Purchase Your Park Pass!

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:

**Open Year-Round**
- ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS
  (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

**Open May – November**
- HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER
- THOMPSON ISLAND INFORMATION STATION
- SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION
- BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND
- SEAWALL CAMPGROUND
- JORDAN POND AND CADILLAC MTN. GIFT SHOPS
- MOUNT DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- VILLAGE GREEN BUS CENTER

Your park pass purchase makes possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

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**Partners**
Friends of Acadia, Island Explorer and L.L.Bean have formed a partnership to preserve and protect Acadia National Park for future generations.

**Protect**
Acadia National Park with approximately 35,000 acres, includes 41 miles of coastline, 16 islands, more than 200 species of birds, and numerous historic buildings and trails.

Join us in protecting our national parks.

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**Preserve**
Island Explorer is propane powered for cleaner air and a healthier environment.

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**Participate**
Buy a park pass
Your contribution helps:
- rebuild trails and carriage roads
- protect natural and cultural resources
- support the fare-free Island Explorer

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Many species of birds live in the Mount Desert Island area.

Jordan Pond and the twin curves of the Bubbles.

Fragrant water lily, found in fresh water ponds throughout Acadia National Park.

Acadia’s coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking and kayaking.
Anyone who has traveled Downeast to the Schoodic Peninsula knows what a rare pleasure is in store at the end of land. After passing through the communities of Gouldsboro or Winter Harbor, the road weaves through a forested landscape until vistas begin to open onto the ocean. The Schoodic Peninsula offers a rocky coastline, winding trails, summit views from Schoodic Head, and, most especially, the opportunity for quiet discovery and experience.

Schoodic is a beautiful area for humans to live and visit. Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro, with their several villages, share the peninsula. Schoodic is also home to many species worthy of conserving. The land provides valuable breeding, nesting, and stopover habitats for migratory songbirds. Hundreds of plant species thrive on the peninsula. The jack pine stands and maritime shrubland communities are listed as “Rare and Exemplary Natural Communities” by the Maine Natural Areas Program. Acadia National Park has been protecting and sharing the Schoodic experience on 2,300 acres for 80 years.

Recently, the Schoodic communities, Acadia National Park, and other stakeholders were alerted to the possibility of large-scale resort development on the approximately 3,200 acres directly abutting Acadia. Labeled an “eco-resort,” the development is proposed on land that separates the park from the rest of the mainland and that is an integral part of the complex wildlife habitats of Acadia and the Schoodic region.

A large-scale development like the one being explored would have significant regional impacts and deserves a regional discussion. Friends of Acadia is engaging residents and stakeholders in asking the important questions about their preferred vision for Schoodic. We want to hear from them their most valued experiences in the Schoodic area. Does a large-scale resort development fit the values of the communities? What sort of development, if any, is appropriate on the boundaries of a national resource like Acadia National Park?

“A habitat corridor that is interspersed with trails and electric trams transporting visitors from lodging to golf course to ecological center presents conflicts that make its ecological success unlikely. A habitat corridor should provide an unbroken buffer and land for wildlife and plant species to move and thrive in diverse landscapes. The presence of trails and tramways interrupts the protected corridor, reducing if not eliminating its effectiveness. The plans explore the possibility of opening these areas to the public, as well. Add parking lots and increased use to the “habitat corridor.”

A beaver ecology center, a captive bird breeding center and a nursery for jack pine stands may be fine objectives in landscapes that have already lost their natural habitats. But it is a tragic irony to build an “eco-resort” touting sound ecological practices while destroying the rare natural communities.

Friends of Acadia is working with partners to advocate for a better “eco-future” for Schoodic. Innovative alternatives can be created that would treat the landowners fairly, protect the characteristics most valued by the communities, protect the traditional public enjoyment of the land, and preserve the integrity of the ecosystems that sustain valuable wildlife habitats and migration. Twelve years ago, when the land was threatened with a proposed clear cut, Friends of Acadia and partners protected the integrity of the Schoodic landscape and negotiated a sensitive timber cut with the landowner. Today, Friends welcomes a broad and dynamic regional discussion about a truly ecologically-sound and visionary future for the Schoodic Peninsula.

—Marla S. O’Byrne
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Thanks to volunteers and donors, Acadia National Park is a much better place to visit and enjoy. Without this private assistance, the National Park Service could not keep up with the maintenance and demands of serving more than two million visitors each year.

National park superintendents often see one another at various meetings around the country and I am always pleased to answer questions about Acadia’s many successes resulting from its partnership with Friends of Acadia. I am proud to say that Friends is clearly one of the leading “friends groups” and, believe me, many superintendents would love to have a similar success story.

Even though it is easy for me to remember the many great things happening in Acadia thanks to our donors and volunteers, I am still very impressed when I see a list of those accomplishments for any given year. Projects, programs, events, and activities made possible through Friends of Acadia and your generosity just last year include:

- Our ranger horse patrol, including the feed, veterinary service, winter stabling, and training for Max the horse
- Our bike patrol on the carriage roads, which serves thousands of users each summer
- The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, which gives youth a great work experience in the park
- Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up and Take Pride in Acadia Day events, which involve hundreds of helpers picking up litter, raking leaves, and generally having fun working with others who care for Acadia
- The Ridge Runners who maintain the trail cairns and teach “Leave No Trace” principles
- One summer worker for the Wild Gardens of Acadia to keep the plants (and volunteers) thriving
- Helping the park acquire available parcels inside its boundary, like the Pooler Farm property near the Northeast Creek watershed, and helping protect very significant land on the edge of the park, like the 25 acres on Acadia Mountain that was acquired to end a major development threat
- Monitoring nearly 200 conservation easements to be sure the natural and scenic values are not being altered over time
- Family Fun Day, which introduces children to the wonders of Acadia and nature
- Nine new research projects, using the L.L. Bean Research Fellowship grants, that provide valuable information for park managers on topics such as seabirds, winter recreation, songbird migration, geology, brook trout, history of the Frazer homestead, freshwater snails, and zooplankton
- The recruitment and management of the 3,000 volunteers that pitch in to improve the trails, carriage roads, education programs, and many other activities that make up our visitor service and resource management work—we couldn’t begin to properly care for Acadia and our visitors without the dedicated and hard working volunteers

Working as one large team, we are able to accomplish so much more than we could without the generosity of people like you. Acadia National Park is fortunate, indeed, to have friends like you. Thank you for your interest and support.

—Sheridan Steele

“National park superintendents often see one another at various meetings around the country and I am always pleased to answer questions about Acadia’s many successes resulting from its partnership with Friends of Acadia.”
In Awe of Acadia
My five siblings and I gather from around the world every year for a meeting (our mother joins us, too). Last year we had a wonderful vacation in Bar Harbor. We especially enjoyed the hiking and biking along the carriage roads. We have been taking trips together for more than 20 years and this is the first time we have been inspired to give a donation in order to keep a national park cared for. It could be our age, but the beauty of the Bar Harbor area just struck us as “awesome.”

—Meriam Krout and family
Deleware, Utah, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Florida, and the United Kingdom

An Appreciative Skier
Last Wednesday, as I was briefly breaking cross-country trail on the Giant Slide Loop towards Gilmore Meadow on one of the most beautiful winter days imaginable, I met up with Lili Pew, also breaking trail. Lili reminded me that if I appreciate the groomed trails (I do) that a simple word of thanks goes a long way to supporting the volunteers. So, it is from the bottom of my heart that I send this simple “thank you all!” for your hard work. My family and I are, indeed, most appreciative.

—Steve Demers
Town Hill, Maine

Winter in Acadia
We’ve just returned from a winter sojourn in Bar Harbor and enjoyed the beauty and peacefulness of Acadia in the winter. Exploring the park is a true pleasure for us. Thanks for all of your efforts in maintaining its accessibility and its loveliness!

—Ric and Emma St. Germain
Providence, Rhode Island
While I was growing up, coming to Mount Desert Island was always a highlight of the year. Long afternoons spent exploring the beaches and woods, hours passed sailing or in a rowboat, and the annual hike to the Jordan Pond House were all eagerly-anticipated activities. As the summers at home in Massachusetts became hot and muggy, I longed for the cool breeze coming off the ocean and the calming tranquility of the island.

As I see significant change to the areas around me, Mount Desert Island remains seemingly unchanged due to Acadia National Park. Although I’ve always been conscious of the park, it wasn’t until recently that I truly valued the influence that Acadia has on the island and its residents and visitors. As I begin to understand the impact of Acadia, I am also able to appreciate my ancestors’ role in creating Acadia National Park.

“...when my favorite woods at home in Massachusetts became private property and developed, my favorite places in Acadia remained just as wild as they had been the year before.”

Charles William Eliot, my great-great-great-grandfather, is known to most as the longest serving president of Harvard University. He is the namesake of Eliot House at Harvard and referred to by many as President Eliot. But unknown to many Harvard historians, Charles W. Eliot was also the founder of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. This group was able to implement a vision that Charles W. Eliot’s son had—a vision of acquiring land to conserve it for public use.

President Eliot chose the right people (including George B. Dorr) to chair the Hancock County Trustees, for without dynamic original officers, nothing would have come of his son’s vision. Although my great-great-great-grandfather was quick to credit his son for being the visionary behind what later became Acadia National Park, it was he who guided into fruition the vision of a park preserved for public use.

I personally owe much to Charles William Eliot. His appreciation of the Maine coastline was instilled in the generations of Eliots who came after him, and is the reason why I have been blessed with the opportunity to know Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park as a home away from home. By regularly coming back to Acadia I have, over time, developed an intimate relationship with the park.

As is the tradition of many visitors, I climb Sargent Mountain as my first hike on the island. I have favorite trails for clear days, and favorite trails for rainy days. Acadia helped foster my love of the outdoors and nature. And when my favorite woods at home in Massachusetts became private property and developed, my favorite places in Acadia remained just as wild as they had been the year before. And so, I try to give back as much as I can to Acadia. I have worked in the park, volunteered in the park, and donated to the park.

I give back in every way I can because Acadia has given so much to me. I like to think that Charles William Eliot would be proud.

President Eliot wrote an article in 1904 called “The Right Development of Mount Desert Island.” In it he discusses a number of ideas, such as the importance for maintaining pretty roadsides and how to preserve the island and coastline. There is one sentence in particular, though, that sticks with me: “Whether Mount Desert is, or is not, to be developed as a prosperous pleasure and health resort for years to come depends on the amount of foresight, good judgment, and good feeling which the voters in the three towns can bring to bear on the problem. They can either secure or endanger the future of the island.”

Lucky for all those who love the island, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations was able to secure, not endanger, the future of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island.

VASSAR PIERCE is the great-great-great-grandson of Charles William Eliot. He is a graduate of Bucknell University and is a Friends of Acadia Ridge Runner and former No Child Left Inside Intern.
Poem

FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD
Honorable Mention

Primitve Runes

The ravens come
complaining out of the woods
at first light, like a clutch
of teenagers awakened too early, lagging
down the stairs for breakfast.

Heads gawky and ruffled,
beaks unbarred, they squawk out questions,
rummage through life for answers –
No reassuring replies or pleasing
refrains in these bird calls.
I like that.

Black eyes roll in sockets,
taking in the same world as mine,
though they, at least, seem a part of it all –
tops of pines and roundness of moon
skimming their bellies.

Seeing me far below,
pale and exposed as a jointed earthworm,
looking up neither for food nor weather –
What must they think of a creature
so removed from the natural world,
muddling back and forth from car to house?

I want to decipher
the primitive runes of
their black bodies against the sky.

Part an ebony beak and
let out a pointed scream,

lights of neighbors flashing on,
as I fly off with the other hoodlums in my pack.

—Elizabeth Potter

ELIZABETH POTTER lives in Round Pond, Maine.
Jack Russell, Advocate Extraordinaire

It’s always an exciting thing when a volunteer walks into the Friends of Acadia office with unique talents and life experiences, and a passion for Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Just as Friends of Acadia hopes to enhance park programs and operations through its contributions, volunteer contributions truly augment the organization’s efforts to preserve and protect the park and its gateway communities. Jack Russell, a dedicated member of the Acadia Advocacy Network, a contributing writer to the Journal, and a frequent participant in trail and carriage road work, has become an indispensable member of Friends of Acadia.

Jack and his wife, Sandy Wilcox, joined Friends of Acadia when they moved to Mount Desert Island in 1996. Jack, the son of Jackson Laboratory scientists, spent the first 15 years of his life as an island resident, followed his family to the West Coast, and eventually took on a career in Michigan. Jack estimates that he and Sandy spend five out of seven days a week in the park, “stepping with the multiple generations who secured the lands and created the park and trails system.”

Friends of Acadia staff first realized what a gem of a volunteer Jack is when Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne toured Acadia in September 2006 and held a “listening session” in Brewer regarding cooperative conservation. Most of the more than 100 attendees who testified spoke about a project to restore portions of the Penobscot River, but there were several individuals there to address park funding issues. After a long night of hearing comments, it was Jack’s testimony that captured the need for more park funding so that Acadia would be there for his granddaughter Michaela to enjoy that Secretary Kempthorne quoted.

Jack Russell, rake in hand, shares his enthusiasm for Friends of Acadia with a fellow Friend at Take Pride in Acadia Day.

Given this, what are the lessons for Friends of Acadia? Jack encouraged Friends to continue to build its Acadia Advocacy Network, communicate with members regularly, and provide opportunities for Acadia’s advocates to gather and feel part of a team. He cited Take Pride in Acadia Day, the November raking day that prepares the carriage roads for winter, as a perfect example of how people can understand that they are part of a team with a common mission that accomplishes great tasks while enjoying the process.

“After a long night of hearing comments, it was Jack’s testimony about the need for more park funding so that Acadia would be there for his granddaughter Michaela to enjoy that Secretary Kempthorne quoted.”

Jack also suggested that Friends of Acadia reach out make Acadia relevant to all Americans. He mentioned that minority populations in the United States will soon outnumber white Americans, and that Friends of Acadia and other park advocates need to engage minority communities to ensure that they become the preservationists of the future. In this presidential transition year, Jack also specifically recommended that Friends of Acadia work with national partners, such as the National Parks Conservation Association and the congressional sponsors of the Centennial Challenge authorizing legislation, to make sure that the presidential nominees are aware of and support the Centennial Initiative as an important program that brings additional operating funds to our national parks.

When asked about his hopes for the future of Acadia, Jack responded with two priorities: 1) that the private inholdings within the boundaries of Acadia National Park and critical lands bordering the park be protected within his lifetime, if not by Acadia’s (and the National Park Service’s) Centennial in 2016; and 2) that the communities and Acadia National Park have a deep, healthy, resonant relationship such that neighbors, especially children, see the park as their own—that it was created for them, that they have good fortune for living here, and that they have an active role in managing and protecting it.

Thanks to the combined efforts of Jack Russell and the other volunteers who contribute their voices to the Acadia Advocacy Network and other programs, Friends of Acadia’s message is stronger and there is a far better chance of making hopes like Jack’s a reality.

—Stephanie Clement
Give the Gift of Acadia

Looking for the perfect gift idea for a birthday or anniversary?

Introduce someone you care about to Acadia with a gift membership in Friends of Acadia.

* Please send a special $40 gift package* to:

Name ___________________________________________

Address ___________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code, & Telephone Number

Message you would like on the card: ___________________________________________

* Gift package includes:

  • The Rusticator’s Journal, a delightful book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park
  • A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually
  • A Friends of Acadia window decal
  • The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park

To give a gift membership, simply mail the above form, along with a check made payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

All contributions to Friends of Acadia are used to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.

Friends of Acadia
P.O. Box 45 • Bar Harbor, ME 04609
www.friendsofacadia.org
207-288-3340 • 800-625-0321

Save the Date

Upcoming Friends of Acadia Events

Saturday, April 26

Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up
Mount Desert Island, Trenton, and Schoodic
Bring your family and co-workers and help remove trash from the roadside.

Saturday, June 7

National Trails Day
Acadia National Park
Learn about Acadia’s historic trails or assist with a spring clean-up project in the park.

Sunday, July 6

America’s National Parks: A Monumental Vision
Gates Center and Ethel H. Blum Gallery, College of the Atlantic
Join us for a lecture by photographer Clyde Butcher and view his photographs of America’s national parks.

Friday, July 11

Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
Bar Harbor Club
Celebrate Friends of Acadia’s accomplishments in the past year and meet other Friends members and leaders.

Sunday, July 20

Acadia Adventures: Family Fun Day
Sieur de Monts, Acadia National Park
Bring your children or young relatives and friends and join Friends of Acadia and park rangers for special field-day activities.

Saturday, August 9

Friends of Acadia 19th Annual Benefit Gala
The Benefit Gala is going green! Join us for an evening of good green fun.

For more information about Friends of Acadia events, visit www.friendsofacadia.org/events or call 207-288-3340.
I had the pleasure of working in Acadia National Park as a Ridge Runner for Friends of Acadia during the summer of 2007. This 10-week experience presented plenty of reciprocal opportunities for education and growth, and proved to be a synergistic blessing in countless ways.

Under the careful planning and guidance of Acadia National Park Resource Specialist Charlie Jacobi, the initial two-week Ridge Runner training period offered a well-rounded initiation to the park and all of its facets. This overview included lessons about the history of park and some of the outer-lying islands; park geography and trails; Leave No Trace principles; visitor usage trends; and trail and cairn maintenance. We were also introduced to the park’s natural and human resources, including key go-to people for wildlife, wildflower, geologic, and air quality issues, and more. The information I absorbed during the training allowed me to field visitor questions with precision and confidence while gaining valuable personal insight into the natural splendor that is Acadia National Park.

Charlie prepared us with solid skills and information to handle most any situation. We were always prepared to shift gears when inclement weather or ulterior circumstances presented themselves. Despite the time constraints of a short summer and an overflowing calendar, we made great strides of progress. We gathered important field data for the park and furthered trail maintenance efforts. We offered first aid, extra water, trail tips, wildlife information, and directions to those in need. We reached thousands of visitors with the principles of Leave No Trace, helping to preserve Acadia for everyone by broadening awareness of responsible stewardship.

As all who love Mount Desert Island know, Acadia National Park is greater than the sum of its parts. It is rife with character and rich with ageless stories. Gentle salt musk graces the pines through the wind, creating a signature scent. Shared laughter echoes in the embrace of winding carriage roads and breathtaking trails…the time we each spend here bears witness to the uniqueness of the park’s essence.

The dedicated park staff and tireless volunteers nurture the roots that grow here and allow Acadia to flourish. The Ridge Runner program flows forth as a branch of combined effort, helping create unity between all of the parts that comprise the park—a unity based around a love for the blessing that is Acadia National Park, and a desire to maintain and improve upon our shared resource.

It was a true honor to work with the park and Friends of Acadia. The intense connection I feel with the land, the community, and the island blossomed from my Ridge Runner experience. The program nurtured and empowered this relationship, giving me heightened insight into the intricate balance between humans and the natural world.

Sitting on mountain summits for hours at a time conducting census counts, I was brought back to the awareness that comes from simplicity. Helping others to understand the delicate nature of alpine ecosystems and the sensitive needs of wildlife, I was able to see the nature of the people who make Acadia National Park the gem that it is. These people, of course, are all of you, for together we are the park.

MELISSA GATES is a fourth-year student at College of the Atlantic. A native Vermonter, she now calls Southwest Harbor home.
Although Maine has a reputation for cold, dark winters, the carriage roads in Acadia National Park come alive with each and every snowfall. For more than 20 years a small but growing group of volunteer trail groomers—the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA), a committee of Friends of Acadia—have set out to prepare a large portion of the carriage road system for cross-country skiing. After even the most moderate snowfall, groomers use modern snowmobiles and a variety of towed rollers, tidd-groomers, and track-setters, and the carriage roads become, quite possibly, the finest cross-country-skiing terrain in Maine.

Many years ago, local resident Dr. Bob Masucco began laying down groomed ski tracks in the Hadlock Pond, Sargent Mountain, and Amphitheater areas of Acadia National Park. As the father of track-setting in Acadia, Bob has now begun to pass the torch to a new band of hardy volunteers. Using his private grooming equipment Bob amassed a wealth of knowledge about snow conditions across the carriage road system. While he may not use the dozens of Inuit terms for different types of snow, Bob has informed the new volunteers about the 10-foot high snow drifts that can occur on the east flank of Penobscot Mountain, potentially swallowing up even the most intrepid groomer.

Today, grooming in Acadia is coordinated from two locations, Hulls Cove and the Brown Mountain gate in Northeast Harbor. As a result of the extraordinary generosity of the Bright Family, who donated $250,000 to Friends of Acadia in 2005 to establish the Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment that funds carriage road grooming in perpetuity, Friends of Acadia maintains a budget for AWTA grooming activities and equipment. Night or day, as soon as a snowstorm begins to wind down, as many as four snowmobiles hit the trail, and the grooming begins.

Depending on exact snow and wind conditions, the posse of groomers sets track on ski routes at Witch Hole, Eagle Lake, and Aunt Betty’s Pond, as well as the Amphitheater, Sargent Mountain, and Hadlock Pond areas. Snowstorms on Mount Desert Island are commonly associated with wind (and sadly rain), so groomers are often required to clear downed trees and debris from the trails. Much of the grooming activity takes place at dusk or during the evening hours to accommodate the volunteers’ busy lives and to provide set tracks for daylight skiing.

The grooming activity in Acadia National Park would not be possible without the support of the park staff. As trail setting activities have expanded, park staff now store and prepare the snowmobiles and, when necessary, repair machinery and clear...
away the largest downed trees. In 2008 the park created a new section of its website, which includes grooming updates so that skiers know the status of the road system. Several times each winter, Friends of Acadia organizes meetings between AWTA and park staff. Through the dedication and cooperation Friends of Acadia, AWTA volunteers, and the park, it is possible to provide unbeatable access for all skiers.

Even on the coldest winter days, it is wonderful to see the Parkman Mountain, Eagle Lake, and Brown Mountain parking areas overflowing with vehicles. On winter weekends it is common to see skate skiers, classic skiers, and snowshoers from every walk of life sharing and enjoying the carriage road system in Acadia National Park. A former ski-industry executive once commented that, when the snowfall is ample, “Acadia National Park has the best trail system and the most beautiful cross-country skiing anywhere.”

As the snow falls, and in certain out-of-the-way areas, one can always find untracked snow in the park. Whether on groomed or fresh, untracked snow, it is always a treat to break the crest of a hill on the Amphitheater Loop and see the crisp January sunlight shimmer off the waters around the Cranberry Isles and Baker Island. The skiing in Acadia National Park remains glorious thanks to the efforts of phantom-like, cold- and dark-loving volunteer groomers.

CHARLES WRAY is a resident of Mount Desert. When not out skiing or grooming he works at the Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory as associate administrative director.

Volunteers Enhance the Winter Experience in Acadia

The 2007 winter season dropped larger-than-usual amounts of snow on Acadia National Park, making it a superb season for cross-country skiing enthusiasts. The number of storms and the amount of snowfall also made it a very busy season for members of the all-volunteer Acadia Winter Trails Association, a committee of Friends of Acadia.

With the support of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, the 16 volunteers worked together to groom carriage roads throughout the park, setting tracks for cross-country skiers. Friends of Acadia thanks the members of its Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) for enhancing the experience for winter visitors in Acadia. Members of AWTA include:

Dirck Bradt  Matt Gerrish  Bill Jenkins  Stan MacDonald (chairman)
Peter Brown  Michael Gilfillan  Karl Johnson  Robert Massucco
Mark Fernald  Paul Haertel  David Kief  Dennis Smith
Gary Fountain  Karol Hagberg  Stephen Linscott  Charlie Wray

For more information about the Acadia Winter Trails Association or grooming activities, contact Terry Begley, projects and events coordinator, at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.
INVESTING IN ACADIA:
The Invisible Hand of John Stewart Kennedy

William J. Baker

The following has been excerpted from an article originally published in the 2008 issue of Chebacco—The Magazine of the Mount Desert Island Historical Society.

In The Wealth of Nations (1776), Adam Smith extolled the “invisible hand” of logic linking individual enterprise to the common good. Although the relation of personal self-interest to larger social concerns is an arguable topic, Smith’s “invisible hand” metaphor is a term potentially rich with meanings beyond the metaphorical. History is filled with literal examples of invisible hands working quietly behind the scenes on projects beneficial to large numbers of people.

In the creation of Acadia National Park, John Stewart Kennedy is one of those unrecognized, unremembered patrons whose philanthropic generosity contributed to the common good. Histories of the park invariably focus on the monumental efforts of George B. Dorr, Charles W. Eliot, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., not on Kennedy. They are the dominant players, he an afterthought. In contrast to their fame, the Kennedy name is not popularly attached to any mountain, historic home, or carriage road on Mount Desert Island.

Kennedy himself is partly to blame for his own invisibility. On projects ranging from hospitals, libraries, and museums in New York City to mountain peaks on Mount Desert Island, he adamantly refused to allow public mention of his financial support. Having once made a huge donation to the enlargement of the New York Presbyterian Hospital with the proviso that no announcement of his gift be “proclaimed ostentatiously,” he similarly put a publicity lid on all the energetic and financial contributions he made to the early stages of the dream that became Acadia National Park.

More than self-imposed privacy, the timing of Kennedy’s work determined his low profile in the history of the park. He died in 1909, shortly before his 80th birthday, and a full decade before Congress passed a bill, signed by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, designating a public park, then called Lafayette National Park, protected and supported by the federal government. By contrast, Eliot lived until 1926, Rockefeller until 1937, and Dorr until 1944, enabling them to give generously to the crucial early phases of park development and provide interpretive commentary in correspondence and memoirs.

Sometime around 1880, Kennedy first made his way to Mount Desert Island. Having spent more than 30 years on the busy streets of New York City, he instantly appreciated the slower pace of MDI life. Island mountains, lakes, and rugged coast reminded him of his native Scotland, where he was born the sixth of nine siblings in a mining community in County Lanarkshire, near Glasgow, in 1830.

With little formal education, at age 13 Kennedy began work in a local iron mill. His superiors, impressed with his intelligence and sunny disposition, sent him at age 20 to the United States to solicit orders for their iron to be used in the expansion of American railroads. Two years later he returned home to manage the company.

By the time Kennedy crossed the Atlantic again in 1856 to settle permanently in the U.S., he had decided to stake his future not on the production of iron rail and machines but rather on gathering and dispensing funds for the building of western railroads. For 10 years he negotiated loans and commissions through a New York company, but in 1868 he went his own way with the creation of a new banking and investment house, J. S. Kennedy & Co. For the next 15 years, he boldly provided funds for new railways, bought and
sold railway stocks and bonds, and represented numerous British and European investors in American railroads transactions. At the apex of his financial empire, Kennedy owned more than $60 million in stocks and bonds. For good reason, he was known as the Railway King.

For almost three decades the king lived royally in semi-retirement for several months each summer at Kenarden Lodge in Bar Harbor. Beyond his sumptuous estate, however, Kennedy chafed at the commercial growth that threatened to deface the Island's pristine beauty. Meetings with other wealthy summer residents produced an application to the Maine legislature for a tax-free Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. In January 1903, the legislature granted a charter to this organization “to acquire, hold and maintain, and improve for free public use lands in Hancock County, which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest, sanitary advantage, or for other reasons may be available for the purpose.”

Alongside the names of George B. Dorr and Charles W. Eliot, the name of John S. Kennedy stood as one of the eight incorporators of this endeavor that became the cornerstone of Acadia National Park.

In 1908, just a year before he died, Kennedy was approached by George B. Dorr with the news that Green Mountain, the highest and most rugged of all the granite peaks on Mount Desert Island, could possibly be purchased at a reasonable price. Without a moment's hesitation, Kennedy offered to pay whatever the cost to secure this priceless gem for the public enjoyment of future generations. Dorr negotiated the details and presented his old friend with the bill. Green Mountain would shortly be renamed Cadillac, the centerpiece of the emergent park.

Prior to returning to New York in the late summer of 1909, Kennedy met with Dorr to discuss the possibility of acquiring Pickett Mountain (now known as Huguenot Head) and an adjoining part of Newport Mountain (now Champlain). Kennedy promised to provide the funds, but signed no papers before he returned home to New York. By late October, he was dying of pneumonia. Bending over his bed, his wife strained to hear his final words: “Remember... that I promised Mr. Dorr... to help him get that land.” Shortly thereafter, she sent Dorr a check to cover the acquisition of yet another crucial piece of the future park.

No one but Emma Kennedy heard her husband’s dying words. Certainly no mention was made of this incident in any of the many press notices of his death. Although the names of the three mountains purchased by Kennedy funds were subsequently changed, none today honor the Kennedy name. John Stewart Kennedy died as he lived, a man extravagantly successful but a private, modest man who found good ways to invest generously in the future of his beloved Acadia.

WILLIAM J. BAKER is a resident of Bass Harbor. He is an emeritus professor of history at the University of Maine and the author or editor of 10 books, including Playing with God: Religion and Modern Sport.
When I was a kid, my mom would have to drag me back inside each night after a long day of playing tag, riding bikes, and hanging out with friends. “But it’s not dark yet,” my brother and I would complain. Those days are long gone. Today’s kids, experts say, spend more time cooped up indoors than playing outside. Whether it’s because they would rather play video games or watch TV, or because their parents are afraid to let them run loose, the result is the same—kids today don’t interact with nature like they used to.

But the staff at Acadia National Park, along with partners like Friends of Acadia, is embarking on an exciting effort to make a difference with younger generations.

The park has offered opportunities to explore and learn about nature for several generations. George B. Dorr, Acadia’s first superintendent, organized hikes and auto caravans into the park as early as 1916. Today park rangers provide a wide variety of walks, talks, evening programs, and boat cruises into the park as early as 1916. Today park rangers provide a wide variety of walks, talks, evening programs, and boat cruises into the park as early as 1916. Today park rangers provide a wide variety of walks, talks, evening programs, and boat cruises into the park as early as 1916. Today park rangers provide a wide variety of walks, talks, evening programs, and boat cruises into the park as early as 1916.

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But the situation today requires even more attention. The National Park Service (NPS) and its partners are stepping up to the plate to reconnect children to nature. The NPS Centennial Initiative, introduced to prepare the organization for its 100th birthday in 2016, will increase staffing of seasonal employees in the parks this summer, putting more education and interpretation park rangers in the field to share Acadia’s wonders with visitors. The park’s Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program has expanded from the 2006 pilot program with one teacher to include four teachers this summer, thanks to a Parks as Classrooms grant and funding from Acadia Partners for Science and Learning. This program helps teachers from diverse school systems bring the national parks back to their classrooms by providing work experience and curriculum content. The L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia grant supports the park’s Schoodic Education Adventure residential program by providing funds to recruit and hire teaching assistants, establish a student scholarship program, provide transportation assistance for schools, and offer summer teacher institutes. Park management has thrown its support behind the effort to reconnect children to nature, determining that increasing education and interpretation opportunities for youth will be one of five primary focus areas in the coming years.

Alongside these efforts is Acadia’s Engage Youth program, a NPS Centennial Challenge project funded by a combination of public and private funds. This ambitious project to enhance and expand Acadia National Park opportunities for youth includes several components that, with the help of partners, reach children of all ages. Matching partnership funds have been identified for 2008 and 2009 with Friends of Acadia, Eastern National, and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, and the park is currently awaiting notification of funding authorization. Components of the Engage Youth program include Acadia eLearning (technology innovations), 21st Century Education (funding education for the future), Parks as Classrooms (curriculum-based education), Out in It (ranger-guided activities), Next Generation Rangers (secondary and undergraduate student internships and employment), and Acadia Quest (special events).

Acadia Quest, organized in conjunction with Friends of Acadia, is one of the fun projects coming up this year. Acadia Quest includes a series of youth- and family-oriented activities in the park. Children will sign up to participate in the Quest, and then choose from a variety of activities within three categories: explore, learn, and protect. Activities will include ranger-led programs, volunteer days, special events like Family Fun Day and National Junior Ranger Day, and more. Once children complete the required number of activities, they will receive an Acadia Quest certificate and be eligible to win a prize. (See sidebar for more information.)

Acadia Quest is just one of many innovative activities planned as part of the Engage Youth project. What else is in store? We’re planning for additional schol-
arships to the Schoodic Education Adventure, MP3 tours of the park, and enhanced kids’ pages on the park website in 2008, and cell phone tours, statewide Junior Ranger outreach, and more teacher institutes in 2009. We’re dreaming about projects like a state-of-the-art computer lab for the Schoodic Education Adventure; hands-on, interactive exhibits at the Nature Center; and a busing account to help any school in Maine visit Acadia National Park. How much we’re able to do to enhance and expand youth opportunities depends on stable, continued funding for the future.

Acadia National Park and partners like Friends of Acadia are excited about this shared effort to reconnect kids and nature. Children spending time outside, having fun, and learning about the park is a win-win situation for all of us.

GINNY REAMS is writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

Join the Quest!

In an effort to get more kids outdoors and into Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia and the park are partnering to present Acadia Quest. Year-round and summer residents, as well as visitors, are invited to accept the Acadia Quest challenge.

How to Participate

Teams may register online or by phone. A team can be composed of family members, relatives, friends, and mentors—the only requirement is that a team must consist of one adult aged 18 or older and one child under the age of 18. Upon registering you’ll receive a welcome packet with all of the information you need.

Rules to Quest By

Participants will be asked to complete a certain number of activities in three categories: explore, learn, and protect. These activities will include, but are not limited to, events such as Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up, National Junior Ranger Day, Family Fun Day, National Trails Day, and Take Pride in Acadia Day, as well as regularly scheduled ranger-led park programs, volunteer work in the park, and self-guided activities, like riding the Island Explorer, participating in Acadia’s EarthCache program, and more. Any team that meets all Quest requirements between April 26 and November 1, 2008, will be entered into a drawing for one or more family outdoor excursion prize packages. The number of participating teams may be limited based on demand.

For more information or to register for Acadia Quest, visit
www.friendsofacadia.org
or call 207-288-3340

Park rangers lead a variety of programs from late May to early October, many of which are designed just for kids.
Within the coming year, Acadia National Park will acquire 140 acres within its legislated boundary, protecting the water quality and scenic beauty of the Northeast Creek watershed, and 31 new "green" affordable homes will be constructed in Bar Harbor. These major accomplishments are results of several years of collaborative work by the Bar Harbor Housing Authority, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Friends of Acadia, and Acadia National Park.

Since 2004, the four organizations have been working together to buy, hold, and protect the 200-acre Pooler Farm property on Rt. 3, adjacent to Northeast Creek, which is Mount Desert Island’s largest estuary and an essential habitat for many species. Northeast Creek is part of an extraordinary ecosystem shared by the neighboring Acadia National Park and its natural resources. The end goal is for Acadia to own the acreage that falls within its legislated boundary. Through the 1986 boundary legislation, Congress mandated the park to fill the holes within its boundaries with land from willing sellers, but federal funds for those purchases are not always in place when a seller emerges. As private nonprofit organizations, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) and Friends of Acadia are able to act quickly to purchase available land and hold it until federal funding is available, or guide sellers through the process of a real estate transaction with the federal government.

Recognizing the opportunity for a strategic partnership to help Acadia protect the privately-held lands within its boundary, MCHT and Friends of Acadia entered into an agreement to combine their respective land negotiation and fundraising strengths to purchase, hold, and protect land within the park’s boundary. Friends of Acadia raises funds for a land conservation bank to purchase the land and MCHT negotiates and closes the deals. When federal funds are appropriated, the park acquires the land. Funds from the park’s purchase revolve back into the land conservation bank to be used for future acquisitions. The second phase of the Pooler Farm property conservation is an ideal example of the model in action.

In 2004, the Bar Harbor Housing Authority (BHHA) purchased the 200-acre former Pooler Farm property. MCHT completed the first phase of conservation by purchasing 101 acres from BHHA for $750,000. MCHT placed a conservation easement on the 12 acres around and including the large yellow farmhouse and barn on Rt. 3, which has since been sold to a private buyer.

The partners collaborated on the second phase of conservation by securing another 39 acres, which had originally been retained to meet zoning requirements for a cluster development of affordable housing. When its planning was completed, BHHA negotiated a sale to MCHT of the remaining lands, 39 acres within the park boundary. Friends of Acadia contributed $500,000 from the land conservation bank to purchase the 39 acres. With this commitment from Friends, MCHT closed on the purchase on October 26, 2007, for $680,000.

To date, MCHT holds 140 acres of the former Pooler Farm property that will be transferred to Acadia National Park, and the federal funding for that transfer will soon be available. With money assigned to Acadia in 2007 and a recent $590,000 appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, the park will simultaneously purchase from MCHT the 101- and 39-acre tracts. Upon selling the property to the park, MCHT will reimburse Friends of Acadia’s $500,000 contribution, which will be held in a revolving trust for future land protection.
Conservation has a different face on the remaining 50 acres of the Pooler Farm property outside the park’s legislated boundary. BHHA is building an affordable housing development employing green building practices that will minimize the development’s impact on Northeast Creek. BHHA is incorporating storm water and wastewater systems that use advanced technology to prevent nitrogen and nitrates from polluting the watershed. And, the houses themselves are built with a number of environmentally-friendly features, including low volatile organic compound paints and glues, and kitchen cabinets made of wheat board, a renewable resource. The foundations are made from fly ash, a readily available byproduct from coal power plants, and the framing products have all been harvested within 300 miles. The construction of the houses is designed to significantly lower their energy footprint, with a goal to keep heating costs low.

After four years of creative planning and collaboration, the Bar Harbor Housing Authority, Acadia National Park, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Friends of Acadia are keeping the Northeast Creek a pristine and healthy ecosystem, providing affordable green housing for the community, and strengthening the protection of significant lands within Acadia’s boundaries.

ERIN HITCHCOCK FOGG is communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

“One of the greatest satisfactions in doing any sound work for an institution, a town, or a city, or for the nation, is that good work done for the public lasts, endures through the generations; and the little bit of work that any individual of the passing generation is enabled to do gains the association with such collective activities an immortality of its own.”

—Charles W. Eliot, Sieur de Monts Celebration, 1916

Please consider these options for providing essential financial support to Friends of Acadia:

Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.
Mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, to PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/annualfund to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call or visit the website for instructions on giving appreciated securities, which can offer income tax benefits as well as savings on capital gains.

Gift of Retirement Assets
Designate Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement asset, and pass funds to Friends of Acadia free of taxes.

Gift of Real Property
Give real estate, boats, artwork, or other real property to Friends of Acadia and you may avoid capital gains in addition to providing much needed funds for the park.

Gift Through a Bequest in Your Will
Add Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary in your will.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/join.
Benefit Gala Goes Green!

Planning for Friends of Acadia’s 19th Annual Benefit Gala is underway. This year’s event is scheduled for Saturday, August 9, 2008, at the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor. The theme of the 2008 gala is “The Green Gala.” From event operations to auction items, the gala will promote and practice ways of being more sensitive about impacts on the environment.

The gala committee, affectionately called the “Green Team,” has sprung into action, planning a new, improved, and unforgettable evening. The committee is looking for auction donations, and additional committee members are always welcome. If you are interested in donating an item or participating, or would like more information about attending the gala, please contact Lisa Horsch, director of development, at 207-288-3340 or email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

Donors Complete Butler Challenge for Acadia Gateway Center

As it was announced in the Winter issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal, the Acadia Gateway Center was officially given a home this past December. Friends of Acadia purchased the 369-acre Crippens Creek property from Nacoochee Corporation and sold 152 acres to the Maine Department of Transportation to carry forward the construction of the new facility.

Behind the scene, a dedicated group of donors made this purchase possible. Going into the acquisition, Friends of Acadia had received major gifts from Mr. T.A. Cox, the Thomas H. Maren Foundation, and the Butler Conservation Fund. Tied to the gift from the Butler Conservation Fund was a challenge to encourage other organizations and individuals to give to the effort. The Butler Conservation Fund committed to matching up to $100,000 in donations to Friends of Acadia for the purchase of the Crippens Creek property. By the time the closing took place, the challenge had been met by generous individuals and foundations.

Friends of Acadia received major gifts towards the challenge from several foundations, including the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, Yawkey Foundation, and BAND Foundation. In addition to foundation support, many generous gifts from individuals were matched through the Butler Challenge. Funds were also contributed through Friends’ Project Tranquility, an effort to reduce traffic and restore the quiet character of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island.

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Acadia Gateway Center, the new facility will complete the original vision for the Island Explorer system, reducing the number of individual vehicles on the roadways in the Mount Desert Island region while allowing more visitors to access the island and Acadia in an environmentally-friendly way.

Village Connector Trails

The vision of Friends of Acadia’s Village Connector Trail program is to re-establish the tradition of walking and biking into Acadia National Park and around towns and villages on Mount Desert Island, thereby enhancing the characters of our villages and island life. In addition to work on the Schooner Head Path, which is planned to be completed in 2008, Friends of Acadia has begun to move forward in planning other village connector trails.
Two recent meetings in Bar Harbor and Town Hill were well attended by enthusiastic individuals within the communities. The Bar Harbor group discussed a trail connecting the Duck Brook Bridge area to Rt. 3, and the possibility of a path to Mount Desert Island High School. The Town Hill meeting focused on a possible spur path from the Town Hill Store along Crooked Road, and a Somesville path with possible spurs to the high school and to the Indian Point area. A landowner interested in developing his 93 acres on the west side of Rt. 102 in Town Hill is working with the committee to plan community paths with spurs heading toward Somesville, Indian Point, and the Town Hill Store.

Village Connector Trail meetings are open to the public and Friends of Acadia depends on input and enthusiasm from its committee members. Should you have an interest in participating on our committee, or just have a comment or suggestion you would like to share, please contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

Great Meadow Restoration Project Funded by EPA Mitigation
A local construction company and its owner, Robert Ray, will fund an invasive species control program at Acadia National Park. The funding is part of a settlement of an enforcement action brought by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for violations of the federal Clean Water Act.

In addition to a $16,017 penalty and agreements to donate and fund conservation easements on other properties in Hancock County, Robert Ray agreed to compensate for wetland losses by funding a three-year program of invasive species control at the 115-acre Great Meadow, one of the largest freshwater wetlands in Acadia National Park.

Ray has provided $87,154 to Friends of Acadia to establish a restricted fund dedicated to the Great Meadow Restoration project. As requested by Acadia National Park, Friends will distribute grants to the project over a three-year period until the fund is depleted.

Great Meadow is surrounded by stunning mountain views and open vistas and is home to many wetland wildlife species. The area is a very popular natural community used by park visitors for walking, nature photography, and wildlife viewing.

The ecological integrity of Great Meadow is threatened by several invasive species and the park does not have the resources to remove them. With this funding, the park will be able to reduce the populations of invasive species enough so that they can be kept at a sustainable and manageable level in the future.

Island Explorer Hits New Daily Record in 2007
The Island Explorer fare-free, propane-powered bus system continued to grow in terms of popularity and use in its ninth year of operation. Twenty-nine buses operated on eight routes from June 23 to Columbus Day, including a new route that originated from the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and served the entire park loop road.

The total numbers of riders in 2007 was 351,378, up six percent over 2006. Riders between June 23 and September 1, classified as summer riders, totaled 308,640, averaging 4,409 per day. This number was up seven percent from 2006, and includes a new one-day peak record of 6,726 passengers. Fall ridership was down slightly to 42,738 passengers, with an average of 1,096 riders per day.

Since its inception, the Island Explorer has carried 2,524,799 passengers, eliminating 938,688 cars from park and local roads.
which is equal to a traffic jam down the east coast from Bar Harbor to Key West and back up the Florida coast to Tampa. Already the system has eliminated 13.8 tons of pollution and 8,840 ton of greenhouse gases.

The fare-free Island Explorer bus system would not be possible without the generous support of L.L.Bean and the partnership between Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and Downeast Transportation, Inc., the nonprofit organization that operates the bus system.

Schoodic Lecture Series
Since November, the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia has been partnering with Acadia National Park and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning to present the Second Saturday Schoodic Lecture Series. On the second Saturday of each month, a topic of community interest is presented at 7 p.m. at the Moore Auditorium on Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) campus.

Topics have ranged from seabirds, songbirds, and mercury to National Park System programs in the Schoodic District, the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site, and beyond. Crowds of 40 to 50 community members have been regularly attending the lecture series. The presenting partners look forward to continuing the lecture series throughout the spring and summer seasons.

The lectures are free and open to the public, and registration is not necessary. For more information about the Schoodic Lecture Series and to view upcoming topics, visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

Acadia Winter Trails Association
After a disappointing cross-country ski season last winter, the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) volunteer groomers went into this past winter thinking snow, and snow they got. A storm in early December blanketed the carriage roads with nearly a foot of snow, and the storms continued on and off throughout the rest of the winter months, making it an incredible, picture-perfect ski season.

The volunteer groomers, a small, dedicated cadre of 16, logged more than 245 hours perfecting skiing conditions by laying skate and classic ski tracks along designated areas of Acadia’s carriage road system, including Witch Hole, Aunt Betty’s Pond, Eagle Lake, Upper Hadlock, Around Mountain, and Amphitheatre areas.

Thanks to a generous gift in 2005 from the Bright Family, AWTA groomers are well equipped. This year the Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment funded the purchase of a new piece of equipment, the Ginzugroomer, which came highly recommended by those who use it at the cross-country ski center in Limestone. The Ginzugroomer will enable the groomers to bite into icy conditions and break up snowdrifts. Additional funding from the endowment pays for insurance, storage, and maintenance of the snowmobiles, as well as the fuel.

The Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment is a gift that continues giving, as it has enabled significant growth in the Acadia Winter Trails Association grooming program. If you would like more information about the Acadia Winter Trails Association, please contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

Upgrades at Friends Improve Member Services
The Friends of Acadia staff has been busy this winter transitioning its financial and membership information into new, industry-standard data management software. Although the conversion was an intense and lengthy process, the new programs offer many benefits and will help Friends of Acadia better serve its constituents.

Friends can now store multiple addresses for each member record, so members can receive communication wherever they may travel. The new system also allows staff to track personal interests of members. Whether its park activities like biking and paddling, or volunteer activities like trail work and advocacy, Friends can now identify specific interests of each member and send communications about those interests accordingly.

To make the most of its new software, Friends of Acadia encourages all of its members to update their addresses and interests. If you have updates for your membership record, please contact Sharon Broom, development officer, at 207-288-3340 or email Sharon at sharon@friendsofacadia.org.
The second season of the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) ended in November. This science-based, overnight education program, supported by the L.L. Bean Kids in Acadia program, brought 5th – 8th grade students from 11 middle schools across the state to the Schoodic Education and Research Center. Captured here are students participating in a soil study. The SEA program will continue in 2008.

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Chris Kirk
Marsha Lyons
Mary Ann Siklosi
Jean Smith
Sandy Wilcox

IN-KIND DONATIONS
Acadia Partners for Science and Learning
Berry Dunn McNeil & Parker
Tom Blagden
Dobbs Productions
Rich Johnson
Joe Pagan
CONGRESS CONSIDERS LEGISLATION AFFECTING ACADIA

Congress was busy during the winter considering bills that affect Acadia. In late January, Friends was alerted by the National Parks Conservation Association about an effort underway in Congress to allow loaded guns in national parks. Forty-seven senators signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne encouraging him to change the firearms regulations in national parks. Presently, regulations (36 CFR 2.4 (2-3) allow loaded firearms only in designated times and locations in national parks, such as at firing ranges, permanent dwellings, and locations in which hunting is allowed. The regulations also allow possession of firearms generally in national parks, as long as they are unloaded and not easily accessible. Friends contacted Secretary Kempthorne and urged him to keep the present firearms regulations, which are adequate for protecting park wildlife and visitors.

Following the letter, Senator Tom Coburn introduced an amendment to S. 2483, National Forests, Parks, Public Land, and Reclamation Projects Authorization Act of 2007. As of press time, the bill had not been brought to the Senate floor and the amendment had not been heard. Acadia Advocacy Network members wrote to Maine Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins to encourage them to oppose the amendment.

On a more positive congressional note, the Acadia Improvement Act of 2008 (H.R. 2251 RFS) was passed by the House of Representatives on February 12. A slightly different version (S. 1329) has passed through the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, but is awaiting action on the Senate floor. The bill will accomplish four objectives for Acadia: 1) it will extend the life of the Acadia Advisory Commission (a citizen body that advises the National Park Service on management issues) by 20 years; 2) it will authorize an additional $10 million for land acquisition at Acadia; 3) it will enable Acadia National Park to officially participate in the planning, design, construction, and operation of the Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton; and 4) it will facilitate land exchanges with local towns. The bill was sponsored by Senator Collins and Representative Michaud and was co-sponsored by Senator Snowe and Representative Allen.

Also on a positive note, the Fiscal Year 2008 budget for the National Park Service was passed in December as part of an omnibus budget bill. The budget included $2.429 billion in discretionary appropriations for the National Park Service, a significant increase that stemmed some of the operating losses witnessed over the previous decade. While national and regional assessments to the budget have not yet been completed, Acadia anticipates receiving almost $7.1 million for FY 2008 operations. Acadia is also slated to receive approximately $591,000 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to purchase land inside park boundaries. This funding is targeted toward the acquisition of a portion of the former Pooler Farm in the Northeast Creek watershed, within the park's boundaries.

The FY 2008 budget also set aside $24.6 million in funds for the Centennial Challenge, a program to match public funding with private dollars to invest in parks, preparing them for the National Park Service centennial in 2016. Acadia had three projects that were deemed eligible to receive funds in 2008 and 2009. The park and Friends of Acadia are hopeful that these projects will receive $181,000 in 2008 for partnership programs to engage youth in the park. Friends of Acadia, L.L.Bean, Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, Eastern National, and Acadia National Park are collaborating on this effort. Friends of Acadia staff traveled to Washington at the end of February to highlight Centennial Challenge project possibilities for Acadia at the Congressional National Parks and Tourism and Travel caucuses.

The president’s budget for FY 2009 recommends a $161 million operating increase for national parks, but with associated cuts in other important programs such as the LWCF. In 2009, Acadia is expected to receive a base operating budget increase of $500,000, which will help restore interpretation, education, and visitor services at Acadia. Friends has been in contact with the Maine Congressional Delegation to advocate for this funding, to encourage sponsorship and passage of legislation to authorize the Centennial Challenge through 2016, and to request another $875,000 in LWCF appropriations to meet Acadia’s continuing needs to purchase lands inside park boundaries from willing sellers.

—Stephanie Clement
ACADIA FOREVER

Estate Planning—Supporting the Mission of Friends of Acadia

Preserving and protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities is a wise investment.

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

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

I hereby bequeath $______ to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

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

For more information, call the office at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Jeannine Albert
Stephen Bagen and Maura Griffin
Jane Bard
Richard Barrie
Gary and Martha Beach
Bee’s, Inc.
Thomas Bennett
Alisa Bevis
Ralph Bieber
Brendan Bieden
Sharon Bielicki
Carolyn Birbeck
Roger Booth and
Claudia Thompson
Murray and Donna Boutilier
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Robert Burpee
Leslie Spahr Bush
Ruth Bygness
Nestor and Cynthia Camino
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Dr. Millard Coffin and
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Andreas and Monika Dittrich
John and Joanne Dixon
Daniel and Bettiaan Donohue
James and Cheryl Drabick
Garrett Drapula
James Draper
Michael Duffy
Michael and Carrie Dunton
Gregory Durham and
Bob Gutermuth
John and Megan Durlach
Teon Edwards
Chin Leng Ee
Katherine Elliott
Peter and Kelly Gardner Emery
Ivan and Elizabeth Enstrom
Alan Esendir
Clare Esparolini
Kevin and Deborah Fanning
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Robert and Barbara Ferri
Paul and Diane Fiejdasz
Jeremy Fishman
Five Sisters & A Brother LLC
Michael and Anne Foley
Karlo Foss
Doug Franklin
James Fuqua Jr.
Thomas and Linda Gearhart
Louis Gerstenfeld and
Nancy Chapin
Glensite Foundation
Gary Goodman
Judith Graupman-Tari
William Green
Gary Greene
Patrice Gregory
Frederick and Joan Hadley
Arlene Hadley-LeRoy
Jacqueline Hagnayer
Bill Hamilton
John and Judy Hardin
Jane Hastings
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November 1, 2007-February 29, 2008
Maine Speak

I Got the Idea:
My Love Affair with Maine Language
by Marion Kingston Stocking, The Maine Folklife Center, Orono, ME, 2007, 80 pp., $15.00, paperback.

As a native of New England, I’ve heard some of the northeast dialects at their best. From my neighbor’s jargon in the woods of Vermont to the endearing way my New Hampshire in-laws say “up-stay-uhs” when referring to the second floor of their house, I thought I had heard it all. But when I moved to Maine last year, I was introduced to a whole new dialect, much different than the rest.

The vernacular of Mainers is the focus of the 40th issue of Northeast Folklore, an annual publication of the Maine Folklife Center at the University of Maine that brings forth parts of its collection of traditional and cultural materials from and about Maine. In this publication Marion Kingston Stocking shares anecdotes about learning and editing the way Mainers speak. Stocking’s stories do not poke fun at the language of Mainers. Instead, they shed light on a Maine heritage that spread from freshman themes to daily newspapers and every “hahbah” village in-between.

When grading freshman themes in graduate school at Orono, she collected common Maine misspellings, which she notes are a much different matter than standard American “i-before-e-except-after-c” spellings. Stocking writes, “The first paper in which I marked morden came back with the word “corrected” to modren. Later I was to receive mordren. A word like propergander.” Stocking includes a full appendix with a list of these common misspellings—a list with variations that even this native New Englander hasn’t heard. My favorite among the list is: “strawberry shot-cake.”

Stocking notes as an aside that her computer’s spell-check was on the verge of a nervous breakdown while writing the piece. As the editor of this Journal, I, too, cringe at seeing the misspellings on the page. But when I hear a classic “lobstah” or “cah,” I can’t help but find comfort and a sense of home in the cozy Maine dialect.

—Erin H. Fogg

Learning From the Past

Mission 66:
Modernism and the National Park Dilemma
by Ethan Carr, University of Massachusetts Press, Amherst, MA, in association with Library of American Landscape History, Amherst, MA, 2007, 407 pp., $39.95, hardcover.

“The more things change, the more they stay the same.”

Alphonse Karr’s famous quote has never been more appropriate than describing the chief topic of Mr. Carr’s new book, Mission 66. And as we fast approach the centennial celebration of the National Park Service in 2016, it is important for all to look back to remember and evaluate past initiatives so that we can move forward in the most successful and efficient way.

In 1956 the National Park Service launched a 10-year, billion-dollar initiative—titled “Mission 66”—to celebrate the park’s first 50 years in 1966 and prepare the park system for the next 50 years. Carr’s book describes in great detail the genesis of the initiative along with struggles, controversies, milestones, and achievements of Mission 66. Of greatest interest is the age-old debate felt by many over the years—protecting the wilderness while providing access to the public. Anyone who has read Edward Abbey’s Desert Solitaire will remember Abbey’s fight against the new road introduced at Arches National Park as a part of the Mission 66 initiative.

At almost $40 and more than four pounds, only a true park aficionado would own this book, but NPS photographer Jack Boucher’s historic photos and the study of parkatecture make it a worthy read.

—Lisa Horsch
This morning I dropped Rosemary at Biddy's house in Winter Harbor to catch a ride to a hook-in down in Brooklin. Lucky and I then headed to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park to enjoy a walk.

After almost a week of grey with daily snow showers, the sun was out and glorious. It was a Currier & Ives, Ansel Adams, Norman Rockwell morning. The fresh half-inch of powder that had fallen overnight was unmarred. I almost felt guilty driving into the park and disturbing the untouched natural beauty, but I was excited by the opportunity to walk amidst such serenity and think. So, I drove to the Blueberry Hill, parked, put Lucky on line, and we set off towards Wonsqueak.

As we walked, I considered the race between Clinton and Obama, both of whom would be in Bangor later that day, and which of these two candidates would be the stronger president. As I began to ponder the pros and cons in my mind, I got distracted by the fox and deer that seemed to have danced across and along the surface of the roadway and into and out of the forest on either side. I tried to track their movements in the hopes of catching a glimpse of wildlife in the brush and then tried to locate the woodpecker that, hidden among the trees dressed for the day with mantles of white draping its shoulders, was teasing me with its tap-tap-tap, as if we were playing a variation of Marco Polo. As I searched, I got lost in the imposing blues of the sky, which ranged the spectrum from deep navy to the palest Robin's egg, and were studded with wisps of clouds in a hundred shades of white.

And then we were back at the car. Lucky and I had walked for just more than an hour and I hadn't really thought about anything. Expecting that the peace and beauty of Schoodic would allow me to focus on important issues and big concerns, enable me to concentrate on developing ideas, plans, and answers, and free me of distractions so that I could make decisions and come to conclusions, I was surprised. Instead, this special place focused my attention on small things of little import, it enabled me to open my mind to my senses, and it freed me to be distracted by the beauty, peace, and tranquility around me.

This is one of the ways in which Schoodic is such a surprising place, especially in the winter. It is one of the unexpected aspects of Schoodic that Rosemary and I savor, as do the other members of the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia, all of whom demonstrate an extraordinary level of energy and commitment to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park. The Schoodic Committee welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas and suggestions. We invite you to join us—our only requirement is a love of Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic.

GARRY LEVIN, his wife, Rosemary, and their Border Collie, Lucky live year round in the village of Corea on the Schoodic Peninsula, where they always find something unexpected to savor.
As I began writing this letter, I came across a copy of the 2005/2006 Winter issue of the Journal. Just inside the cover was a tribute to Leila Bright and recognition of the endowment her family created in her honor, which funds annual grants for grooming activities, benefiting Acadia’s winter uses for a long time to come. What Mrs. Bright loved during her life was the quiet majesty of skiing the carriage roads, in the full glory of Acadia in its winter peaceful mode.

As an avid cross-country skier, I am one of grateful winter enthusiasts who enjoy the groomed carriage roads that run throughout Acadia National Park, made possible by volunteers from the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA), a committee of Friends of Acadia that is supported by the endowment. The volunteers spent many early mornings and late nights preparing the trails for skiers, on top of their full-time jobs and family commitments. Throughout my hours and days of skiing up the vistas of Sargent and Brown Mountains, I waved to and greeted each of these hearty volunteers with the most robust “Thank You!” that I could muster.

A few of this winter’s adventures truly stand out to me, not just for the beauty of the moments, but for the people I met along the way. Our precious park gives us many opportunities to create connections with nature through interactions with other people. We each come to the park as mere visitors, but together we connect with nature and evolve to become stewards and stakeholders for the precious natural resource that is Acadia National Park.

Just before Christmas, I ventured out as the sun gave rise to first light for a marathon adventure that took me through the park for hours and hours. The AWTA team was out in full force packing down the 24 inches of new snow, starting in the more popular loops first then reaching out to the higher and harder access points, like the deep drifts covering Sargent Mountain. I was hailed as the “great trail setter” for my tracks that broke trail in the deep snow before the grooming team reached these special places.

I recall the amazing beauty and I smile when I think of the faces of Acadia’s new friends and skiers that I met along the way. Their smiles were a mile wide as I gave them the full report of groomed areas and where I had helped set a path. They were appreciative for the chance to see places in the park that they’ve never seen in winter. Filled with great pride and enthusiasm, I asked the skiers to express their gratitude to Friends of Acadia and the AWTA volunteers. Since that time, I have learned that many letters, emails, and donations have come in to Friends, including a gift from some new Friends in Bangor. They left a donation in a pair of boots that I loaned them to use for a hike after their ski trip.

Of all experiences in the park this year, New Year’s was most special. I set out to ski Around the Mountain in time to finish on top of Sargent by the final stroke of 2007, welcoming 2008 under the glimmering stars and magical night skies of Acadia. After a quick ski down the mountain and nap until 4:15 a.m., I set back out to ski up Cadillac for the New Year’s Day sunrise. During my ascent, there were fellow skiers who all felt the same draw to the spiritual home of our park. Each of us shared our joy of a new year, a new day, and the joy of being out in nature and in our precious park.

We had the best winter in many years for skiing and celebrating the quiet beauty of Acadia. As Mrs. Bright always did, we took in the full glory of Acadia at its most peaceful time, but only thanks to the generosity of her family and Friends of Acadia’s AWTA volunteers. I thank all of the volunteers, for it was a job well done.

—Lili Pew

Lili captures her own shadow against the fresh New Year’s Day snow. She celebrated the New Year with an ascent up Cadillac by way of skis.

The first light of 2008 peeks over the top of Cadillac Mountain.

Friends of Acadia Journal
ACADIA BIRDING FESTIVAL

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AMERICA’S NATIONAL PARKS: A MONUMENTAL VISION

An exhibit of Clyde Butcher photographs presented by Friends of Acadia

A special exhibition featuring large-format black and white contact prints by American artist and environmentalist Clyde Butcher.

July 6 – 31, 2008

Ethel H. Blum Gallery, College of the Atlantic
Summer Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

PUBLIC LECTURE BY CLYDE BUTCHER

Celebrate the opening of this exhibit with Friends of Acadia and College of the Atlantic on Sunday, July 6. Clyde Butcher will present a public lecture at 7 p.m. at the college’s Gates Center.

For more information, visit www.friendsofacadia.org or call 207-288-3340.
Friends of Acadia

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.