THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Do you have friends or family who would appreciate a membership in Friends of Acadia?

Membership begins at $35, but with a $45 gift membership your friend or family member will receive an extra gift — a Friends of Acadia baseball cap or Rusticator's Journal (a book of essays and photographs of MDI and Acadia).

Please include the following with your check:

- Name and address of the person to receive gift membership,
- What you’d like written on the gift card,
- Your choice of optional extra gift (hat or book), for the $45 gift membership.

Use the reply envelope in this magazine, or call Terry or Kelly at 207-288-3340 with your credit card information.
Thank you!
PROTECTING LAND

Superintendent Sheridan Steele has an important vision. He wants to “fill in the holes” by purchasing or putting under easement the 157 private parcels inside Acadia’s boundary.

Congress authorized the acquisitions. “Dedicated” moneys exist from offshore oil royalties (not from taxes). But Congress sent the restricted funds elsewhere, most likely to offset the federal deficit. The park is forced to reject willing sellers who step forward every year.

Maine’s pro-Acadia Congressional delegation, Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and others are working to reverse the situation. This is crucial if, as Steele hopes, the park’s interior is to be made whole by 2016, the 100th anniversary of Acadia’s founding and the establishment of the National Park Service.

OFF-ISLAND TRANSPORTATION HUB

In January, Friends of Acadia bought a three-year option to purchase 369 acres at Crippens Creek in Trenton (see page 14). In June, the Maine Department of Transportation chose Crippens as the site for the future Acadia National Park transportation center and intermodal hub.

Friends has raised nearly $1.2 million to engage in transit planning over several years (and to protect endowments). We will not mount a capital fund drive to buy the land until due diligence is completed and partnerships are syndicated.

We envision a passenger reception complex, parking facilities, Island Explorer bus maintenance and dispatch buildings, nonprofit services, and some park-compatible businesses that produce positive tax consequences for Trenton. The center will allow day visitors and commuters to park their cars free and take the Island Explorer to MDI.

We thank everyone whose Project Tranquility contributions allow Friends to continue its leadership role in reducing traffic congestion and pollution.

CONGRESSIONAL UNDERFUNDING

Despite annual increases in Acadia’s budget, the amounts fail to meet operating needs. Twenty to thirty jobs are being eliminated, meaning restrooms will be less clean, ranger-guided walks cut, and other services curtailed. The outlook for 2005 is more cuts.

The Friends Alliance, a federation of chief executives from U.S. park philanthropies, has expressed its philosophy that donations from nonprofits are meant to add value to parks, not offset losses in Congressional appropriations. Charities like Friends of Acadia exist to provide a margin of excellence for national parks, not a margin of survival for government operations. Your contributions to Friends are protected because when we grant funds to the park, we restrict them to special projects and programs.

Meanwhile, it is disappointing to hear claims that these federal assets are receiving ample base funding. They are not.

RUNNING IN THE BLACK

Another way Friends of Acadia safeguards your gifts is to balance its own budget. Each year since 1995, we have produced a modest surplus and invested it. This means we are handling your money prudently and that any funding requests are based on need, not on poor cash management. Friends enjoys a five-year average fundraising cost of under six cents per dollar of revenue, which shows further respect for your donations.

Last year was brutal for many nonprofits, but Friends remained financially healthy. Our members renewed at robust rates and many gave additional gifts. Thank you for responding positively to our solicitations. The board and staff pledge to make your 2004 donations work hard to protect a magnificent place that you and we love.

If you’re not part of Friends of Acadia, please join. We’ll welcome you heartily.

— W. Kent Olson, President

Four Commentaries
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FEATURE ARTICLES
6 Mount Desert: Like Nowhere Else On Earth Jim Sterba
5th in the guest series
Musings on familiar seasonal residents.

10 Acadia Trails Forever Progress Marla Major
One-of-a-kind trails endowment at work.

14 State Consultants Recommend Crippens Creek Stephanie Clement
Off-island transit site is favored.

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS
9 Memorials
12 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize
16 Save the Date: 15th Annual Benefit Gala
18 Updates
21 Book Reviews
23 Generosity and Foresight

DEPARTMENTS
1 President’s Column Four Commentaries W. Kent Olson
3 The Superintendent’s View What in the World? Sheridan Steele
5 Letter from the Chair The Critical Nature of Green Space Dianna Emory
17 Special People Sam and Tim Francis of Atlantic Landscape Theresa Begley
13 Poem Dragon of Light in the Water Annaliese Jakimides
What in the world is Acadia National Park going to do with a navy base? It is a good question, and we have been spending a great deal of time on it. We view the former base at Schoodic as both a great opportunity and a huge challenge.

The National Park Service (NPS) has completed a draft general management plan for Schoodic based on extensive public input. The Service’s preferred alternative for reusing the base is to create the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), which would promote collaborative research and education among multiple partners. SERC is one of 13 such centers within the park system. Each is different, but ours has attracted interest throughout NPS as an ambitious and intriguing new model.

SERC will be located on Schoodic land transferred to the park in July 2002 by an Act of Congress. The small community that was the navy base contains 36 buildings including housing, office and meeting spaces, recreational facilities, grocery store, firehouse, medical clinic, social club, municipal services such as water treatment, and an impressive stone structure known as the Rockefeller Building, patterned on the architecture of the park’s carriage road gatehouses.

But at a combined 206,000 square feet, the Schoodic facilities are much larger than most education and research programs nationally. That’s an enormous new responsibility and, as committed as NPS is to its success, we can’t do it alone. Developing research and education partners will be essential. Until we get users in these buildings, they will deteriorate in Maine’s wet environment, costing more to maintain.

Under the preferred alternative, we will be charting new territory in programs that will be the heart and soul of the center. We would work with numerous organizations to pioneer a new program approach to undertake research, practice, formal and informal education, and public outreach in a forum that increases knowledge and improves the way we use natural and cultural resources of Acadia National Park, the national park system, our region, and our world.

There’s more: the management of the center would entail a novel partnership between Acadia and a new nonprofit that would join forces to give this entrepreneurial start-up venture the focus and flexibility it needs to become the national model we envision. The nonprofit would recruit other partners and participants and support the efforts of all involved. The NPS is currently hiring a Research and Education Coordinator to develop programs and activities that will specifically benefit the park under any of the management plan alternatives.

As Superintendent, one of my privileges and responsibilities is to develop priorities for the Park. I must carefully consider the mission of the NPS at Acadia, the long-term health of national park resources, and ways to ensure a quality visitor experience for those coming to Acadia. There are many legitimate and urgent needs, but land protection and SERC’s success are my top two priorities. Our Congressional delegation, the National Park Service, and State of Maine have all made SERC a priority, too, by providing start-up money that would launch the program and fund the most urgently needed building renovations. Design for renovations on several key buildings has begun and we expect to complete construction next year.

This summer, we begin the grand adventure with a limited number of meetings and projects that grow out of our planning activities and test the site’s potential. In the coming months, NPS will submit the draft management plan for final public comment and complete an environmental impact statement. Planning will give way to implementation.

Looking to the future, we expect to find the resources to transform the site into a beautiful campus-like setting, convert other buildings to useful purposes, and begin new research and education programs. With the right partners, participants, and supporters, potential will become success.

— Sheridan Steele, Superintendent
Poetic Return


Editor

. . . The phoebes have returned this year, to the exact same window ledge, and rebuilt their nest within an inch of where the previous one was. And this despite the fact that I had taken down the old one and a beaver had cleared the riverbank of trees so that the whole area looked much different than it had the year before. Whatever the origin of miracles — two small birds traveling 4,000 miles round trip to find a window ledge in a great big woods proves miracles do happen.

Alan Steinberg
Potsdam, New York

With Thanks

I just returned from my two-week vacation on Mt. Desert. This is the fifth year that we have rented a seaside cottage in Tremont. Much of our vacation is spent walking the wonderful trails of Acadia. As many others before us, we have developed a deep fondness for Acadia and would like to say “thank you” for all the great work.

William P. Ryan
Ashfield, Massachusetts

Acadian Serenity

We will be visiting again this October, for the 18th year, and have never tired of Acadia’s beauty or serenity. It is a time of renewal for us, away from every day tasks and duties. This will be our first year of the last 13 without Bunker, our sweet Boston terrier. We know his spirit will always be with us as we hike Acadia’s beautiful trails, and surely when we watch one of her spectacular sunsets. You and your colleagues are truly blessed to be able to see all of her beauty displayed during every season.

John & Catherine Salvato
Magnolia, Delaware

With Thanks

We just completed our first vacation to Acadia National Park and fell head over heels in awe over the park (and I have seen most parks in the West). We want to join to help support your efforts. We think you are doing a great service . . .

PS. It has been a while since a park has grabbed hold of us. What a special place. We saw a sunset one evening that was amazing.

The Brais Family
Liverpool, New York
One year ago, perched on a favorite rocky outcropping, I contemplated the sweeping view and considered how to cope with life’s latest challenge. My 34-year-old daughter, Melissa, was in the sixth month of treatment for a very aggressive form of breast cancer. Surgery was behind; another year of chemo, radiation, and an experimental treatment lay ahead. Melissa’s active, happy life had been ambushed and there seemed to be no promises for the future. My worst nightmares as a parent had become reality.

The love, support, and prayers that so many of you have offered have been enormously helpful. Thank you. Melissa has successfully completed her treatment and is happily and healthily plunging forward, continuing to give to others while also nurturing herself.

Throughout this ordeal, I have frequently turned to Acadia for support. During the worst of it, the park has welcomed and nurtured me, providing endless opportunities for quiet reflection. Without the runs around the lake, climbs up the West Face, bike rides, and many hours of hiking and cross-country skiing, I would have been missing the glue that has held me together. Many of you have joined me on these expeditions and that has made each one more meaningful.

Most of us have at some point faced a crisis that has demanded that we gather up all of our resources in order to forge ahead. Green space allows us the opportunity for venting and caring for our bodies through physical activity, time away from the crowds, unobstructed views, and access to beautiful places. With others or alone, we can renew and reenergize ourselves in a way that is often impossible in the confines of a building or structural intrusions. Time away from the reminders of life’s pressures — as well as from the visual and auditory pollution that seems to be ever-present in our society — is critical to our emotional and physical health. During times of stress, these escapes are even more important.

Acadia National Park blesses us with the opportunity for spiritual, physical, and emotional renewal. This column is dedicated to all of you who have found solace in its resources during difficult times and to those who have faced debilitating mental or physical illness. Sometimes even the memories of our times in the park help us to move forward more comfortably.

With love and thanks to you all for helping to protect this extraordinary place.

— Dianna Emory, Board Chair
It's time to pay tribute to the unsung heroes of Mount Desert — the stalwart denizens that work tirelessly year after year to keep this island special. I refer to the much-maligned black fly and mosquito.

Don't get me wrong. I like the moss, too. I like the pine needle carpets, the balsam-scented air, and the endless shades of green. I like the pink granite, the views from the Pemetic summit, and the Cedar Swamp Mountain trail. I love *Homarus americanus*, moulus, and steamed periwinkles in a tarragon vinaigrette.

And if I had to choose just one thing that makes Mount Desert most special for me, it would probably be the cold water. Depending on the tide, the water in Somes Sound up our way hovers at around 58 degrees Fahrenheit. Jumping into that water every morning clears away cranial cobwebs with an efficiency no cold shower can match. I live with a writer, and that morning kerplop kick-starts our writing days all summer long.

But just imagine for a moment what Mount Desert might be like without its hardy insect populations. Too often, fog, rain, and cold get credit for holding the line on the haute hordes that long ago overran the Hamptons, Cape Cod, and Martha's Vineyard. Nothing wrong with that. These elements deserve credit. We all know stories of visitors who fall for Mount Desert on one of those perfect weekends in August local real estate agents pray for. Seduced by the warmth, the sun, and the sales pitch, the stories go, these visitors plunk down enormous pots of gold for a piece of an island they foolishly imagine is bathed in warmth and sun much of the year. When Mount Desert's weather realities hit them, they either “adjust” or move back to Palm Beach.

I see black flies and mosquitoes as deterrents. I wonder how many 10-story condominiums would be lining Somes Sound these days had the black fly and mosquito not been on patrol. I wonder how many real estate deals have been sabotaged by a timely bite of a female black fly in need of a little blood? (I say female because the male isn't bloodthirsty at all. He's a wimp. His nutrition comes from sap or plant nectar. He helps pollinate the blueberry crop! You can look it up.)

Trouble is, black flies take the summer off. Maine has about 40 different species (in the genus *Simulium*) and they generally become active in the spring when the temperature climbs to 50 degrees F. They usually flourish from mid-May to mid-June and are more or less gone by early July.

Some summers, when we arrive in early July and find Acadia Park's parking lots overflowing and the island overrun with tourists, I begin to think that our black flies are letting us down. I blame Skin-So-Soft for doing its job too well. I imagine that once Maine's black flies joined the Internet Age and got their own website — as they did a few years back (see: www.mainenature.org/blackfly.html) — they went soft. Then my wife, who should take baths in Skin-So-Soft, gets bitten, swells up and (while feeling sorry for her) my confidence in the Mount Desert black fly is restored.

One secret here that is best not disclosed to people from away: black flies are much worse elsewhere in Maine. They can drive deer and moose out of the deep woods in the spring. Native Americans,
in the old days, migrated in spring from inland forests to Mount Desert’s shores to get away from black flies (and eat clams).

But make no mistake. Mount Desert’s black flies are vigilant enough to have acquired a formidable reputation — one I have done my best to spread among fair-weather rusticators in wimpier climes. I have done the same for the noble Mount Desert mosquito, which takes up the slack when the black fly goes on vacation in early July. I talk up our mosquitoes as flying hypodermics who regard visitors to our house in the woods as liquid refreshment delivery vehicles.

But, hey, who am I to talk. I’m a newcomer, relatively speaking. I didn’t make my first appearance on Mount Desert until 1983. That makes me an FNG — an acronym from the Vietnam war that I am not at liberty to spell out in a family magazine. But you can read all about it in my book, Frankie’s Place.

JIM STERBA is author of Frankie’s Place: A Love Story, set on Mount Desert. Raised in rural Michigan, he reported the Vietnam War for The New York Times, and has written about Asia and America for more than three decades, first for the Times, and now for The Wall Street Journal.
WAYS OF GIVING

The future of Friends of Acadia depends to a large degree on the foresight and generosity of today’s visionaries — our members — who are willing to consider new ways to make gifts. Here are a few suggested methods of making a difference for Friends of Acadia:

**Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities**
Gifts may be restricted to a designated program or applied to FOA’s general operating purposes.

**Gift of Life Insurance**
Name FOA as policy owner and beneficiary, and receive immediate tax deductions on your premium payments.

**Gift of Property**
Gifts of real estate, boats, or artwork provide FOA with marketable assets and may enable you to avoid capital gains taxes.

**Named Endowment Fund**
The principal of a fund established in your name — or for someone you wish to honor or memorialize — is managed for growth, while the income from the fund supports programs.

**Charitable Remainder Trust /Charitable Lead Trust**
Provide FOA or yourself with a steady income stream and, with a remainder trust, leave a significant future gift to FOA. Both arrangements entitle you to considerable tax savings.

**Bequests**
Name FOA as a beneficiary in your will and make a lasting contribution to the organization.

For more information about any of these suggested methods of giving to Friends of Acadia, please contact us at 207-288-3340.
DENHOLM H. JACOBS  
1922 - 2004

Denny Jacobs was an energetic protector of Mount Desert Island and a master fundraiser. Roses and gardening were his special passions. He led the Island Foundation's merger of Thuya and Asticou Azalea gardens. As a board member of Friends of Acadia, Denny brought wise counsel, a cheerful manner, and thoughtful analysis. He had friends galore and good words about all of them. On festive occasions — there were many — he sported his signature bow tie and told lively stories. A Francophile, he and his family spent part of each year in Provence. Denny's wife, Peggy, and several children and grandchildren survive him. And he leaves an eclectic band of friends grateful for having known a most wonderful and passionate human being.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in the memory of:

Robert Abelson  
Jacob Barter  
Emily Morison Beck  
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Henry H. Smith  
Mary Trimble  
Barbara Tyson  
Sohier Welch  
Nancy Young  
And beloved furry friends:  
Brandy  
Sunny and Bunker

IN NOMINE

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in the name of:

Gale & Shelby Davis  
Dianna Emory  
Linda Hamor & Rick Savage  
Arlene Hibschweiler  
Leah Panuccio & Andrew Guthertz  
George Peabody  
Nancy N. Smith  
Leelee Stege  
Pat Stanley  
Robert Taylor

Memorials

BARBARA KURTZ TYSON AND CHARLES R. TYSON  
1914 - 2004, 1914 - 1999

As their parents and grandparents had, Barbara Kurtz and Charlie Tyson summered on Mount Desert Island from childhood. Charlie, influenced by friend, sailing companion and philanthropist Bob Blum, became involved in island philanthropy himself. He was a Trustee of College of the Atlantic, the Astikim Corporation, and the Somesville Landing Corporation. He and Barbara were Honorary Trustees of Friends of Acadia. Barbara served on the board of the Wendell Gilley Museum. Both supported hundreds of Island institutions including the MDI Hospital, Jackson Laboratory, libraries, churches, camps, and schools. Their son, Charles R. Tyson Jr., is a long-time member of the Friends of Acadia board of directors. Their dedication, wise counsel, good humor, and unfailing generosity will be missed.

Heart of the Matter

“In the open space of democracy, we are listening — ears alert — we are watching — eyes open — registering the patterns and possibilities for engagement. Some acts are private; some are public. Our oscillations between local, national, and global gestures map the full range of our movement. Our strength lies in our imagination, and paying attention to what sustains life, rather than what destroys it.”

— Terry Tempest Williams, “Engagement,” Orion Magazine, July/August 2004
This summer marks the fifth season for Acadia Trails Forever. The $13-million partnership between Friends and the park aims to restore and maintain the 130-mile trails complex. Acadia is the first national park with an endowed trail system. These photos illustrate just a few projects accomplished and underway. We thank the 1,110 Acadia Trails Forever donors, whose $9 million in gifts leveraged $4 million in park entry fees for this historic partnership.

1. This new bridge on the Jordan Cliffs Trail guides hikers over a treacherous, narrow pass on the east side of Sargent Mountain. The trail’s north section has been closed for several years due to severe erosion. Reconstruction began in 2003 and will be completed this fall.

2. Each summer, Friends hires four ridge runners to work with park staff, walking Acadia’s trails, educating hikers in “Leave No Trace” principles, performing light trail maintenance, and carrying out trail censuses and other park research.

3. The Jordan Pond Trail invited resource damage because it passed over exposed roots and boggy sections. Acadia Trails Forever reconstruction included quarrying for rock sidewalls, layering base rocks into the trail bed, and hauling and spreading tons of gravel for surfacing. Here the park crew works on a wheelchair accessible section on the pond’s west side.

4. Reconstructed, the same section of the Jordan Pond Trail now provides a stable, relatively level 3.2-mile loop around the pond. Much of the trail is surfaced with gravel, some sections are wheelchair accessible, some cross wet areas with cedar bog walks or bridges, and part of the trail is a pleasant scramble across granite boulders.
5. Acadia staff worked with the NPS Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation documenting constructed features to develop treatment and maintenance guidelines, such as this diagram for stone steps. Their research ensures that Acadia’s trails retain their historic character while meeting high natural resource protection standards.

6. The Acadia Youth Conservation Corp works eight weeks every summer based out of Acadia’s trail shop. Thanks to an Acadia Trails Forever endowment, Friends pays AYCC and leader salaries, provides scholarships for corps members, and purchases boots, shirts and maintenance supplies. The park provides training and leadership. These corps members work with trail crew on a high line, moving rock to the Jordan Pond Trail.

7. The Great Meadow Loop in Bar Harbor was one of the first of five planned village connector trails constructed through Acadia Trails Forever. These paths physically link MDI communities to the park. Here Maine Conservation Corps members erect a footbridge whose design follows the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) model and comes from a 1930s photograph of a Great Meadow bridge.

8. The Great Meadow Loop and its new CCC-style bridge provide an easy two- to three-mile stroll (or ski) from Bar Harbor into the park. Some hikers think the views are most spectacular in winter.

9. Acadia Trails Forever goals include restoring 10 to 12 miles of abandoned — unmarked and unmaintained — trails. The Homans Path was taken off trail maps and maintenance plans in the 1940s. Homans was reopened in 2003 after park crews and FOA volunteers painstakingly restored and stabilized this granite-stepped path.

10. Ruth and Tris Colket’s remarkable $5-million gift to Acadia Trails Forever was the largest cash contribution to a Maine conservation organization. The Colkets wanted to give something back for the many years of profoundly meaningful experiences the family has shared in the park.

MARLA MAJOR is stewardship director at Friends of Acadia.
Friends of Acadia Poetry Awards

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2004 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize:

FIRST PRIZE ($350)
Annaliese Jakimides
Bangor, Maine
*Dragon of Light in the Water*

SECOND PRIZE ($200)
Robin Pelzman
Brookline, Massachusetts
*Lunar Eclipse, Obscured by Snow*

THIRD PRIZE ($100)
Sharon Carter
Silverdale, Washington
*In Late September*

Ten poets received honorable mention. For a complete list, visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

The competition was judged by Baron Wormser, poet laureate of Maine. He is the author of six books of poetry and co-author of two books about teaching poetry. He teaches at the Stonecoast MFA program and co-directs the Conference on Poetry and Teaching at the Frost Place in Franconia, NH. He has received fellowships from the National Endowment of the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.

Baron Wormser lives with his wife in Hallowell, Maine.

Congratulations to the winners, and our thanks to all who participated.
DRAGON OF LIGHT
IN THE WATER

Drink up, I tell you. It's only my Mum.
A cup of real woman. Dead six years,
cremated at McHoul's on Center Street —
most of her, they tell me, filtered out
through the stack, sucked into the clouds,
blown high over goldenrod-stained fields,
drizzled into the West Branch of the Penobscot.
I might have scooped her into my palms this morning,
my tongue scrolling the water from Fish Hatchery Brook.
She tastes whole, robust, not fleshly weak
like she seemed at the kitchen table rifling romance
from the page. She flows from the tap or the sky
or a cold pocket of winter. Perhaps she's pooled
in a cracked skull in Rwanda. My Mum, the adventuress.
For sure, not the woman of polyester pantsuits and sneakers,
fearful of the sound of her own thoughts.
Sometimes I hold this mother-as-water in my mouth,
bumping against my mercury-filled teeth
before I squirt her out between the overbite
that was hers before the false teeth, and is mine still.
I watch her fly up into the light, prismsed droplets,
and laugh at her grace, her tricks.
She's a wild one now, this mother.
My Mum is ocean and wave, hurricane and mist,
road slush and the tar-crusted rivulet
creeping down my living room wall.
She weeps into the weather. Bleeds living roots.
She heals, drowns, baptizes. She slakes and quenches.
She boogies with Cher and Martin Luther and Jackie O.
My Mum is a dragon of light in the water.

— Annaliese Jakimides

ANNALIESE JAKIMIDES has work published or forthcoming
in Hip Mama, Rescue, Mothering Animus, and Beloit Poetry Journal, among
others. Her essays are broadcast on public radio and available at
In 2001, the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) hired SYSTRA Consulting, Inc. to study alternatives to automobile travel along Routes 3 and 1A from Bangor to Trenton, including possible re-use of the Calais Branch Railway, a state-owned line from Brewer to Calais via Ellsworth. Due to cost and length of travel, commuter rail service and ferries from Bangor to Bar Harbor via the Penobscot River were eliminated in the study’s first phase. The second phase considered light rail (trains that can operate as single cars and on rail beds or on tracks in the road), bus rapid transit (a bus system that uses elements of trains and can operate on roadways or dedicated bus lanes), and bus service using existing roads. MDOT determined that the capital and operating costs of all travel alternatives were too great at this time, but did not preclude using them in the future.

SYSTRA also examined locations for an intermodal transportation facility in Trenton that would connect the Island Explorer with the proposed trains or buses from Bangor, as well as provide parking for visitors to Acadia and commuters. SYSTRA weighed the merits of sites based on criteria that included local zoning, parcel size, environmental considerations, distance to Rte. 3, visibility and a “sense of arrival” to Acadia, and acquisition costs. Five finalist sites were ranked, and

**STATE CONSULTANTS RECOMMEND CRIPPENS CREEK FOR ACADIA TRANSPORTATION CENTER**

“We purchased this option to secure a good location for the intermodal transportation center, which has long been planned as part of the Island Explorer bus system.”

Ken Olson
President of Friends of Acadia

**Optioned land (scale and configuration approximate)**

Dotted lines mark site of proposed Acadia National Park transportation center at Crippens Creek.
Crippens Creek, a 369-acre parcel of undeveloped land on the west side of Rte. 3, was deemed the best location.

In January 2004, Friends of Acadia acquired an option on the Crippens parcel, located two miles north of the Bar Harbor/Hancock County Airport entrance. The option is renewable for three years, and a decision to purchase the property must be made by October 15, 2006.

“We purchased this option to secure a good location for the intermodal transportation center, which has long been planned as part of the Island Explorer bus system,” said Ken Olson, president of Friends of Acadia. “Acadia National Park cannot buy land outside the 1986 legislated park boundaries, so Friends moved to hold the property so state and federal partners could study the alternatives. If Crippens Creek had not been selected, we were willing to forfeit our option.”

Site design of the center has not begun, but will include Acadia National Park and area tourism information services, parking areas, an Island Explorer bus stop and waiting area, park-compatible commercial operations, an Island Explorer maintenance and dispatch facility, and visitor amenities, such as phones, restrooms and trails. Trenton municipal facilities are being considered. Planning partners will most likely include the National Park Service, the Maine Department of Transportation, the Federal Transit Administration, Friends of Acadia, Downeast Transportation, Hancock County Planning Commission, local chambers of commerce, and possibly the Town of Trenton, and commercial retailers. Approvals at many government levels will be required to move the project forward.

Friends of Acadia will not raise purchase funds for the site until due diligence is completed and partnerships are assembled. The Acadia transportation center is a key component of Friends’ Project Tranquility, an effort to reduce traffic congestion on Mt. Desert Island. Friends is encouraging Acadia National Park to experiment with fee structures that will provide incentives for visitors to leave their cars at the transportation center and ride the Island Explorer buses.

Friends has met with more than 25 local organizations and businesses regarding the transportation center concept and the Crippens Creek option. As the site design process begins, additional public meetings will be held to solicit ideas about the property.

“We have enjoyed helping develop and fund the propane Island Explorer bus system,” Olson said. “We look forward to this new exciting phase of public transportation, which will further reduce traffic and pollution.”

**STEPHANIE CLEMENT** is conservation director for Friends of Acadia.

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**ACADIA by the numbers**

**Acadia Trails Forever Accomplishments Sampler (to 2003)**

- 3.2 Miles of Jordan Pond Trail reconstructed
- 2,640 Feet of trail added in Jordan Pond House area
- 3,450 Feet of Ship Harbor Trail reconstructed
- 4,000 Feet of trail reconstructed to wheelchair-accessible standards
- 14 Positions added to the trail crew
- 76 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members trained
- 1,500 Feet of Acadia Mt. Trail tread repaired
- 15 Trail bridges rebuilt or added
- 3,500 Feet of bogwalk rebuilt at Jordan Pond and on Isle au Haut
- 2 Village connector trails built
- 1,100 Cairns rebuilt by ridge runners
- 9,100 Visitors introduced to Leave No Trace principles by ridge runners
More than an Auction

Our 15th Annual Benefit Gala is nearly here, under the big tent at the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 14. The auction items will be terrific again this year, but don’t take our word for it — selected items are posted on our website at www.friendsofacadia.org. Click on “Benefit Gala” in the sidebar.

But it’s more than just an auction. The food, music, and decorations will do justice to a stunning August evening on the Maine coast.

It’s clear that from the humble beginnings of our Gala — held at the Neighborhood House with kids passing peanuts and members generously hosting post-auction dinner parties — the common denominator of the past 15 years of successful events has been the incredible support and generosity of our volunteer Benefit Gala Committee, our members, and, of course, the area’s business community that has donated financial support and top-of-the-line items to the auction. Our partners in this fifteen-year tradition help protect something near and dear to all of us — Acadia National Park.

Sound stewardship of Acadia is accomplished through many projects, and everyday management. Donations received through the Benefit Gala fund not only administrative costs of the organization — typically the most difficult to raise — but programs like the trails and carriage road volunteers, Ridge Runners, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Peregrine Falcon and Hawk Watch program, traffic reduction on Mount Desert Island, and more. These programs enhance the way we all experience Acadia, and help protect the park for those who will follow us.

So as we gear up for our 15th Benefit Gala, we thank those who have made this event successful year after year. Each person’s contribution has made a significant difference.

If you would like to attend the Benefit Gala or get involved as a volunteer, please call the Friends of Acadia office at 207-288-3340. Not only are you supporting a great cause, but you’ll also have fun doing it.
For Sam and Tim Francis of Atlantic Landscape Construction, turning their passion for all things Maine into a successful and satisfying business began when they were two college students “from away” who met at the University of Maine at Machias. Their mutual commitment to family and their love of Maine and its native beauty, combined with their work ethic, has enabled them to have not only a wonderful family life but also a thriving business in Maine over the past 30 years.

Tim and Sam Francis started Atlantic Landscape 30 years ago in Washington County. They were the only two employees and their first projects included small residential work, mainly lawn and tree installations. The company has now expanded into a landscape construction firm employing more than thirty people. This has given them the ability to specialize in large plant material installation and naturalized landscapes. Tim makes a conscious effort to incorporate native materials like shrubs, groundcovers, and natural stone into every project.

The purchase of Merrill Orchard allowed Tim and Sam to move closer to and better serve their clients. Chances are if you live on Mount Desert Island or in the surrounding area you have seen the impact of Atlantic Landscape — not to mention the recent proliferation of apple trees being planted and beautifying the landscapes of many area homes. Tim takes time with each of these majestic apple trees, ensuring special care in transporting and planting.

Friends of Acadia is grateful for Atlantic Landscape's association and partnership in our projects. In addition to providing trees at cost, as well as donating trees to the Benefit Gala, Atlantic Landscape plays a very active role in our “Growing a Greener Mount Desert Island” campaign. Each year Friends of Acadia asks its members to purchase a tree to be planted along Mount Desert Island’s Village Connector Trails and at appropriate locations in Acadia National Park. These trees provide shelter for wildlife, aid in erosion control, and beautify the park and the surrounding communities for years to come. Tim and his crew undertake a tremendous volunteer effort each year. After careful selection, 75 trees or more are transported to decorate the Benefit Gala tents. The trees create an amazing ambiance and beauty. The morning after the event Tim’s crew picks up the trees, and delivers and plants them at designated sites on the island. The work load is tremendous for this volunteer effort and extremely time consuming, yet year after year Atlantic Landscape manages our tree planting efforts.

Tim and Sam have many fond memories of spending time with their two children, Heather and Chad, in Acadia—hiking, horseback riding, and cross-country skiing—as well as skiing at Sugarloaf and boating and fishing on the many area lakes. Heather now lives in New Hampshire with her husband, Chris. But Chad and his wife, Michele, will become the second generation in the family business. Chad is currently working towards a horticultural degree from the University of Maine and works with the Atlantic crew learning his trade. Michelle works in the administrative end of the business. Chad’s experience and education will be the foundation for continuing the outstanding customer service (and volunteer efforts) and landscaping know-how that Atlantic prides itself on.

Thank you, Tim, Sam, and Atlantic Landscape crew. We are proud to count you among our friends.

— Theresa Begley
Friends of Acadia Journal
WEBBER ENERGY FUELS DONATES TRUCK

This spring, Webber Energy Fuels of Bangor donated a 3,000-gallon water truck to Friends of Acadia, which in turn passed title to Acadia National Park for use on the carriage roads.

The 1986 International S-1954 truck originally hauled fuel. Webber cleaned the tanker thoroughly, converting it to a water carrier. The park will use this non-potable water to stabilize carriage road surfaces during rehabilitation.

"Webber Energy is thrilled to have worked with the park and Friends of Acadia to give the vehicle to an important cause, the ongoing upkeep of 44 miles of crushed stone roads," said Marshall Smith, the company’s fleet administrator. "The tanker will be useful for many years ahead."

Friends encourages this kind of corporate gift because it offers double benefits — the park gets needed equipment, and the donor may earn favorable treatment under the tax code.

EXCEPTIONAL ENERGY

The Propane Education and Research Council (PERC) recently awarded the Island Explorer the 2004 PROPAPE Exceptional Energy® Fleet Award. The bus system was one of five fleets recognized by PERC for achievements in using propane as an alternative fuel source. Paul Murphy, Downeast Transportation’s general manager accepted the award on behalf of all the Island Explorer partners—Acadia National Park, Maine Department of Transportation, Friends of Acadia, L.L. Bean, the MDI League of

Award winners (L-R): John Quebe (clean cities coordinator, Alamo Area Council of Governments, accepting on behalf of VIA Metropolitan Transit); Steve Morando (assistant director, Fleet and Fiscal Operations, Purchasing & General Services Department, City of San Antonio); Darwin Burkhardt (chairman, Chicago Area Clean Cities, accepting on behalf of El Milagro); Roy Willis (president, Propane Education & Research Council); Jim Muedel (director of fleet services, Jacksonville Electric Authority); Curtis Donaldson (president, CleanFUEL USA); Paul Murphy (operations manager, Downeast Transportation, accepting on behalf of Island Explorer).
Towns, and Maine Clean Communities—at the May 3rd U.S. Department of Energy Tenth National Clean Cities Conference and Expo. Other award winners included the City of San Antonio, Texas; the VIA Metropolitan Transit system of San Antonio; Jacksonville Electric Authority; and El Milagro, a small business located in Chicago. The PERC trophy is on display at the Acadia National Park/Island Explorer Visitor Center at the Bar Harbor Village Green. The Island Explorer began 2004 service on June 23rd and will run through Labor Day with limited service continuing through Columbus Day.

**ACADIA’S NEW HORSE PATROL PROGRAM**

This July Acadia National Park initiated a formal mounted horse patrol program. Friends of Acadia provided a grant of $4,300 to fund equipment, training supplies, basic horse care, and feed for the 2004 season.

Max the horse was brought to Acadia this spring. He formerly served with the Philadelphia Police Department, and even worked crowd control at a Phish concert in Limestone, Maine. Neal Labrie was recently hired as Acadia’s backcountry supervisor, and his duties include overseeing the new horse patrol program. Seasonal ranger Ezra Schwalm serves as Max’s handler. Before coming to Acadia, Ezra worked several seasons as a backcountry horse patrol ranger at Glacier National Park in Montana.

“Visitor response to the horse patrol has been fantastic,” says Labrie. “When Ezra and Max are out on the carriage roads, people approach them nonstop to make comments or ask questions.”

You’re most likely to see Max and Ezra in the vicinity of Wildwood Stables and Jordan Pond, but Max will occasionally be trailered to other areas of the park.

Chief Ranger David Buccello believes the program holds tremendous potential for increasing the presence of rangers on the carriage roads and high use areas, patrolling in a fashion that is historically appropriate for Acadia, and making the ranger staff more accessible in a traditional setting.

Members of the MDI chapter of the Equine Affairs Association worked with park staff this spring to help prepare Max for life as a patrol horse. Labrie wants to integrate local volunteers in the horse patrol program on a regular basis. Volunteers can help with feeding, exercising, and care of Max. In the future there is the possibility of serving on the patrol with rangers.

If you’re interested in volunteering, have questions about the program, or would like to meet Max and Ezra, call Neal Labrie at 207-288-8772. And if you’re interested in supporting the horse patrol program with a contribution, please contact Kelly Dickson at Friends of Acadia, 207-288-3340.
Club in hand, golfer (above, in baseball cap) surveys the Somes Sound fairway from ladies’ tee, aboard the good ship Four Wishes, July 17, 2004.

Caddy on jet-ski uses long-handled net to retrieve floating golf balls—recycling at its best, but hard to sink a putt.

Before heading to 19th hole for a well-deserved libation, two caddies bring peace and quiet to Valley Cove in the rough between Flying and St. Sauveur mountains.
**A Summer Romance**


Nan Lincoln’s extraordinary memoir about raising an abandoned seal pup explains the allure of selkie legend, in which seals come ashore, shed their skins, and assume human shape. One magic summer in Maine, a seal pup named Cecily came ashore and assumed human proportions in the hearts of at least one family on Mount Desert Island. Steve Katona’s foreword tells the story about the status of seal colonies and habitat in 1976, practices for rescuing abandoned seal pups then and now, and the likely scenario for a female seal over the intervening years. But thirty years ago before rescue practices were well established, Cecily had the unusual good fortune to find the right rescuer to help her learn to be a seal and become a modern-day MDI legend.

— M.S. O’Byrne

**A Big Guide in a Small Package**


This exceptional guide packs in a bit of everything about Acadia, Mount Desert Island, and the surrounding villages. The *Moon Handbook* provides maps of the Acadia region, the park loop road and carriage roads, Schoodic, Isle au Haut, and Deer Isle. What you want to know will likely be found in this guide, including: easy hikes and more strenuous routes; entertainment, food, tours, and accommodations in local villages; winter activities; tips for being a sensitive, low-impact visitor; hazards, and precautions to make your trip more enjoyable. The travel strategies section provides a primer on the area history, flora and fauna, and local environmental issues. Small and light, this is a big guide in a handy size.

— L. Phillips

**When Postcards Told a Story**


Bygone Coastal Maine joins Brechlin’s *Bygone Bar Harbor* and *Bygone Boston* as must-haves if you love the craft of the old New England postcard. Its paint-like tints and hues seem somehow braver, more subtly interpretive and intoxicating than the precise true-color photo genre that extinguished it. The 115 high-quality reproductions, pithy texts, and handy size make this book a terrific gift for anyone who loves the villages, lighthouses, beaches, railroads, natural scenes, and other icons that bespoke “Coast.”

A real contribution to Maine’s cultural history, a joy to pore through. Brechlin, my good man, bring us more Bygones!

— Madison Adams Col
Your Will Can Shape the Future

Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear — our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mount Desert Island's natural wonders — is a wise investment. You can help us protect Acadia Forever.

It's simple. You need add only one sentence to your will, or a codicil:

1. I hereby give _____% of my residuary estate to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

2. I hereby bequeath $_____ to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

3. I hereby devise the following property to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes: [description of property].

Your concern and appreciation for Acadia and Mount Desert Island will extend far beyond your own lifetime. It will be a lasting legacy, enriching the lives of millions now and in the future.

Please call us at 207-288-3340 for more information.
Generosity and Foresight

Planned gifts from our members help protect Acadia in perpetuity

Thomas and Elizabeth Fox of Washington, DC have been members of Friends of Acadia for about 15 years. Tom served as assistant administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development under Clinton and is now semi-retired. Elizabeth is senior advisor to the National Experience Corps. Friends learned this year that we’ve been named a $50,000 beneficiary of their Charitable Remainder Unitrust.

The couple established the trust with IBM and Merck stock. Selling the securities would have meant huge capital gains, while converting them to a Charitable Remainder Unitrust meant a tax break, income of 6.5 percent of the trust’s net fair market value each year, and the satisfaction of knowing that after their death the trust will help protect a place they treasure.

“The couple discussed the unitrust with their children before establishing it. “They share our values on this and support our decision. I like to think that 100 years from now, members of the Fox family will still be able to enjoy Acadia as I have,” said Tom.

Friends of Acadia is most grateful for their generosity.

We recently received another generous gift — a check for $20,000 from the estate of Roger Pierce Jr., who passed away in August 2003. Roger graduated from Harvard in 1939, drove an ambulance in Africa in 1942, served in the U.S. Army during World War II, and worked for State Street Bank in Boston from 1954 until his retirement in 1981.

We are grateful for Roger’s confidence in Friends of Acadia’s ability to safeguard the park for the enjoyment of future generations. Notably, his largest gift to Friends prior to the bequest was $50. His brother Dan Pierce, who summers on MDI with his wife Polly, said Roger spent every summer at the “Coffeepot” in Northeast Harbor. The cottage was bought in 1912 with proceeds from the sale of a silver coffeepot that is now in a museum. Like most of the Pierces, Roger loved MDI and Acadia more than any other place.

“He liked the simplicity of Northeast Harbor in the old days and liked things to stay the same, overall,” Dan said of his older brother. “I think that’s why he left the gift — he wanted to be sure Acadia stayed the way he remembered it. He loved hiking and climbing.” Roger may have inherited his desire to protect the park from his great grandfather Charles Eliot, who helped establish Acadia.

Roger’s generous investment in Acadia greatly furthers our mission to protect the beauty, ecology, and culture of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities.

If you’re interested in naming Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary in your will or of a charitable remainder trust, please contact Kelly Dickson at 207-288-3340.

— Kelly Dickson
OPERATING PHILOSOPHY

To accomplish our mission,
1. We advocate. We advance park interests before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service and other federal, state or local bodies, and among the general public.
2. We make grants. We raise private funds for select capital projects in Acadia and for its enlightened stewardship, creating sustainable revenues through endowments where appropriate. We strive to supplement federal funds and services, not replace them.
3. We nullify threats. We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.
4. We promote excellent management. We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.
5. We operate independently. We function as a free-standing nonprofit, supportive of the park but independent from it. We reserve the right to differ respectfully.
6. We seek a broad membership. We seek to maximize the number of park defenders, stewards and donors. We encourage every visitor to join Friends of Acadia as a means of giving something back to the park for the privilege of experiencing it.
7. We enhance communities. We promote conservation in border communities through programs and grants that enhance their natural character and complement park values.
8. We support volunteerism. We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of foot paths and carriage roads.
9. We produce tangible results. We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.
10. We leverage donated funds. We operate on a sound financial basis, leveraging member dues and other gifts to bring the highest conservation return per donated dollar.

VISION

Friends of Acadia seeks an Acadia National Park that is the best funded, best managed, and best maintained national park for its size and volume of use. Mt. Desert Island is distinguished by its intact natural character and the quality of village life. The air is clean, the water pure. Low-emissions public transit, funded primarily by park entry fees, contributes to conserving Acadia’s special qualities. Park visitation conforms to sensible carrying capacities. People feel a powerful reverence for their great national park and its host island. They want to keep this place beautiful for all generations. They help protect its outstanding natural, cultural and economic attributes by supporting Friends of Acadia.
For volunteers, the rewards are many.

Mark your calendars for **Take Pride in Acadia Day**

**Saturday, November 6, 8:30 – Noon**

Join us to rake leaves from the carriage road drainages to reduce spring erosion.

Free hot lunch for all volunteers.

Register by contacting Friends of Acadia at 207-288-3340, or volunteer@friendsofacadia.org, before October 29.

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Whether walking, bicycling, driving, or riding the fare-free Island Explorer through the park, all must pay the entrance fee.

The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) and $40 annual pass are available at the following locations in Maine:

- **Acadia National Park Headquarters** (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)
- **Hulls Cove Visitor Center** (off Rte. 3 in Hulls Cove) • **Sand Beach Entrance Station** (on the Park Loop Road)
- **Island Explorer/Acadia National Park information center** (next to the Bar Harbor Village Green and Island Explorer transfer location)
- **Seawall Campground** (off Rte. 102A in Southwest Harbor) • **Blackwoods Campground** (off Rte. 3 in Otter Creek)

*Park pass fees make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.*
Friends of Acadia

Mission

The mission of Friends of Acadia is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby to ensure a high quality experience for visitors and residents.