sup>th</sup> year. Open auditions for the group will be held early in 2016.

## Centennial Themes

Every individual who visits Acadia National Park experiences its natural and cultural treasures through the lens of their own personal perspective. Likewise, every Acadia Centennial Partner brings to the celebration its own relationship with the park. Although each relationship is unique, many share common themes, several of which have been identified as particularly significant to the celebration, even having contributed in various ways to the very founding of Acadia. These include the arts, gardens and landscapes, history, science, kids and teens, and recreation and outdoor activities.

Acadia's natural treasures have inspired significant scientific research for much more than a century. The George B. Dorr Museum at College of the Atlantic will honor that legacy through student-created and student-curated exhibitions showcasing the importance of Acadia in the lives and work of COA students, faculty, and staff. Museum director Carrie Graham explains that students and alumni are involved with the park through research, recreation, volunteering, and employment. "Acadia National Park is



A display of Acadia centennial products at Window Panes.

important to the COA curriculum and we want to showcase our 40-year partnership.” For example, “We will have an exhibit in the touch-tank room on policy challenges of the intertidal zone in Acadia: the tension between public access versus protecting these sensitive areas. The park has been using our touch-tank for ranger-led tours, to reduce the pressure on real tide pools in the park, so it’s really perfect.”

Other exhibits will highlight student senior projects like research on coastal hawk migration and river otter distribution in the park, film clips of interviews with community members about observing climate change in Acadia, and others. A photography exhibit will feature famous landscape paintings of Acadia such as those by Hudson-River school painters, re-created by students in a course titled “Biology through the Lens.” And an exhibit in the museum’s lobby will focus on Acadia’s founding superintendent George Dorr and his legacy as a human ecologist—appropriately, since the museum building housed the original ANP headquarters and Dorr’s own office.

### Planning Your Centennial Year

Although the park’s official “birthday” is July 8<sup>th</sup>, celebration organizers emphasize that this is a year-long celebration. “From informal sunrise viewing on January first through the sealing of the Acadia bicentennial time capsule in December, we will be

celebrating Acadia’s centennial throughout 2016,” says Task Force co-chair Cookie Horner. The variety of events is staggering, each one lovingly planned and executed by one of more than 240 Acadia Centennial Partners to honor their own unique relationship with the park. Events will be spread throughout the Acadia region and throughout Maine, emphasizing the close and rich relationship Acadia’s surrounding communities have with the park.

Co-chair Jack Russell adds, “Everyone is invited to take part in a variety of events and activities that both speaks to their own interests and, hopefully, expands their understanding of what makes Acadia so special.” In other words: do something you love *and* learn something new. A very partial listing of events accompanies this article, but events are being continually added to the centennial website at [www.acadiacentennial2016.org](http://www.acadiacentennial2016.org) as plans are finalized and additional ACPs get involved.

Julie Veilleux points to Bar Harbor’s centennial-themed 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and the Maine Windjammer Association’s schooner parade at Somes Sound in August as two events she’s particularly looking forward to. FOA president David MacDonald notes that he’s excited about all of the art—“the original compositions, the paintings, and the books that have been inspired by the centennial.”

These include no fewer than six per-

# Acadia Centennial

## 2016 CALENDAR PREVIEW

### Maine Arts Commission

#### Exhibit: Acadia-Inspired Artists

December 2015–April 8

At the Capitol Building in Augusta.

### Acadia Centennial Lecture Series

Throughout 2016

Prominent Acadia-area leaders and national experts will give Acadia-themed presentations on a broad range of perspectives on conservation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

### Acadia 100 Challenge for Teachers and Students

Throughout 2016

Create a class or individual project to celebrate 100 years of Acadia. Create your own “100-themed” idea then share it on the centennial website to showcase your classroom work and earn Acadia Centennial incentives for your students.

### Bean Supper and Centennial Kickoff Film

January 25

Come for delicious baked beans and the premier of a film produced by Acadia-area filmmaker Peter Logue, offering an overview of many exciting Acadia Centennial events and activities to come in 2016!

### One Park / One Read

Throughout February

Join our surrounding community libraries for a cozy community read that will get everyone reading and discussing three books that celebrate Acadia National Park, Mount Desert Island, and Maine. Each of the participating libraries will host book discussions and other fun happenings throughout the month.

### Acadia Quest Centennial Edition

May–November

A centennial adventure in Acadia! Youth- and family-centered challenges to be completed at your family’s own pace, created by Friends of Acadia and Acadia’s Interpretive Rangers, designed to inspire kids to explore and protect Acadia.

**Auto Wars at the Seal Cove Auto Museum**

Opening April 30

Automobiles were just beginning to have an impact on American society when Acadia was formed, but their effect on the young park was to be significant and broad-reaching. This exhibit explores the impact of community decisions on the landscape 100 years ago and today, through a choose-your-own-adventure exhibit.

**Designing Acadia**

May–December

The Maine Historical Society in Portland will present an exhibition exploring the contribution of Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. to the conception, design, and layout of Acadia National Park.

**Acadia Choral Society Concert**

May 7 & 8

A nature-themed concert featuring a work commissioned for the Acadia Centennial by renowned composer George Emlen.

**Park Science Day in Acadia**

June 25

Join park scientists and naturalists for a fun-filled afternoon of Acadia science at Sieur de Monts.

**Bar Harbor Brass Week Finale**

June 25

A world-class concert featuring a piece commissioned in honor of Acadia's founding.

**Bar Harbor Fourth of July Parade**

Join the Acadia Centennial Celebration by watching centennial floats in Bar Harbor's July 4<sup>th</sup> parade.

**The Garden Club of Mount Desert Open Garden Day**

July 23

Visit a selection of private gardens on Mount Desert Island, some dating from the early 1900s.

**Maine Windjammers Association Windjammers Parade**

August 2

Maine's legendary fleet of windjammers will sail in company through Somes Sound. A sight not to be missed!

forming groups that have commissioned and will premier Acadia-inspired works in 2016. There will be art exhibitions at many locations, from "first Friday" art walks to the Capitol Building in Augusta. Broadcast and print media coverage will include an Acadia Centennial-focused edition of *Down East* magazine, a special supplement in the *Mount Desert Islander* and *Ellsworth American*, television and radio features on Maine Public Broadcasting stations, and coverage of centennial happenings by local radio station Star 97.7—all Acadia Centennial Signature Sponsors, who have pledged significant in-kind support for the celebration.

The honor roll of Signature Sponsors also includes Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, EMHS, the Hinckley Company, the Jackson Laboratory, the Knowles Company, L.L.Bean, and Ocean Properties Hotels & Resorts. Friends of Acadia is grateful to these businesses and organizations for their leadership contributions to the Acadia Centennial.

**Friends of Acadia and the Centennial**

As the park partner most focused on connecting individuals with Acadia, Friends of Acadia has been committed to the centennial effort from the start and will be much involved in the celebration. FOA will continue to coordinate the Centennial Task Force and maintain the website at [acadiacentennial2016.org](http://acadiacentennial2016.org). Several temporary positions will be hired by FOA to coordinate centennial social media and assist Acadia staff with their 2016 efforts. *The Friends of Acadia Journal* and other FOA publications will greatly focus on the centennial celebration and the issue of conservation of Acadia in its second century. And FOA staff and volunteers will be involved in many centennial events and offerings—as planners, as presenters, and certainly as attendees!

A number of annual FOA events will get a centennial inflection: Acadia Quest will have an emphasis on the park's history, Take Pride in Acadia Day will be an opportunity to celebrate the importance of volunteers to the park, the Annual Benefit will have a centennial theme, and FOA's Annual Meeting will be held on Acadia's 100th birthday—July 8, 2016—and will feature David MacDonald's contribution to the Acadia Centennial Lec-

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**Everyone is invited to take part in a variety of events and activities that both speaks to their own interests and, hopefully, expands their understanding of what makes Acadia so special.**

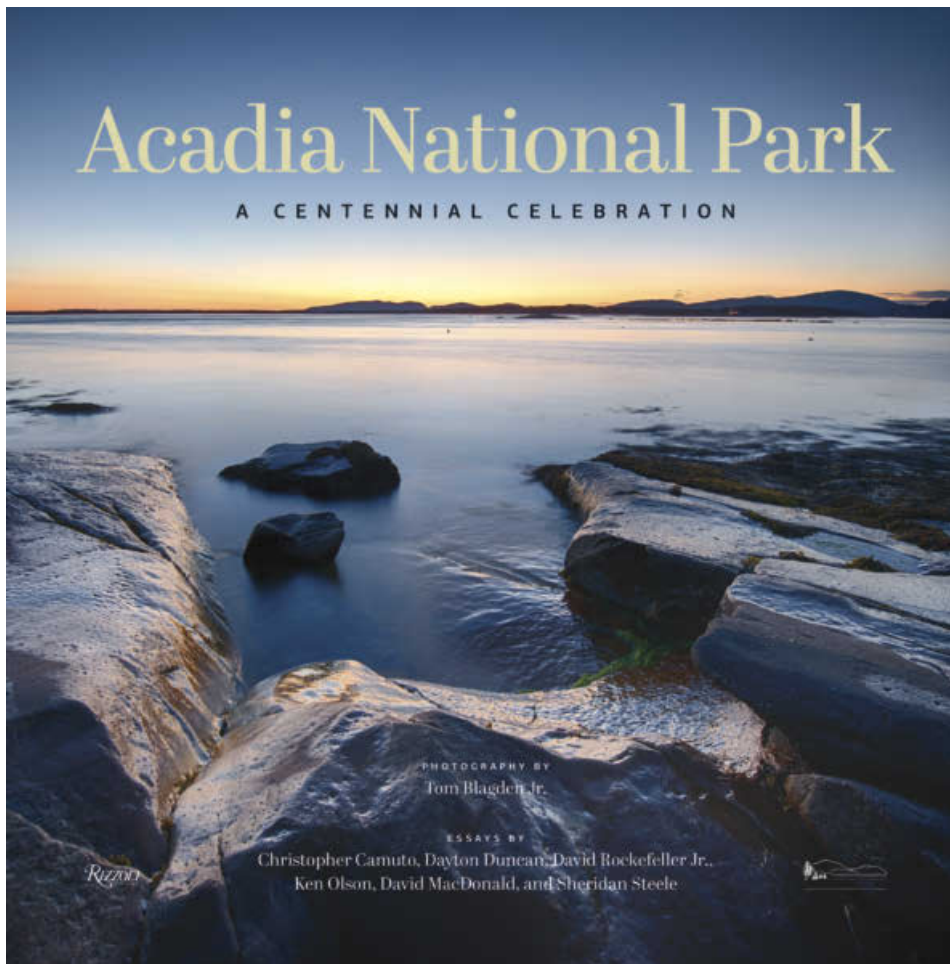
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ture Series on conservation in the 21st century. In addition, FOA is working on some special events—we'll share details in the early months of 2016.

Those books that David mentions include two that will be published in spring of 2016 by or in partnership with FOA; both will be must-have additions to every Acadia lover's library.

Although he is known as the "father of Acadia" Dorr's seminal contributions to the American environmental movement have gone largely unacknowledged and the story of his life has never been fully explored. Author Ronald Epp's painstaking research both in the US and abroad, including federal, state, and private archives, newly-discovered and uncatalogued sources, and in-person interviews have resulted in *Creating Acadia National Park: the Biography of George Bucknam Dorr*, a monumental biography that is greatly anticipated in the Acadia community. A number of readings and other events are planned to celebrate its publication.

Landscape and wildlife photographer Tom Blagden has long supported Friends of Acadia by donating the use of his images to help communicate the magnificence of Acadia's natural treasures. For the Acadia Centennial, FOA is pleased to be partnering with Rizzoli New York to publish *Acadia National Park: a Centennial Celebration*, featuring 150 stunning Blagden photographs and essays by David Rockefeller Jr., David MacDonald, Sheridan Steele, Ken Olson, Christopher Camuto, Christopher Crosman, and Dayton Duncan—together celebrating the essence of this special place and offering a journey into Acadia's past, present, and future. Exhibits of the photographs are scheduled at College of the Atlantic's Blum Gallery and the Courthouse Gallery in Ellsworth, among other locations.



Sales of both books will directly benefit Friends of Acadia. FOA members and Acadia visitors can also contribute to the celebration by purchasing official Acadia Centennial products and services, or by making a donation through the Acadia centennial website.

### **Huge Opportunity, Huge Support**

It's no secret that many people love Acadia. We might even—quite reasonably—worry that the Acadia Centennial will put added pressure on a park that already sometimes feels like it's being loved to death. But celebration organizers emphasize that, while we will probably see a visitation spike in 2016, the centennial will help to organize Acadia's partners to work together on the ongoing challenge of growing visitation to a small but beloved park. And the centennial is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to educate and inspire—to share the messages of Acadia's history, its multifaceted value, the challenges it faces, and the ways we all can help to protect it. Acadia and its surrounding communities will benefit most if the centennial celebra-

tion enhances each visitor's Acadia experience in 2016; if centennial marketing efforts work to educate visitors and give them tools to relieve, rather than contribute to, park crowding and other issues; and if every person who comes to Acadia—whether multi-generational resident or first-time visitor—leaves with a stronger appreciation for this remarkable place and commitment to its long-term protection.

Fortunately, there is enormous support and enthusiasm for the Acadia Centennial. Together, we can create a celebration that launches Acadia into its second century. Says Julie Veilleux, "The park is a place that I love. It's near and dear to me. I spend a lot of time in Acadia and whatever I can do as an individual and a business to see it strengthened, I'm going to do. I want to stay connected, enjoy it, spread its wealth of things to see and do and participate in. And now even more importantly, to see it into the next century—that's a pretty awesome thing." ✱

AIMEE BEAL CHURCH is the communications director at Friends of Acadia.

### **Mount Desert Summer Chorale Annual Concert**

*August 5 and 6*

Honoring the Acadia Centennial with music celebrating nature and featuring the world premiere of a work by composer Ola Gjeilo.

### **A Reenactment of the 8/22/1916 Celebration of Acadia's Founding**

*August 22*

Come to St. Saviour's in Bar Harbor to hear speeches by Acadia's founders, offered by their living descendants and other worthy representatives.

### **Celebrating the Centennials of the National Park Service and Acadia National Park**

*August 27*

Join national leaders, park staff, and Acadia partners at Jordan Pond to celebrate these co-centennials.

### **The Great Fire of 1947: Commemorate Heroism and Celebrate Resilience**

*October 23*

On the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day when much of Acadia, some of Bar Harbor, and all of Jackson Lab burned, come to JAX to remember, honor, and celebrate what town, park, and lab have become.

### **Take Pride in Acadia Day Centennial Edition**

*November 5*

Join Friends of Acadia to celebrate volunteerism in Acadia and help prepare Acadia's historic carriage roads for winter.

### **Sealing of the Acadia Bicentennial Time Capsule**

*December 10*

Inspire the next hundred years at Acadia with this fun-spirited event to cap off Acadia's centennial year.

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**THERE'S SO MUCH MORE!**  
[AcadiaCentennial2016.org](http://AcadiaCentennial2016.org)

**Facebook.com/**  
[acadiacentennial2016](https://www.facebook.com/acadiacentennial2016)

**Instagram**  
[@AcadiaNPCentennial2016](https://www.instagram.com/AcadiaNPCentennial2016)

**Twitter**  
[@AcadiaNP2016](https://twitter.com/AcadiaNP2016)

## CARING FOR THE ROOFTOP OF ACADIA

By Stephanie Clement



NPS/CSS

Visitors who come to Cadillac for the twice-daily aerial show of sunrise and sunset aren't all sensitive to the natural resources under their feet.

It's no secret that traffic congestion and visitor experience issues continue to increase in Acadia. As of the end of October, Acadia had recorded almost 2.7 million visits, a 7% increase over 2014 and the highest level of visitation since the late 1990s. Park roads and Mount Desert Island towns seemed busier than ever, and the Island Explorer witnessed another record year, carrying more than 533,000 passengers—a 6% increase over 2014.

Friends of Acadia staff and board members have been working to identify ways that FOA can enhance transportation management and help combat congestion and resource damage issues while the National Park Service undergoes a three-year transportation planning initiative. Given that the outcomes and policy decisions of the park's plan will not be finalized until 2018, we decided to focus on pilot projects that could help inform the planning efforts and lead to the best possible outcomes.

In Acadia, issues around transportation and the visitor experience are a large and tangled web, and Friends of Acadia knew that a focused approach would be more

efficient and ultimately more successful. Together with the park we selected Cadillac Mountain as the geographic focus for the work. At 1,530 feet, Cadillac provides unparalleled opportunities for visitors to gaze over Frenchman Bay, enjoy the first rays of dawn, watch raptors soaring by, and walk an easy trail for rewarding views. Studies show that 75% of visitors go to the summit of Cadillac at some point during their stay. As a result, in the high season the summit area is often busy with automobiles, buses, bicyclists, and hikers. The Summit Road was closed eight times last summer (on two occasions, twice in one day) while rangers worked to clear traffic gridlock. The summit's natural resources have been impacted by millions of feet. Estimates are that 16% of the summit area has experienced soil and vegetation loss and approximately 1.5 miles of social trails have been created as visitors seek ways to spread out on Cadillac.

What to do about it? What projects could we, as a nimble organization able to act more quickly than the NPS, tackle to help advance knowledge about the

park, leading to better management and improvements to the visitor experience? Three projects rose to the top as investments in Cadillac Mountain: one to improve visitor information, a second to increase data and knowledge about traffic congestion, and a third to add baseline knowledge for vegetation restoration at the summit.

Friends of Acadia once again hired four Cadillac Summit Stewards to be the eyes and ears of the mountain. Initiated in 2014 with funds from the Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction, the program was expanded in 2015 to enable a presence on the mountain throughout the summer and fall. Amanda Ellis, Sean Cox, Sierra Frisbie, and Katherine Wares spent 872 hours at the summit, answering visitor questions, conducting basic trail maintenance, repairing cairns, removing visitor-built cairns and rock art, responding to emergencies, communicating with park managers, and collecting data about weather, traffic, visitor usage, and visitor behaviors.

Overall the group contacted 7,636 visitors. The majority of questions they fielded

were basic orientation questions, followed by weather and hiking advice. Sunset and sunrise were seen by the Summit Stewards as times of particular need for a presence on the mountain: there was often a high concentration of visitors there to “watch the show,” who were failing to be sensitive about potential resource damage when choosing a viewing location, setting up camp chairs or sleeping bags, etc. The Stewards estimated that they were able to include Leave No Trace (LNT) messages in only 5% of their visitor contacts; they have recommended different uniforms, roving in pairs, and setting up information tables as ways to increase LNT education.

Based on their observations of traffic flow and visitor needs, the Stewards recommended additional signage to the restrooms and trailheads, additional garbage cans, and the construction of a trail between the summit and Blue Hill overlook. They also recommended eliminating the row of parking (except two employee spaces) on the north side of the road as one first approaches the summit parking lot, as cars often blocked traffic there while waiting for another car to exit. They



NPS/CSS

*Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are working to erase “gridlock” from the list of possible park visitor experiences.*

recommended replacing this parking with a shuttle stop and establishing Island Explorer bus service to the summit.

The Summit Stewards also contributed data for a bus study. For twenty-four days in September and October, they tracked the number of buses, the length of stay, and the type of bus (concession, charter, cruise ship tour, or school trip). A total of 623 buses were counted with 57 recorded on the busiest day and 7 on the slowest day. The average length of stay was 25 minutes and the shortest stop was 6 minutes (it was raining).

The Summit Stewards’ research was complemented by work done by RSG Consulting to measure traffic data and trail usage numbers, to produce an interconnected set of road, parking, and pedestrian models for the Cadillac summit. Funded by Friends of Acadia, the modeling work will enable the Park Service to predict summit conditions (level of parking, crowding at the interpretive platforms on the loop trail, number of people off the trails, etc.) based on the number of people arriving at the summit by vehicle, bus, or foot.

The NPS will be able to combine the Cadillac model with previous research where visitors were surveyed about their attitudes related to crowding and congestion and be able to use the models to test a variety of management scenarios to determine what actions would best lead to the visitation levels and behaviors that visitors preferred. For instance, 53% of visitors previously surveyed indicated that they had difficulty finding parking. The NPS will be able to use the model to test ideas, such as adding bus service to the mountain, implementing an automobile reservation system, or instituting time

limits for parking at the summit, to see how that helps reduce parking congestion at the summit. Ultimately, the model will be a tool to inform and justify management actions that the Park Service takes at Cadillac.

Concurrent with management action to address visitor congestion at the summit, the NPS is working with partners to explore restoration of the mountain’s fragile alpine and sub-alpine plants. With funding from Friends of Acadia, the New England Wild Flower Society completed vegetation survey work on Cadillac this summer. They surveyed rare plants on the summit, completed a checklist of all vascular plants found on the summit, and walked transects to identify plant communities and changes in vegetation. The information will be used to make recommendations for sites for vegetation restoration on the summit, which is scheduled to be piloted with NPS funding in 2016.

Ultimately, these three projects should help the National Park Service improve the visitor experience at Cadillac by reducing traffic congestion, increasing visitor information and knowledge, and restoring natural resources. Cadillac Mountain is one of Acadia’s iconic destinations. It needs attention to ensure that future generations will continue to be able to enjoy its unparalleled beauty. As Summit Steward Sierra Frisbie put it, “We had the opportunity to work with a number of divisions for the National Park Service, but in the end, we decided that we worked for the mountain.” Thank you to all who have contributed to the mountain. ✨

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.



New England Wild Flower Society

*The vegetation survey work completed by the New England Wild Flower Society documented where plants are—and aren’t—on the Cadillac summit.*

## REFLECTING ON A DOZEN TREMENDOUS YEARS

By Sheridan Steele

For the past twelve years, I have held the best job in the National Park Service as superintendent of Acadia National Park, “America’s favorite place.” Thanks to you—Acadia’s loyal supporters, volunteers, donors, and partners—and to our outstanding park staff, I’ve enjoyed the gratification of reaching many significant goals that benefit current and future visitors to Acadia. Looking ahead, I believe my successor’s biggest challenge will be to manage Acadia’s increasing popularity—the growing number of visitors and the lengthening high season—with decreasing resources due to shrinking budgets and loss of buying power. I am confident, however, that by working together we can continue to provide the special “Acadia Experience” that visitors have come to expect.

I have often said that land protection is job one because land is the very essence of any national park. Without protection for the land, the resources and values that people come to enjoy will be degraded or compromised. When Acadia’s official boundary was finally established in 1986, there were still many privately-owned properties within it. Fortunately, the campaign to “fill in the holes” is showing good progress and with the help of Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and conservation donors, we have acquired 2,000 acres in 32 tracts of land for Acadia. Acadia is among the smallest of all national parks, so incompatible uses (constructing apartment complexes, just to give an obvious example) inside the park can be especially problematic, interfering with our dual goals of protecting the park’s natural and cultural resources and maintaining a high-quality visitor experience. There are still about 40 key tracts of land, including Burnt Porcupine Island, which must be preserved in order to complete the park as expected by the American

public and preserve for future visitors the same opportunities for solitude, tranquility, or recreation in an uncompromised natural environment that we enjoy today.

Preserving a high quality visitor experience has always been a priority for me. The growth in popularity of the Island Explorer is the best example of a success that improves visitor circulation and allows visitors to avoid parking issues. Increasing numbers of bikes, buses, recreational vehicles and automobiles are using the historic Park Loop Road—its special character created in part by low stone bridges (also historic), an absence of shoulders, and modestly-sized parking lots. Just this year, rangers have had to close the road up Cadillac several times to let gridlocked traffic get off the mountain. Additionally, right-lane parking often turns the Loop into a one-lane road from the Precipice Trail to near Thunder Hole. Drivers looking for parking get so frustrated that some pull onto the grass at the Jordan Pond House or into the woods between trees—though they must realize that’s illegal! The recently initiated Transportation Study is an extremely important effort to address increasing traffic and parking problems and to enlist the public in finding new solutions to these complex issues.

Making SERC (Schoodic Education and Research Center) a success remains an important goal. SERC is one of 19 official Research Learning Centers in the National Park System and certainly one of the largest. The former Navy Base at Schoodic has been transformed into a beautiful new campus and we are now filling it with people of all ages who want to learn more themselves or to help us learn more about resources and important issues affecting both national parks and society as a whole. Along with our newest nonprofit partner, the Schoodic Institute, we are continuing to develop

“Buildings, too, are  
children of Earth and Sun.”

-Frank Lloyd Wright



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programs focused on ocean ecology, citizen science, bird ecology, and place-based education. SERC will not only give us better information about park resources to inform better management decisions but will also give us better ways to communicate science to the public. We need to educate Americans about key conservation issues, impacts of the rapidly changing environment, and the need for improved stewardship of Acadia's resources.

Dovetailing with this is our need to engage more youth in *their* national parks like Acadia. A program that does both is our annual one-day BioBlitz on Schoodic, which focuses on insects and after eight years has produced 525 new park species records and another 109 new records for the state of Maine. These efforts are making significant contributions to our knowledge of the park's diversity and, by asking people of all ages to contribute to real science in Acadia, increasing the ranks of park stewards and supporters. Another example: for the last several years, Friends of Acadia has hired a team of teens to help the park find new ways to engage young people in Acadia and use technology to our advantage. One idea was to give a better view of peregrine nesting activity using a portable digital screen attached to the existing spotting scopes. To the delight of many—and especially youngsters, whose physical size make the scopes challenging—the peregrines and the conservation messages they embody are now easy to see.

Thanks to both Friends of Acadia and the Schoodic Institute, we are developing valuable new programs that are making a real difference in the lives of young people. The Acadia Teacher Fellowship program brings school teachers to ANP for a summer where we learn from each other. They then share the message of national parks back with their classes and even bring those classes to Acadia for a great outdoor learning experience. The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, the Ridge Runners, Student Conservation Association, and the Acadia Youth Tech Team all give high school and college age students a great summer learning experience while contributing to important resource and visitor related projects. These young people tell us that it was a “fantastic summer” and a great



Peter Travers

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### **Together we make an outstanding team — probably the best team of any national park.**

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opportunity to learn and grow, develop an appreciation for nature, and find a new perspective on our world. Many see these experiences as “life changing”—such as the student who worked his way into a seasonal park ranger job where he can share his joy of learning with others. Another example is the Worcester Polytechnic Institute class of engineering students, who come for eight weeks for practical experience in problem solving with a focus on ways to protect night sky, inventory natural sounds, and improve the available information on hiking trails. All of these students report that working in Acadia has been extremely rewarding to them, helping them learn from “real” problem solving at the same time they were giving something back, and given them the chance to work alongside dedicated professionals in a spectacular environment. Acadia's spectacular sense of place can and should inspire young people—as I was—to develop life-long connections to the outdoors.

Probably the highlight of my career at Acadia has been the Schoodic Woods project, completed in late August of this year. A conservation buyer ended what I once called the “single most severe land threat to Acadia” by purchasing the 3,200 acres adjacent to the Schoodic District of ANP. After acquisition, construction began on

a 96-site campground, 8.5 miles of bike paths, 4.5 miles of hiking trail, day-use parking, ranger station and information center, and a separate bike lane across the causeway. All of the new facilities were built to NPS standards and when completed in August of 2015, they were donated along with 1,500 acres of land to the National Park Foundation—with the intent that it all will eventually become part of Acadia National Park. In the meantime, the facilities are being managed by NPS under an agreement with the NPF. This is an amazing gift to the American people. Just think of the hundreds of families who will be enjoying those gooey s'mores around the campfire, riding bikes on the miles of scenic bike paths, or playing in the tide pools and rocks along the coast. The average length of stay on Schoodic will surely increase from a few hours to several days, which will improve the visitor experience and benefit the local economy.

I could go on because there are so many great things happening in and around Acadia thanks to Friends of Acadia and our other excellent partners, our many generous donors and dedicated volunteers, and highly professional and dedicated staff. Together we make an outstanding team—probably the best team of any national park. Perhaps this is why *USA Today* readers voted Acadia “America's Best National Park.” The natural scenery is truly spectacular, the historic resources are protected, facilities including roads, carriage roads and hiking trails are well maintained and clean, and the full range of visitor services such as visitor centers and ranger led programs are offered for the 2.5 million people coming each year. Managing Acadia for the benefit of all Americans is certainly a team effort. It has been both enjoyable and a privilege being the “captain” of this great team. I can think of no better way to spend 12 years of my life. Thank you for your tremendous support. ✨

SHERIDAN STEELE served as superintendent at Acadia National Park for twelve years before retiring in November this year.

# ACADIA GOLD

Compiled by Julia Walker Thomas

Friends of Acadia's Instagram feed at [instagram.com/friendsofacadia/](https://www.instagram.com/friendsofacadia/) was established in 2014 and grew significantly this year, with approximately 1,700 followers. The #AcadiaGold fall hashtag campaign brought in hundreds of fall foliage photos from park visitors and amateur and professional photographers. Here are some favorites! ✨

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is the communications assistant in digital media at Friends of Acadia.



## Beehive Overlooking Foliage

Jenny Kafka/@catscribbler  
Highland Park, New Jersey

My friends and I wanted to witness the gorgeous peak fall foliage colors in Acadia, so we took an 8.5 hour road trip to Acadia National Park the weekend of October 17–18. This was our first time to Acadia. Our first hike of the trip was the exciting climb up to Beehive Summit, where we were able to witness some of autumn's most incredible colors (my boyfriend Arnold took this picture of me on the way up to the summit, where we had to climb iron ladder rungs to get to the top). From the summit, we also saw a passing rain shower go across Champlain Mountain, which resulted in a beautiful rainbow! It was an incredible day of hiking and great views. Our entire weekend at Acadia was wonderful.



## Jesup Path

Susan Garver/@susangarver  
Trenton, Maine

The Jesup Path is one of my favorite spots in Acadia; walking down the boardwalk, I always feel like I have just entered a magical forest. On this particular morning the sunlight was illuminating the fall foliage and the colors were just breathtaking. This was the moment that I needed to capture forever.



## Frost on a red maple leaf

Jennifer Steen Booher/@jennsbooher  
Bar Harbor, Maine

Frost on a red maple leaf on the shore of Eagle Lake at 8am near the end of October. This was taken with an iPhone 5s and an Olloclip 10x macro lens. A wonderful thing about shooting macro is that the photographs show details I can't actually see in real life, so I never know exactly what I've captured until I see the image.



### **Aspen Gold**

Michael Farley/@scrags  
*Stratham, New Hampshire*

My wife and I were taking a drive along the park loop road one beautiful autumn day. Harsh midday light made photographic options a bit challenging. We came upon a grove of aspen trees (I think they are aspens?) and we were drawn to the contrast of the yellow leaves and light bark against the bright blue sky. We spent some time taking pictures and walking amongst the trees. I was most pleased with this image.



### **October Sunset from Cadillac Mountain**

Jeremy Payne/@vandyvagabonds  
*Nashville, Tennessee*

The chill in the air was tempered by the blazing beauty of this once in a lifetime experience. My wife Alexandra and I live full-time in our motorhome, traveling the U.S. We are most recently from Nashville.



### **Leaves on the Gorge Path**

Stacey Cramp/@scramp  
*Portland, Maine*

My husband and I have celebrated our wedding anniversary in Acadia almost every year we've lived in Maine (since 2004). Happily it occurs during peak foliage season! We typically spend mornings running or biking on the carriage roads and afternoons hiking with our dog. After all these years, we are still exploring new trails. This photo is from our first time hiking the Gorge Path to Dorr Mountain. We were astounded by the beautifully placed pink granite stones that create the pathway, the crystal clear brooks and the explosion of fall color. Best of all, we didn't see a single person until we reached the summit.

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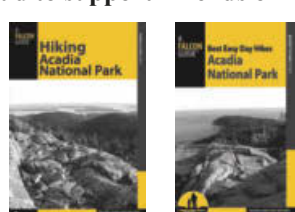
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Authors Dolores Kong and Dan Ring also write a blog at [www.acadiaonmymind.com](http://www.acadiaonmymind.com)  
New "Best Easy Day Hikes" edition - 2015

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# WILD ACADIA AS CANON SEES IT

By Bruce Connery



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NPS

Assessing Bat Migrations and Potential Effects from Offshore Energy Development

*In concert with other organizations and agencies, the park is supporting research on the movements and migration ecology of non-hibernating bats. The park also is conducting surveys of northern long-eared bats and other Myotis species. Photo documentation of the capture efforts allows these efforts to be shared with visitors, students, and other researchers. This female little brown bat (*Myotis lucifugus*) was photographed at Bubble Pond.*

Acadia's Wildlife Science and Management Program received a Canon Powershot camera in July of 2015. The wildlife staff immediately placed the camera into "active duty," using it during several field survey projects.

The donation of this camera has been a tremendous help to the wildlife management staff and their various programs in the short time it has been with the staff. Having such a versatile camera will allow numerous wildlife science and management programs to be photo documented. The park greatly appreciates the donation of the camera to these important projects.\*

BRUCE CONNERY is a wildlife biologist at Acadia National Park.

*Note: Since 2013, Canon U.S.A. has partnered with Friends of Acadia as the lead sponsor of Wild Acadia, a set of restoration, outreach, and research initiatives to help ensure the park is protected for generations to come. Canon's generous donations of equipment and program funding make possible a variety of projects including water-quality and wildlife monitoring and invasive plant management. To learn more about Wild Acadia, visit [www.friendsofacadia.org/programs/wild-acadia/](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/programs/wild-acadia/).*





Sunsets are an extra benefit of bat survey fieldwork.

NPS



Monarchs and Milkweed

Assessing the condition and vigor of milkweed patches was another job for this camera. It replaced a five-year-old camera and was used in the preliminary stages of documenting the 30-plus patches of milkweed in the park. Pictured is a stand of milkweed on the Isle au Haut Goat Trail and a red admiral butterfly feeding at the same location.

NPS



Success of Seabird Nesting

Seabird colonies around Acadia are experiencing failed nesting seasons. The park and cooperating partners conducted photo assessment surveys along with visual surveys to document the severity, types, and timing of these failures. Photo documentation complements ground and passive camera surveys. Pictured is a nesting site on the Thrumcap in Frenchman Bay.

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## Updates



Nicky Paul

A cyclist enjoys a quiet Loop Road at Otter Cliffs on the Acadia Car-Free Morning in September.

### Wild Cromwell Brook

Much has been happening under the Wild Acadia program to restore ecological integrity of Acadia National Park's natural resources so they can become more resilient to rapid environmental change caused by climate change, insect infestations, fire, or other events. Brian Henkel, the Wild Acadia Coordinator hired by the Maine Natural History Observatory under a grant from Friends of Acadia, has been overseeing many projects including water quality and wetland monitoring, citizen science, ecological modeling, stream restoration, conservation planning, and invasive plant management (made possible through a grant from Canon U.S.A.). The work is being conducted in the Cromwell Brook watershed, the pilot watershed selected by the National Park Service for this comprehensive approach to resource management. Brian's position ensures that partners are coordinating their projects, sharing results, and capitalizing on funding opportunities.

Many of the partnerships in the watershed this year are helping the National Park Service understand baseline conditions of natural resources in the watershed. The U.S. Geological Survey is modeling the hydrology of the watershed, and the University of Maine has installed monitoring stations in Cromwell Brook to better understand water quality and bacterial concentrations. Friends of Acadia also made grants to College of the Atlantic for monitoring the quality of the stream outside park boundaries and to the Maine Natural History Observatory for measuring water levels and biodiversity in the Great Meadow, which is the section of the watershed just downstream of Sieur de Monts. The information, expertise, and resources these partners bring to Wild Acadia are invaluable.

### Car-Free Acadia, Take Two

On Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, Acadia National Park closed the Park Loop Road on Mount Desert Island for the second car-free morning transportation experiment. The purpose of the morning was to help the National Park Service evaluate the benefits and drawbacks associated with providing more car-free recreational experiences. The Park Loop Road on Mount Desert Island was closed to automobiles until noon, but unlike the first car-free morning, in May, the Island Explorer and park concessions bus operators were allowed to continue to operate as normal. The Schoodic section of the park, the West Side of Mount Desert Island, and the Stanley Brook Road to Jordan Pond remained open to vehicles.

Volunteers were out in force on the Loop Road, helping to open gates for the buses, count recreational users, and distribute information to those who may have been turned away in their automobiles. Friends of Acadia also organized a volunteer cadre to distribute survey cards linking visitors to an on-line survey to gauge public opinion about the morning. Results will be shared with Acadia National Park to inform the park's transportation plan and make recommendations on how to shape future car-free events.

Friends of Acadia also funded extra Island Explorer bus service on the Park Loop Road route that morning. Because of the increased frequency on the route (service every 15 minutes throughout the morning), the daily ridership was 210% over 2014. Other routes operating as normal that morning also witnessed increases. The Sand Beach route was 16% over 2014, and the Jordan Pond Route was 68% over 2014. Most visitors who responded to the

public survey (49%) did not think that having buses operating on the Loop Road during a car-free morning affected their visit. Around 18% of survey respondents thought that bus service was somewhat or very positive, but 33% felt that it affected their visit somewhat or very negatively.

The Acadia National Park management team has not yet decided whether to continue experimenting with car-free opportunities in the park. Options could include closing smaller sections of the park, extending or shortening the duration of the experiments, or holding them more frequently. Visitors should always check the park website at [nps.gov/acad](http://nps.gov/acad) for park alerts about closures before arriving at Acadia.

### Park Planning for Conservation

This fall, the National Park Service undertook two significant conservation planning initiatives at Acadia. First, with support from Friends of Acadia, they worked with Foundations of Success, a nonprofit organization that helps conservation organizations across the globe (including the Nature Conservancy, World Wildlife Fund, and others) refine their conservation goals, strategies, and measures of success. Foundations of Success uses the “Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation,” a process to identify the most important targets for conservation, ascertain threats to those targets, list biophysical or other factors that drive or are associated with the threat, and develop strategies

and measureable outcomes that will reduce threats or lead to conservation of the target habitats or species.

At Acadia, the habitats identified as conservation targets include open summit areas, forests, islands, wetlands, surface water, and intertidal zones. There were also several conservation targets that were not tied to individual habitats. These included species of concern (that is, threatened and endangered species), cultural landscapes, and air resources. The park will use the resulting conservation model to prioritize resource management strategies, track outcomes and adjust resource management practices to achieve greater outcomes. They will also adapt the conservation model to a watershed-level scale, using the Cromwell Brook watershed as the test case.

The second major conservation planning initiative undertaken this fall was climate change scenario planning. Friends of Acadia joined the NPS and other partners in a two-day workshop at the Schoodic Education and Research Center where scientists from the NPS Climate Change Response Program presented four possible scenarios for how Acadia’s climate might change—oscillating hot and cold years; progression toward increasingly hot summers and rainy falls; a few cold years followed by a rapid increase to hot temperatures; or movement toward becoming a really rainy place. After affirming that these scenarios seemed plausible, the park service and partners then identified

and assessed possible impacts to park infrastructure, staffing, and natural resources for each of these scenarios. The workshop provided an excellent context for the NPS to use when making decisions about programming and infrastructure—decisions such as whether to replace shoreline infrastructure, measures to take when considering how to restore vegetation, and more.

Friends of Acadia is grateful that Acadia National Park has taken such care in advancing conservation work at Acadia. These planning initiatives will help make Acadia a leader among national parks in thinking about conservation comprehensively. They will also lay the groundwork for adaptive management and greater accomplishments in restoring the park’s natural resources.

### 25 Years of Pride in Acadia

More than 420 enthusiastic volunteers turned out on Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> for the 25<sup>th</sup> year of Take Pride in Acadia Day. Together they raked nine miles of carriage roads in 19 locations with cloudy but mild weather to support the event. Rakes in hand, they fanned out across Acadia’s historic carriage roads to clear fallen leaves from road surfaces and drainage, to reduce erosion and washouts during the freeze-and-thaw cycles of a coastal Maine winter. This saves maintenance costs and allows the roads to dry out faster, permitting pedestrian and bicycle access earlier in the season.



Members of the University of Maine’s American Fisheries Society student group were among the many volunteers who helped make Take Pride in Acadia a success this fall. The students, pictured here with crew leaders from ANP and FOA, raked a very leafy stretch on the eastern side of Eagle Lake.

FOA/Aimee Beal Church

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This most-important annual volunteer effort depends on a corps of stewardship volunteers who have been coming to the event for many years, a number of retired ANP staff, and the many student groups, outing clubs, scouts, and other groups who come from all over eastern Maine for the event. These included groups from Birch Bay Village, College of the Atlantic International Students, Downeast Outing Club, Ellsworth High School, Footlose Friends, Girl Scout Troops 667, 1719, and 1742, Husson School of Nursing, Maine Outdoor Adventure Club, MDI Outing Club, Sea and Mountain Outing Club, and the University of Maine Orono and Machias campuses. The event also involves staff from every division of Acadia National Park.

The day was sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Birch Bay Village, The Blue-nose Inn, Burdick & Associates Landscape Design, Cadillac Mountain Sports, The First N.A., The Gallery at Somes Sound, Galyn's, The Knowles Company, Lynam Insurance and Real Estate, and Window Panes. In addition, transportation for the volunteer groups was donated by Coastal Kayaking, Downeast Transportation/Island Explorer, and National Park Sea Kayak; Janet Anker donated the cake. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are grateful to all who made the day a success.

**Annual Benefit Supports Historic Vista Restoration**

For the 26<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, Friends of Acadia supporters gathered in August for our Annual Benefit to celebrate conservation and philanthropy. Benefit Committee Chair Courtney Urfer Thompson and a committee of dedicated volunteers planned an incredible evening including a silent auction, live auction, dinner, and dancing to the Jon Bates Band.

The highlight of the evening came at the end of the live auction when Christie's auctioneer Lydia Fenet challenged the group to collectively raise \$200,000 toward the restoration of Acadia's historic vistas. More than 65 people raised their paddles and together pledged \$218,000 for this important initiative.

When the carriage roads were designed by John D. Rockefeller Jr., they featured scenic vistas that afforded views from the pic-

turesque to outright stunning—showcasing the mountains, ocean, beaches, streams, and forests of Acadia. Over the years many of these vistas have overgrown with trees and shrubs, obscuring the views and compromising this rich cultural heritage. Acadia National Park's plans call for the restoration of vistas along both the carriage roads and Park Loop Road. With more than 230 vistas on the carriage road system and 70 on the Loop Road, the park projects the restoration to take at least five years with a cost of \$1 million. While the park will continue to seek public and private funds to support this initiative, Friends of Acadia donors have provided an incredible boost to the effort through the Annual Benefit. In addition to dollars raised, Friends of Acadia volunteers have played a key role in vista restoration to date, helping to clear and haul brush that has overgrown the vistas. This volunteer power significantly reduces the overall costs of the restoration program.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2016 for the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit, which will be held at the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor. For more information on the Annual Benefit, including a complete list of sponsors, patrons, advertisers, committee members, and auction items, visit the Friends of Acadia website [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org). If you have questions about next year's event or would like to contribute to the auction please contact Friends of Acadia Senior Development Officer Shawn Keeley at [shawn@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:shawn@friendsofacadia.org) or 207-288-3340.



*Then-superintendent Sheridan Steele and his wife, Barb, were among the 65 Annual Benefit guests who "bid" to make a donation to support vista restoration in the park.*

FOA/Aimee Beal Church



Volunteers Mike Siklosi and Georgia Munsell were part of the friendly and effective FOA membership table crew at the Jordan Pond House this summer.

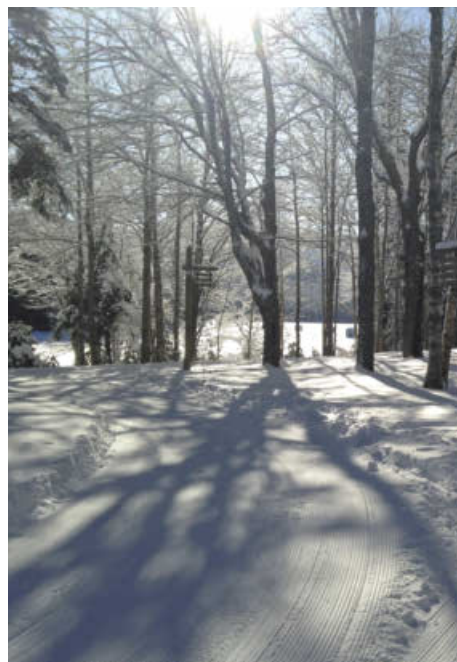
### Membership Table Signs Up More Than 650 New Members

If you were at the Jordan Pond House this summer, you probably saw two or three friendly people wearing Friends of Acadia hats and T-shirts, chatting with visitors and encouraging them to join Friends of Acadia as the best way to give back for all of the enjoyment they get from the park. These were membership table volunteers, who signed up 662 new members in July and August—the highest number in the nine years since the program began in 2007. Thirty volunteers, ages 16 to 80, operated the membership table for 45 days, sharing their love for Acadia with energy and enthusiasm and helping visitors understand how Friends of Acadia protects the park and surrounding communities.

### Acadia Winter Trails Association

Get your skis ready! Winter is on its way, and that means snow on the carriage roads. The Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer groomers are gearing up for the 2016 winter season. They are training, prepping machines, and dusting off their super-insulated gloves. We are adding several new facets to the program this year, such as more snowmobile training and exploring the purchase of new equipment to pack down fresh snow. Volunteers will begin grooming as soon as the carriage roads are frozen and snow depth exceeds six inches.

For grooming status updates, go to [friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/acadia-winter-trails-association/](http://friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/acadia-winter-trails-association/). In keeping with the community spirit that typifies Acadia skiing, everyone can contribute by sharing current conditions they encounter. Skiers are invited to post reports and photos to our Facebook page at [facebook.com/friendsfacadia](http://facebook.com/friendsfacadia). To help support this program or for more information, contact Paige Steele at 207-288-3340 or [paige@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:paige@friendsofacadia.org).



Remember the snows of yesteryear? More than 100 inches of fluffy stuff fell on Acadia last winter. If we have a repeat this year, FOA's volunteer groomers are ready for it.

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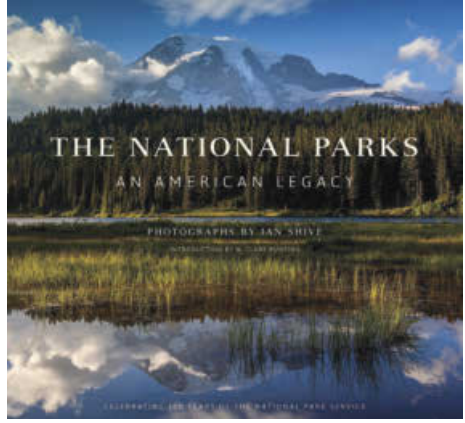
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**Recommended Reading**



*The National Parks: An American Legacy*  
 By Ian Shive  
 Earth Aware Editions, 2015  
 Hardcover, 240 pages

Friends of Acadia is one of eight organizations featured in this fine photographic journey through America's protected natural treasures, so this is hardly an unbiased review. That said, if you're looking for some inspiration on the eve of the National Park Service and Acadia co-centennial—whether to help plan your dream centennial road trip or just do some armchair travel while staying downeast for Acadia's big year—this large-format collection does a good job at capturing the range of remarkable landscapes in this country.

By turns grand, mysterious, intimate, and beautiful, Ian Shive's photographs show us both the majestic—like scenes of sunrise-lit mountain ranges reflected in perfectly still waters—and the surprising—like an abstract shot of water flowing through a fissure at Zion National Park, with just a few autumn leaves giving scale and context. The captions, while appropriately brief, add much: I like learning that “the Pacific chorus frog...is one of only two amphibians found on Santa Rosa Island.” And I'm delighted to read that Yosemite's Tunnel View is “one of the most famous views in all of the national parks, which includes an overlook view of Yosemite Valley”—adjacent to a mist-shrouded photograph that shows how beauty can be found no matter what the weather.

I appreciate, too, that Shive has been thoughtful about including humans in his vision of the parks. He dedicates the book to “the men and women of the National Park Service” and uses distant figures and human artifacts to remind us that although the landscapes were formed by natural processes, the parks are very much the creations of people—those who once lived on these lands, those who protected them, and those who visit and cherish them today. In the park service's centennial year, that's a worthwhile thing to remember.

*Cairns: Messengers in Stone*  
 By David B. Williams  
 Mountaineers Books, 2012  
 Paperback, 192 pages

This intriguing little book came to our attention because Acadia's own visitor use specialist Charlie Jacobi makes an appearance in its pages. The author describes Jacobi's efforts to “rein in a decades-long infestation of cairns at Acadia National Park.” His frustration is evident when he remarks that “the mountaintops are being dismantled.”

Acadia insiders are likely to view unofficial cairn-building as thoughtless or even destructive behavior. Reading David Williams's fun and far-reaching survey of where, when, and why people pile rocks, we begin to get a feeling for why, perhaps, so many of Acadia's visitors do it. From the basalt cairns of Iceland, to bronze-age burial cairns, to trailside shrines in Argentina, to the Victory Point cairn left by the lost 1845 Franklin Expedition, rock piles have meant many things to many people.

Williams explores his topic anecdotally, including enlightening or amusing tales from his own and others' travels. Along the way he explores cairns in terms of geology, ecology, wayfinding, spirituality, and more. His book could be a good choice to fill a couple of winter evenings while you fantasize about summer hiking!

—Aimee Beal Church

# THE ANNUAL GEORGE B. DORR SOCIETY LUNCHEON



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Members toast their host, the park, and FOA at the annual George B. Dorr Society gathering in July.

I've often said the annual gathering of the George B. Dorr Society—now in its 11<sup>th</sup> year—is one of the greatest days of the Friends of Acadia year. What I love most about it is how different all the members are—young, not so young, year-rounders, summer residents and annual visitors, park staff—a really eclectic mix of people. Regardless of their background and history with the park, they have one common thread—they all want to see Acadia preserved and protected long into the future.

The first event in 2005 was a small affair with just a handful of guests traveling by horse-drawn carriage in the park to the Jordan Pond House for a luncheon upstairs in the private dining room. Within five years, we quickly grew to three carriages and a full house. Over the years, we have celebrated Acadia by the shore, in the park, on boats, and most recently in private homes around the island.

This year our Dorr Society gathering was hosted by a George B. Dorr Society member who opened her beautiful home in North-

east Harbor for us to gather and celebrate Acadia and the conservation successes of Friends of Acadia. A delicious buffet lunch was provided by the Jordan Pond House and a highlight was the tour of the magnificent gardens in full bloom.

The George B. Dorr Society recognizes those members and friends who have documented provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 with 18 founding members and has grown to 59 member families.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or some other deferred gift vehicle, or would like information about joining the George B. Dorr Society, please contact me, Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org. Happy trails!

—Lisa Horsch Clark



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## TRANSFORMING IDEAS INTO ACTIONS

Despite the partisan atmosphere in Washington that often leads to deadlock, national parks continue to be of interest to legislators from all parties. Whether land acquisition, the National Park Service's centennial, air quality, or fee revenues, there is no lack of ideas on how to improve programs and/or what legislative vehicles should be used to make changes.

The National Parks 2<sup>nd</sup> Century Action Coalition, led by the National Parks Conservation Association, continues to be a key resource for Friends of Acadia in Washington, providing information about public hearings, draft legislation, and lists of key legislators to contact. The coalition is currently focused on ensuring strong provisions for national park transportation infrastructure programs in the final transportation reauthorization bill. The legislation that enables the NPS to charge and retain fees, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, is also up for revision. The coalition is working to provide consensus-driven feedback to the House Committee on Natural Resources on the changes proposed in their draft bill. And finally, perhaps most importantly, the coalition is working on the FY 2016 Interior appropriations bill (likely to be rolled into an omnibus bill), encouraging members of Congress to avoid anti-environmental riders, address funding for wildfires, and strengthen funding for national parks.

Friends of Acadia also depends greatly on the knowledge and outreach of the coalition working on reauthorization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Despite significant public and bipartisan support for LWCF (including all four members of the Maine delegation), Congress failed to extend the funding sources for the program at the end of September. Several attempts have been made by legislators to reauthorize LWCF as it existed via amendments or stand-alone bills. Rob Bishop, the chair of the House Committee on Natural Resources, recently issued draft legislation that would shift large amounts

of LWCF dollars away from federal land acquisition to state programs for parks and recreation. Bishop's bill would also divert LWCF to offshore energy exploration and other programs, a significant change in the intent of the program. Bills to reauthorize LWCF in the Senate are also active but include provisions to shift a portion of LWCF away from land acquisition to backlog maintenance projects.

There are also several bills in Congress (H.R. 3556 or S. 2257) to honor the centennial of the National Park Service in 2016 and to invest additional funds to prepare the national parks for their next century. The Centennial Challenge, a program to encourage philanthropic match for park projects, is a keystone provision in these bills. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park have already taken advantage of this matching program, which was included in the short-term in the FY 2015 appropriations bill and which brought funding to the park for vista management, the rehabilitation of the Deer Brook Trail, and maintenance of other park trails. These bills also establish an endowment for national parks, increase funding for backlog maintenance projects, and invest in youth engagement and volunteerism. The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to introduce its own centennial bill, likely to contain many of the non-mandatory components of the other centennial bills.

In addition to work in Congress, Friends of Acadia is also supporting efforts to lobby the administration for better air quality at national parks and wilderness areas. Given Acadia's location downwind from New England and Midwestern power plants, as well as urban traffic centers, the park is



*Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald traveled to Washington in December to present testimony before the US House of Representatives natural resources committee about its draft centennial bill. He is seated next to NPS director Jonathan Jarvis in this Congressional committee video still.*

occasionally beset by high levels of smog and haze. The park is considered a "Class 1" area under the Clean Air Act, meaning it is a priority for air quality protection. Recently, Friends of Acadia was invited by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) to join a meeting with Janet McCabe, the acting assistant administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to encourage the EPA to be strong in requiring polluters to more swiftly reduce their emissions to restore natural air quality by 2064 in national parks. The team, which also included representatives from the New England states, Washington D.C., central and southern California, and Utah, will continue to track implementation of the Regional Haze Rule.

As an advocate for national parks in the field, it is critical for Friends of Acadia to have national partners and coalitions with whom to interact. Friends' voice is valuable because we have in-depth exposure to the needs, opportunities, and problems facing our park. It takes a collective voice and action on many fronts, however, to encourage national action to conserve our national parks as they begin their next century. ✱

—Stephanie Clement

Friends of Acadia Journal



# THE BEST IS YET TO COME

With all the excitement building for the centennial celebration for Acadia National Park (and coincidentally, for the National Park Service) I have been thinking about birthdays and anniversaries. One thing I am thinking about is that 2016 is also the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Friends of Acadia! Who knew? Who knows? I do and now you do, and I think it is important to reflect on our first thirty.

When I was a boy birthdays meant new opportunities, new privileges, and new responsibilities. When I turned 8, my parents let me stay up later (8 p.m.!). At 10 I could anticipate losing my first molar—a big deal because the tooth fairy left more money for a molar! Getting older, I finally became eligible for my driving permit at 16 and soon after, my license. With each birthday, my boundaries expanded.

For a nonprofit organization like Friends of Acadia, birthdays are similar but also, of course, different in important ways. Friends of Acadia was “born” in 1986. The organization was inexperienced but had a clear mission to protect and preserve Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. It took a bit to figure out how best to do this, but an organization doesn't mature the way a child does—from the start FOA could draw on the wisdom and experience of its founders and it “ages” as a continuum of volunteers, supporters, donors, staff members, and leaders standing on the shoulders of their predecessors. Both gaining experience and bringing in new minds and fresh energy, FOA has adapted, evolved, and continually improved in our important and relevant mission—a better future for Acadia. And FOA is effectively immortal, as long as people love this place and are willing to contribute their personal resources for its good.

As FOA grew, we gathered more volunteers, we conceived new projects, we raised more money—for annual operating expenses as well as for long-term projects. Blessed with generous, like-minded donors, we raised our first endowment funds. We hired an executive director and, later,

a staff. We deepened our partnership with Acadia National Park leaders, based on mutual respect, trust, and appreciation, which led to new programs that couldn't have happened without collaboration by both and sometimes additional partners. Examples include: a) the Island Explorer bus system, which reduces environmental pollution and the number of automobiles on park and surrounding town roads; b) 420 volunteers at work on Take Pride In Acadia Day 2015—the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this significant contribution; c) land preservation partnerships including almost two decades of FOA involvement in saving a huge tract of land adjacent to Acadia's Schoodic District—whose boundary was enlarged in November to clear the way for the donation of 1,400 acres; d) youth programs such as the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Acadia Youth Technology Team, and Acadia Teacher-Fellows; e) FOA support of a program to clear overgrown and obscured historic scenic vistas... and other partnerships and programs too numerous to name here (visit [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org) for more).

Now here we are, making the leap into 2016! I want to say thank you to the many people who have been and are part of the extraordinarily successful first three decades of Friends of Acadia. I want to say thank you, too, to those who will become part of our important and relevant future. As we enter our fourth decade of service, we are grateful for our present, we are proud of our past, and we are confident that the best is yet to come. ✱

—Edward L. Samek




FOA

## IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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June 1–  
September 30, 2015



Ice along the Upper Hadlock Pond shoreline.

FOA/Vince Beal Church

## A CENTENNIAL CHALLENGE

By Anne Piazza

I cherish many memories of Acadia National Park. The first road trip my husband and I took together in the eighties was to Acadia. After moving to Maine years later, our first family outing was biking around Sargent Mountain, three children in tow. That fall we hiked the South Bubble for our first Christmas card picture from Maine. When my mother was declining from Alzheimer's disease she walked hand in hand with my girls out to Seawall for a picnic. My father's last trip at ninety was a carriage ride to view the Rockefeller bridges. We had hiked and biked countless times, become passionate users of the carriage trails for skiing, watched the sun rise and set from Cadillac Mountain, and filled our stomachs with popovers—and yet much of the park still remained a mystery to me.

Last fall I sat on top of Champlain Mountain with friends following a lovely hike. We were discussing the Precipice Trail, which I had never chosen to hike, for even hearing the name scared me. As we rested, taking in the view, three strong, vibrant women appeared, at least ten years our senior, having just summited via the Precipice. They continued by, and my friends and I shared a glance—we would not be outdone by these seniors. And thus my fate was sealed.

As winter set in, the snow began to fly and never stopped. We skied in the park often to maintain sanity through the long winter. New Year's neared, and as I do each year, I considered possible resolutions. The previous year I had resolved to try something new every month. I read a book a week in January, tried not complaining in February, attended a Downeast Audubon meeting one month, and learned a new cooking skill another. This year, January passed and I had no resolution. As spring arrived I still had no idea.

My first hike of the season was Norumbega Mountain with family during Me-



Anne Piazza celebrates her ascent of the Precipice Trail in September.

morial Day weekend. As we walked, the snow now gone and the air full of spring, I viewed Hadlock Pond sparkling in the sunlight, and that is when it came to me: I would hike every trail in the park during the summer, saving Precipice for last. The challenge seemed perfect—fun, fitness-based, and one day a week in Acadia.

I started gently, hiking with anyone available, tracking my hikes on a trail map with blue highlighter over the red dashed trail markings. When no one was available, I hiked alone. Soon, three-mile hikes turned to five and then ten. The calendar quickly ticked by, and I added extra days in the park. Some days I explored every trail on one mountain, or hiked point to point across many peaks. Other days were spent jogging the miles of long flat pathways, often handicapped accessible, that wind through the woods and marshes and along the ocean. When I saw a trail was closed or new portions being constructed, my anxiety rose. I had developed an obsession with covering every inch of trail.

As the summer wore on, my frayed map (now held together by tape) was nearly covered with blue lines, and finally I had just one trail left. Standing at the base of Precipice on the Friday of Labor Day weekend, with 160 miles of trails, stairs, rungs, and ladders behind me and one more mile between me and my goal, I was no longer afraid. I was surrounded by family and friends and felt strong, fit, and confident. I had a backpack full of sparkling water and chocolate to celebrate at the summit, and I was ready to climb. ✱

ANNE PIAZZA lives in Blue Hill, Maine with her husband, Larry. She plans to continue the challenge, skiing and cycling on every carriage trail before the end of Acadia's Centennial year.

### Why are you a friend of Acadia?

Each issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* features a personal essay written by an FOA member, volunteer, or business sponsor who feels a special connection to the park (don't we all?). To propose an essay for the "Why I'm a Friend of Acadia" series, please send a note to:

**Aimee Beal Church**  
editor@friendsofacadia.org

with a brief description of why you're interested in writing, and what you'd like to say.

See [friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/](http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/) for more details.

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To give a gift membership, simply mail the below form (or a copy) along with a check for \$40 payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided in this magazine. Or contact us at 1-800-625-0321 or visit our website at:

[www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)

All contributions to Friends of Acadia are used to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.



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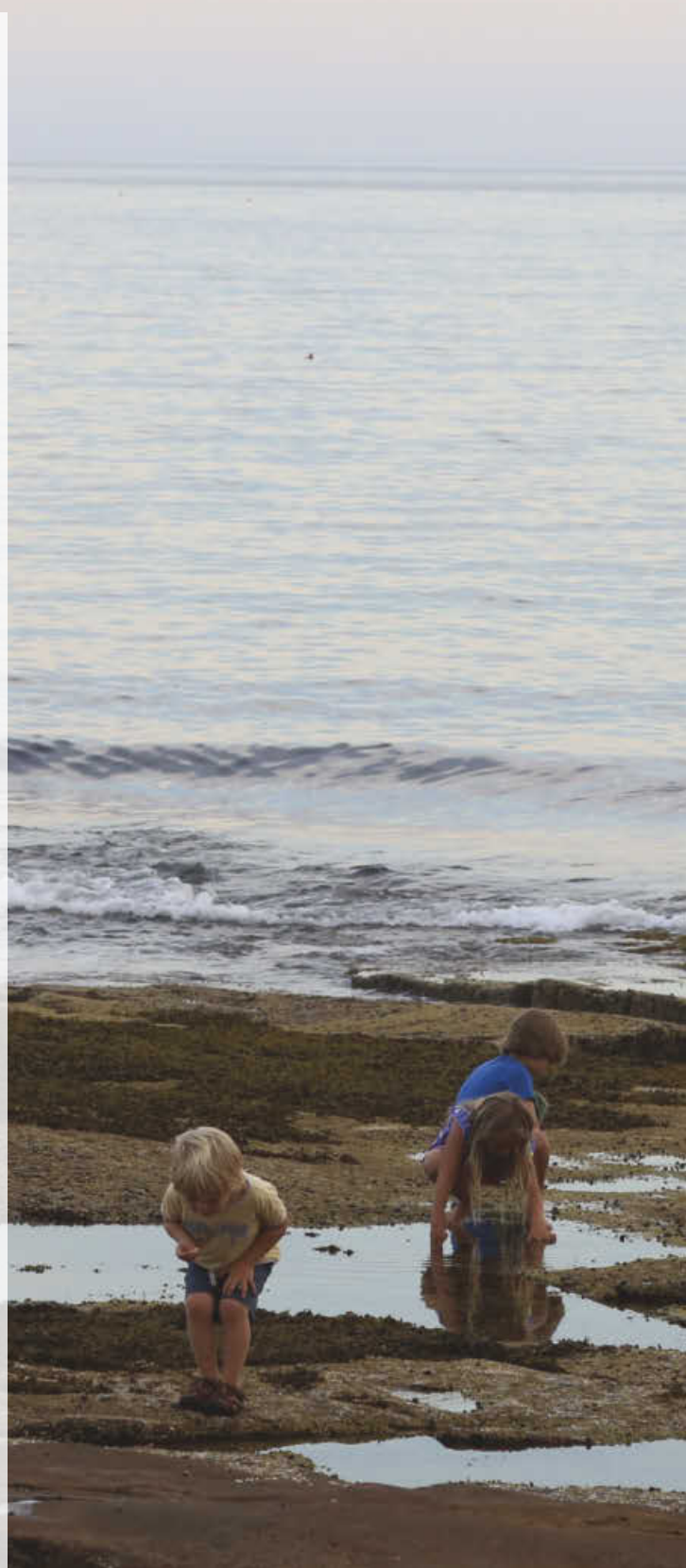
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Aimee Beal Church

*New snow tops a Bates cairn on the Norumbega Mountain Goat Trail*

## Mission

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