JOIN ACADIA QUEST …AND HAVE A BLAST!

Acadia Quest is a team challenge for kids and adults to learn, explore, and protect Acadia National Park. Here’s how it works:

- **Register your team** (must include at least one person under age 18 and one adult)—and receive a free season pass to Acadia National Park ($40 value).
- **Choose six fun activities** from our Acadia Quest List.
- **Complete your Quest** and qualify to win a special grand prize from Acadia Quest sponsor L.L. Bean!* 

For more information and to register your team, visit www.friendsofacadia.org/events/quest, or contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

Sponsored by Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and L.L. Bean, Acadia Quest is a creative scavenger hunt that connects kids to the outdoors.

*Prizes will be awarded on Saturday, November 6, 2010, at Take Pride in Acadia Day, the last Quest activity for 2010.
**Work Worth Doing**

Spring has come early to Acadia National Park this year, with leaves and blossoms unfurling at least two weeks ahead of schedule. The season finds Friends in full swing, as well, as we celebrate national recognition and successful advocacy—and join partners near and far in response to an urgent new call for conservation of our national parks and other outdoor places.

On March 23, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) honored Friends with its annual Marjory Stoneman Douglas Citizen Conservationist award in Washington, D.C. The award recognizes Friends’ conservation partnership with the National Park Service and our strong, effective advocacy for Acadia National Park (see page 21 for our latest success: Maine’s passage of legislation regulating loaded firearms in the park).

NPCA Board Chairman Alan Lacy presented the award, which cited Friends’ multifaceted work on behalf of Acadia. “From their financial support of the Island Explorer bus system and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps to their much-emulated Acadia Trails Forever campaign, anyone who has visited Acadia National Park has benefited from Friends of Acadia’s efforts to protect and enhance that special place,” Lacy said.

Lacy added that Friends’ impact extends well beyond Acadia, noting our leadership, ability to inspire broad-based philanthropy, and courage to lead effective advocacy campaigns. “We have benefited from your leadership and perspective in so many ways—from your amicus brief in the guns litigation to your work on annual appropriations, including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Centennial Challenge.”

While we are deeply honored by the award, so much work remains to be done. On April 16, Friends was invited to join 200 leaders of nonprofit organizations, communities, and state and federal agencies to participate in the White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors. The Departments of the Interior and Agriculture co-hosted the conference, during which President Obama called on private citizens, communities, and organizations to join with his administration to conserve our outdoor spaces and protect our natural resources. Tapping the legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, who convened the first national conference on conservation in 1908, this initiative for the 21st century is mandated to build on conservation successes across the country, and supports the efforts of private citizens and local communities.

Friends of Acadia is committed to citizen stewardship, partnerships that engage public agencies and private non-profit organizations, and creative conservation that protects our public spaces and communities. We commend this Administration for their stated commitment to urge Congress to permanently fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund by 2014 to at least $900 million a year, as originally authorized 40 years ago.

Naturally, we ask where our national parks fit into the agenda for this new call to action. These outdoor places—each stunningly unique—represent our shared inheritance. Our care, attention, stewardship, and advocacy will ensure that these living treasures will be handed down, healthy and intact, to those who come after us. At Acadia, this means conserving the privately-held, unprotected properties within the park’s boundaries; hiring park rangers to share the wonder of Acadia’s story with all visitors and to keep visitors safe; and protecting Acadia’s fragile resources from threats.

“Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

that end, Friends continues to work to keep national park needs high on the new national conservation agenda.

There is an opportunity for everyone to get involved. Individuals working in partnership as “Friends” of the park can accomplish great things. The Obama Administration will hold listening sessions on the America’s Great Outdoors initiative around the country. We will keep our members posted about opportunities to tell their stories about the importance of our national parks—of Acadia National Park—to this administration.

As Theodore Roosevelt said, “Far and away the best prize that life has to offer is the chance to work hard at work worth doing.”

We look forward to working hard with all of you, and as always, we extend our heartfelt thanks for joining Friends in protecting and preserving Acadia—work well worth doing.

—Marla O’Byrne
Friends of Acadia Journal

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A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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EVERY WAKING MOMENT

Have you seen the television ad where a family is having dinner and one child sends a text message to the other to “pass the catsup”? Funny as it is, this may not be far from reality for many teens. While adults spend approximately 50 hours a week working, children are spending over 53 hours a week—more than seven-and-a-half hours a day—using electronic media, according to a recent study by the Kaiser Family Foundation. That’s virtually every waking moment outside school. Texting, instant messaging, cell phones, and the Internet have become the foundation of social interactions for kids today. Should we be concerned? I certainly am! Not only do these electronic devices discourage direct communication, they consume the unscheduled time that kids could be exploring the outdoors, engaging in physical activities, and developing healthy life skills that they will need as adults.

When you were a child, your parents probably kicked you out of the house to play outside until dinner, as mine did. Yet today’s youth grow up indoors. Experts say outdoor play has decreased 75% from 1990 and fewer than 25% of children do regular physical activity. Whether they’re inside with their game boys or videos, at the mall, watching TV, or socializing via media, kids have abandoned outdoor activities such as camping, fishing, hunting, boating, and exploring. A University of Illinois study by Oliver Pergams concluded that “all major lines of evidence point to an ongoing and fundamental shift away from nature-based recreation.”

Today, parents are reluctant to let their children play outdoors unsupervised. Richard Louv, in his book Last Child in the Woods, says that “lacking direct experience with nature, children begin to associate it with fear and apocalypse, not joy and wonder.” Fears of strangers, danger, and disease are reinforced by media headlines, and sometimes inadvertently by parents.

Meanwhile, one third of children under the age of 18 are now considered “dangerously overweight or obese,” according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Some doctors believe that this generation will be the first to live shorter lives than their parents because obesity results in more diabetes, heart disease, and cancer, in addition to a reduced quality of life. Mayo Clinic data show that teens are breaking bones more often today because they lack bone density—likely due to lower vitamin D levels linked with less exercise and sunshine, and too much soda.

Our kids may also be losing out in other ways. Richard Louv says that outdoor play boosts healthy development and that children who spend time in nature are better thinkers, more creative, and can better deal with complex issues. California research indicates that youth who participate in outdoor activities have improved aptitudes for science and math. Furthermore, outdoor play reduces stress and promotes weight loss. The American Academy of Pediatrics recently proclaimed that outdoor unstructured playtime is essential for children. I would like pediatricians to prescribe at least an hour a day of outdoor play for all children—without an electronic gadget, of course!

But just as importantly, kids watch and learn by example from their parents. When we check e-mail, play a computer game, or watch TV instead of going for a walk, we send a powerful message. On the other hand, when we commit to making exercise and time outdoors a priority, kids take notice. They just won’t admit it.

Friends of Acadia, volunteers, and private donors are helping Acadia National Park develop a wider range of interesting and fun programs to encourage young people and their families to get outside. The annual Family Fun Day, Junior Ranger, Teacher-Ranger-Teacher, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and Ridge Runner programs, in addition to our many interpretive programs, are supported and attended by Friends of Acadia members.

We must ensure that we continue to entice children to Acadia; to inspire them with the park’s extraordinary beauty, to share its stories, and to help them understand and appreciate the natural and cultural heritage they share as Americans. Some of my fondest memories are of playing outdoors and of family vacations discovering the wonders of our national and state parks and protected areas—in short, experiencing that “joy and wonder.”

And in our family, whether at the kitchen table or around a campfire, no one ever hesitated to look a family member in the eye and ask, “Pass the catsup, please!”

—Sheridan Steele
From the Membership Survey

The mountains of the island are a fabulous treasure as is the entire park. I have climbed them all over the years and have sailed around the island, once when the bridge to the mainland was a twist bridge. We first arrived on the Bar Harbor Express from New York. Now we drive from Bedford, MA, where Joe lived the last 10 years. This is a very thoughtful questionnaire. If I were younger, I’d volunteer for trail upkeep.

—Mary E. Welch
Massachusetts

Here is a bit of my own history with Acadia….Thirteen years ago was my entrée to the park…. I have said, “I have two loves in my life: the country of Italy and Acadia National Park.”…. I support your mission and believe you do great work.

—Tricia Baressi
Massachusetts

Evenings with the Parks

The following are in response to the public broadcast of Ken Burns’ documentary National Parks: America’s Best Idea at the Criterion Theater in September 2009.

Well, our Ken Burns/Dayton Duncan week is over. It was most enjoyable….It was wonderful of the sponsors to provide the large screen experience of our national parks to so many. In 1947, my father piled my mother, sister, and me into a Buick and took us on a 10,000-mile ride across the country and back. The many scenes from that “era” in Mr. Burns’ movie drove home (no pun intended) what an extraordinary experience that was and how the memories have stayed with me for over 60 years. It also instilled in me the desire, while I am a hale and hearty 70 something, to see a few more of these mighty places.

—Ann Weiesner
Maine

Nature and Parks are one of the only panaceas for all maladies of human beings…preserve them and live rich and peaceful.

—Dr. Purush Dasaraju
Kansas

Teens to Trails

Please let FOA folks involved with our [Teens to Trails] Rendezvous ’09…know how much we appreciated sharing a beautiful October Saturday [in Acadia]. Most of these high school outing club teens had never ever been to Acadia National Park. We know that an afternoon spent working on trails with people who care so deeply for a place will bring them back again. The park needs these stewards of tomorrow!

—Carol Leone and the entire T3 (Teens To Trails) Board
Maine
MARY ANN AND MIKE SIKLOSI

As volunteers, Mary Ann and Mike Siklosi contribute to Friends of Acadia significant skills they developed during long careers at Procter & Gamble in Cincinnati. Their interests, ranging from literature research to product testing to organizational structure, followed the Siklosis into retirement and they have put their expertise to good use on behalf of Friends.

Mary Ann worked at Procter & Gamble for more than 20 years as an Information Manager. Mike was an applied research chemist in product development at Procter & Gamble for 25 years and holds 24 patents for P&G products. The couple, who had vacationed in the Acadia area regularly since 1986, relocated here in 2003 after retiring. Mike explained that they had known for a long time that they wanted to live here, and he had visions of being “the world’s oldest Ridge Runner.”

When they settled on Mount Desert Island, they soon became members of Friends of Acadia, attended annual meetings, and kept up-to-date on Friends’ activities. In 2004, Mike joined the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors.

At P&G, Mary Ann’s work involved technical literature searches supporting both R&D and Product Development. Her contributions to Friends include online research of corporate funding prospects for the Development Office. Mary Ann was especially helpful in 2009 when Friends had access to a database of corporate prospects for a limited time. Working at home, she invested more than 40 hours in finding as much information as possible that would be helpful to Friends. Mary Ann is also one of Friends’ dedicated “on-call” volunteers for office projects including filing records and preparing mailings.

While the link between Mike’s career and Friends might not be immediately obvious, his P&G work included product testing, which involved interpreting data from surveys and focus groups. When Friends called for volunteers to help enter data from the summer 2009 membership survey (see related article, page 12), Mike responded immediately. He contributed 70 hours of volunteer work entering data from 400 surveys.

Mike found that he enjoyed the project in ways that recalled his work at P&G. “I guess I have a natural curiosity about what people have to say,” he explained. “At Procter & Gamble, I learned a lot from our surveys about the response to new products. Here, it was fascinating to know how members and non-members feel about Friends of Acadia.”

Mike said there were few surprises. The survey results affirmed his perceptions of what attracts people to Acadia and their evaluation of the excellence of Friends. “It was a bonus for me to interact with the staff on a daily basis, and to note how well the staff works together,” he added.

Mike also brings his interest in organizational structure to his roles as Secretary of Friends’ Board of Directors and as a member of the Executive Committee and Governance Committee. He served on Friends’ Strategic Planning Committee from 2006–2008.

Mary Ann also volunteers regularly for the YWCA in Bar Harbor. Mike is president of the Board of Directors of the Island Housing Trust and serves on the Bar Harbor Zoning Appeals Board.

Mary Ann and Mike agree that in addition to its natural, rural setting, one of the most important benefits of living in the Acadia area is the opportunity to get involved in worthwhile activities. “There are so many ways to volunteer,” Mike said, “and in a small community, you count more.”

—Sharon Broom
On the Ridge

Oak leaves blow clear of the pond, skitter along worn dirt paths, and the wind pushes water against green scum coating the rocks.
The sun lies low with the November hours.

The egret lands, all curves and jerks as he pokes at the water for food with his golden needle of a beak. His brittle-boned, black legs hold his body above the water. The park falls silent. He’s busy fishing. Watching him, I do not feel the cold. When the minnow swims by I want to thrust a beak into the water up to my eyes, come up swallowing, shaking free arcs of droplets.

The egret casts a white reflection on darkening water.
We watch the pond for prey.

—Trina Gaynon

TRINA GAYNON is a graduate of the MFA in writing program at the University of San Francisco. Trina relocated to Southern California for love, not the air. She currently volunteers with WriteGirl, an organization providing workshops and mentors for young women in high school who are interested in writing. Recent publications include Poetry East, Yemassee, and Natural Bridge.
The power of Ken Burns’ documentary The National Parks: America’s Best Idea has continued to resonate among our readers. Many of you have told us how much this film moved you—and inspired you to share your own stories about Acadia National Park.

We are delighted to share two members’ stories; one about the return of a rare historical document to its rightful home, and another about one family’s commitment to Acadia. Keep writing. We love hearing your stories.

A SERENDIPITOUS DISCOVERY

My husband, Keith, was superintendent of Acadia National Park from 1971 to 1978. In October 1977, the annual Superintendents’ Conference for the Atlantic Region of the National Park Service was to be held at Saratoga National Historic Park to commemorate the 200th anniversary of British General John Burgoyne’s surrender to American Patriot General Horatio Gates. This victory ended the Battle of Saratoga on October 17, 1777, and proved to be a significant turning point in the Revolutionary War.

Shortly before we left for the conference, Keith’s office phone rang. It was Louise Libby, Curator of Acadia’s Islesford Historical Museum. He recalls her brief, urgent message: “Keith, come over here—now!” Keith took the next ferry that day to Little Cranberry Island!

Louise was the daughter of Professor William Otis Sawtelle, whose extensive and valuable collection of New England maritime historical memorabilia became the heart of the Islesford Historical Museum. She had just discovered that her father had an original copy of the surrender of the Battle of Saratoga—one of only three known to have been made.

Louise, Keith, and regional historians decided that this precious document rightly belonged to Saratoga National Historical Park rather than Acadia National Park. They were thrilled that the document, formally known as “The Convention of Saratoga,” could be delivered safely on the exact date to the exact location where it originated! They planned for Keith to present it at the Saratoga National Historical Park’s bicentennial ceremony commemorating the American Patriots’ important victory. Thus, Keith and I “hand earned” (drove) the original Convention of Saratoga to its rightful home in time for the ceremony on October 17, 1977.

CAROLYN MILLER and her husband, former Acadia Superintendent Keith Miller, live in Bar Harbor, where she is also a volunteer for the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

A TRADITION OF CARE

 Acadia National Park—the name alone conjures up visions of vast beauty, family memories, and a sense of commitment and determination. As a child, I spent many pleasurable vacations with my family at Acadia. We share so many fond memories of camping, hiking, and exploring the water’s edge. I am exceedingly grateful to them for giving me this gift.

My husband and I now return to the park year after year, enjoying summer days on Beech Mountain, boating off Islesford or Baker Island, and fishing and hiking to our hearts’ content. We also give back to this astonishing place. We spend hours volunteering in the park with our teenage children, clearing trails, maintaining vistas, and working side-by-side with others who are deeply connected to Acadia.

Last fall, a dozen high school students from the Hinsdale High School Outing Club in New Hampshire joined us on a volunteer project. On a spectacularly crisp and clear day, we worked together like a well-oiled machine to restore a section of carriage road to its intended pristine condition.

We enjoyed the camaraderie of family and new-found friends, as well as a sense of commitment and purpose to help preserve this natural and cultural wonder. The feeling of satisfaction was apparent on everyone’s face. It is my hope that my children and their children will continue to maintain our loyal and dutiful relationship with this park for many generations to come.

DONNA REIS is a Friends of Acadia member and volunteer.
On December 18, 2009, Friends of Acadia board members and staff joined officials from the Maine Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, Maine’s Congressional offices, the Maine legislature, and the Town of Trenton in a groundbreaking ceremony for the Acadia Gateway Center. Shortly thereafter, travelers on Route 3 in Trenton witnessed the arrival of construction trailers, the removal of the chain link fence bordering the road, and the beginning of excavation. Construction of Phase 1 of the Acadia Gateway Center got off to a great start.

The Acadia Gateway Center, a transit and welcome center on the west side of Route 3, will be built in three phases. During the first phase, the roads, utility systems, commuter parking areas, and a maintenance center and office space for Downeast Transportation, the operator of the Island Explorer and other year-round Hancock County transit services, will be built. The second phase of construction, anticipated to begin in 2013, will include the welcome center, visitor parking, and bus boarding areas. Future phases of the Center may include theaters, expanded interpretive display areas, and potential commercial space. National Park Service and chamber of commerce employees will provide visitor information and sell park passes at the welcome center.

“We’re very excited that the project is moving forward,” said Joel Kittredge, project manager for the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT). “Thanks to financial support from the Federal Transit Administration, Congress, and state bond issues, we anticipate completing the first phase of construction in the fall of 2011. We are awaiting passage of the federal transportation reauthorization bill to better understand federal funding that may be available to Maine DOT for construction of Phase 2. This bill will hopefully pass Congress this fall, and Maine DOT continues to work towards securing funds for future phases of this project.”

One way that Friends hopes to encourage environmentally friendly activity is to construct footpaths from the Acadia Gateway Center to community destinations in Trenton. Friends initiated a Village Connector Trails program in Trenton and began meeting with interested residents to develop trail ideas. In October 2009, Friends received a grant from the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance program for a year of technical assistance and staff support to help with the Trenton Village Connector Trails effort.

Burnham Martin, Maine project director of the National Park Service Rivers and Trails Program, began meeting with the citizen committee and Friends staff to develop a work plan for the year. Throughout the fall, the committee explored existing skidder roads and informal trails on the Acadia Gateway Center land and adjacent land owned by Friends. Over the winter, the committee discussed all possible recreational uses (motorized vs. non-motorized, equestrian, bicycle, wheelchair, and other uses) and the implications for trail design and maintenance.

“The Acadia Gateway Center is an outstanding opportunity to reach thousands of visitors as they approach Acadia, and share with them green technologies and environmentally friendly actions.”

In the interim, Friends of Acadia is working with partners to identify potential funding sources and expertise to help guide the design of the welcome center (Phase 2) to be an environmentally friendly building that is exemplary in alternative energy and energy conservation. “The Friends of Acadia strategic plan identified environmental leadership as one of five core goals moving forward,” remarked Marla O’Byrne, president of Friends of Acadia. “The Acadia Gateway Center is an outstanding opportunity to reach thousands of visitors as they approach Acadia, and share with them green technologies and environmentally friendly actions.”

Federal, state, and local representatives break ground at the Acadia Gateway Center site. From left to right: Downeast Transportation General Manager Paul Murphy, Congressman Michael Michaud’s Intergovernmental Liaison Rosemary Winslow, Maine DOT Commissioner David Cole, Friends of Acadia President Marla O’Byrne, State Senator Dennis Damon (District 28), Trenton Planning Board Chair Fred Ehrlenbach, and Andrew Varisco, Maine staff assistant for Senator Olympia Snowe.
After meeting with Maine DOT, it became clear that the wetlands mitigation plan for the Acadia Gateway Center would only allow for low-impact recreational use with limited construction. Based on this, the committee chose to focus on developing rustic footpaths. The Trenton Elementary School and town-owned land across the peninsula on the Union River were identified as desirable destinations from the Gateway Center, and the committee is presently working on landowner contacts.

“We’re thrilled to be working with the Trenton Village Connector Trails Committee to construct community footpaths for transportation and recreation,” said Terry Begley, projects and events coordinator for Friends. “We’re also grateful to the National Park Service for the Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance grant. Burnham’s guidance has been outstanding and will set us on the proper path for fundraising, construction, and maintenance of the new trail network.”

Begley added that the Trenton Village Connector Trails Committee is open to all participants. “The real fun of the process will be over the next two years as we decide trail routes, mark them, and begin construction,” she said. Interested participants should contact Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

Trenton holds great promise as the primary approach to Acadia National Park. As the home of the Acadia Gateway Center, it will be the location of the first point of contact for many visitors and an opportunity for day visitors to leave their cars behind while enjoying the park and local towns. The Island Explorer and year-round county transit will now have a permanent home, and Trenton residents will have additional opportunities for local outdoor recreation. As Acadia National Park moves closer to its centennial in 2016, the Acadia Gateway Center will mark the threshold of a bright and sustainable future.

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director for Friends of Acadia.
Maine’s First Lake

Catherine Schmitt

“For at least a hundred years before other lakes appeared, Sargent Mountain Pond sat alone in its granite bowl, collecting its autobiography from the surrounding landscape.”

Sargent Mountain Pond can be reached by any of three trails in Acadia National Park. All of them are steep and made of boot-battering granite, and all of them offer stunning views of mountain, valley, and sea. On this November Friday, I am approaching the pond from the south and east via the Penobscot Mountain Trail, which rises steeply from Jordan Pond. In the busy summer months this area is the hub of tourist activity; now the parking lot is empty. The leaves are down but snow has not yet fallen. At the junction with the Jordan Cliffs Trail, I stay left on the Penobscot Mountain Trail, ascending via boulder climbs and bedrock walls to the exposed, bare top of Penobscot, a true mont desert, looking more gray than the usual sparkling pink in the overcast. I follow the trail along the spine of the mountain to the peak of Penobscot and down on the other side, into the hollow filled with spruce and fir and cedar and birch. The pond comes suddenly; I am there. In summer, tourists would be snacking at the pond’s edge, or locals might be swimming in the clear, dark waters. But today I am alone.

Sargent Mountain Pond has been a destination since before the trails existed. In 1855, Charles Tracy, a New York lawyer and friend of the landscape artist Frederic Church, was anticipating a hike to “Summit Lake” when he wrote in his journal, “If it is clear tomorrow, we shall try to make the ascent of the mountains east of Lake Notch [Upper Hadlock Pond], at least far enough to see the lake of the mountains which lies very far up the steep. There is no guide on the way.” According to Tom St. Germain’s wonderful history of Acadia’s trails, local legend told that the “Lake of the Clouds” was the bottomless home to a mysterious serpent.

In 1881, a few energetic members of the Champlain Society, a group of Harvard students who camped near Somes Sound and conducted the first natural history surveys of the island, “decided to penetrate the trackless wilds to the summit of Sargent’s Mountain.” But after three summers of camping, hiking, collecting plants and birds, studying rocks and monitoring the weather, some of the young men became distracted by the social scene, leaving just two members “to carry on the serious work of the Champlain Society,” including “the exploration of Harbor Brook Valley and the Amphitheatre as well as that part of Sargent Mt. around the Lake of the Clouds.”

I have come up the other side, but draw no less satisfaction from reaching the lake. I try to picture it in late winter, frozen over, like it was a few years ago when a group of scientists and students from the nearby university hiked via the western route, climbing single-file up the treacherous, icy trail. To go back in time, they drilled from the level platform of the frozen surface, deep into the bottom of the lake, sixteen feet down through layers of sediment that reflect millennia of change. They were counting on things preserved in the mud—a fragment of fossil, a grain of pollen, a band of minerals—to tell the story of the lake and its surrounding landscape.

Their methods were modern, but their way was not. Observation, whether direct experience of nature or reading the printout from a laboratory instrument, is one of the basic tenets of science. Someone sees something, and then constructs an explanation for what was observed, and then goes about testing that explanation. Questions build upon each other, validating and strengthening explanations, expanding into theories that ultimately change the original process of observation, changing what is seen. The core extracted from the bottom of Sargent Mountain Pond supported the theory that it was Maine’s first lake, older than any other, the first to fill up with water as the glacier melted.

Geologists are the great storytellers of science. Their perception of time is so different from the ordinary person’s, it’s a wonder they can function at all. They know how abruptly climate can change, covering the earth with ice. They know that even bedrock is temporary. They know that water shapes the planet and fire beats below. We gauge our lives in years and generations; they speak in eons and radiocarbon dates. The geologists who took the core from the bottom of Sargent Mountain Pond worked with other scientists—paleoecologist, biologist, chemist, forest soil ecologist. Though each examined a different aspect...
of the core according to his or her expertise, through a shared language of time and place, they found common ground and together narrated a Holocene history of Maine from a single location:

The great mass of ice slides southeast, as far as Long Island and Cape Cod, covering northeastern North America with a sheet of frozen water a mile and a half thick. The only season is winter; the only colors muted shades of white, black, and brown.

Then the air begins to warm, and more suddenly than it arrived, the glacier starts to melt. At its edge near Georges Bank in the Gulf of Maine, icebergs calve into the frigid Atlantic. The edge thins, shrinking ever northward; the surface lowers, dissolving downward. Islands of rock—nunataks—emerge from the surface of the shifting ice, islands that would one day be the summits of mountains.

For two thousand years, ice still buries the surrounding valleys; but beneath the glacier, streams of water and grit carve channels through softer stone, leaving sandbars and jumbled mounds of rock and clay at the glacier’s edge.

On one nunatak, water fills a basin in the granite, the first lake in the landscape that will become Maine.

Three thousand years later, to the north, Katahdin emerges from beneath the ice and snow; to the south, woolly mammoths browse on shrub willows, ferns, and sedges taking root on the newly exposed tundra. Nomadic people follow the path of the receding ice to hunt and fish.

Around the hemisphere, sea level rises as shrinking ice returns fresh water to the ocean. The weight of the ice depressed the land surface so much that seawater floods inland over low-lying areas. Whales swim to Ottawa and Medway; salmon ascend inland tributaries. Once islands in the ice, the mountains become islands in the sea. Eight hundred feet below the new mountain pond, waves crash against the hillsides, forming sea stacks, beaches, and anemone caves.

Centuries pass. The shoreline drops as the land, freed from the weight of the ice, slowly rebounds to its now-familiar position. Salmon are stranded in Sebec, Sebago, Green, and West Grand lakes. Mammoths retreat and whales head for deeper waters. Maine’s rivers are huge torrents swollen with glacial meltwater, deranged whitewater cascading over ledges and flowing through ancestral deltas. Years later, sea level rise slows, and the rivers relax. A few scattered trees become a mature forest of spruce and jack pine, surrounding the pond in the shadow of Sargent Mountain, 1,200 feet above sea level on the coast of Maine.

For at least a hundred years before other lakes appeared, Sargent Mountain Pond sat alone in its granite bowl, collecting its autobiography from the surrounding landscape.

Knowing its history, the experience of seeing the lake—any lake, really—is changed. I know that I am standing at the edge of a place that is old in human time, but very, very young in geologic time. A place, like every place, that is still changing.

Catherine Schmitt is Communications Coordinator for the Maine Sea Grant College Program at the University of Maine and author of A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine from Cape Cod to Canada.

This article was produced as part of a larger project supported by a Fitz Eugene Dixon Research Fellowship from Acadia Partners for Science and Learning at the Schoodic Education and Research Center.
SURVEY RESULTS AFFIRM MISSION AND DIRECTION

Mike Siklosi

Last fall, Friends of Acadia surveyed members, volunteers and other groups for their feedback on what's working well and what we might need to change or improve. The responses affirm that we're on the right path and provide invaluable insights that will help guide our work in the future. We'd like to thank everyone who responded, and we extend our gratitude to Mike Siklosi (see page 5) for his generous volunteer work helping to enter the data and summarize the results in the article that follows.

Last year Friends of Acadia sent surveys to more than 6,500 individuals, including current members, volunteers, former members, and a random sampling of non-member area residents. While some questions were tailored to specific audiences, most “core” questions were identical. FOA received 985 completed surveys, a 15% response rate. The data in this snapshot focus mostly on members and volunteers, who represent the largest group of respondents.

Impressions of Friends of Acadia

The high satisfaction rate with FOA and its programs/services suggests that we are on the right track for our stated mission and activities. Specifically:

• The survey found that 93% of members and 91% of volunteers are satisfied with FOA, its programs, and services.

• What respondents most liked about FOA are its support for the park, its work in preserving the area for the future, its role as a park advocate, and its role in maintaining trails and carriage roads.

Current Support

Members and volunteers stated that they choose to support FOA because they believe that Acadia National Park (ANP) is a special place, because of FOA’s work to preserve the park, and because of the support that FOA provides the park and National Park Service (NPS). Specifically:

• The survey found that 93% of members and 78% of volunteers provide support because of concern for ANP’s natural and cultural resources.

In addition, 74% of members and 58% of volunteers support FOA because of concern for the Acadia region’s natural resources.

• More than 50% of members and volunteers cite their belief in the mission of FOA as a reason for support.

• In summary, members and volunteers stated support for FOA because of concern for ANP’s natural resources and a belief that FOA provides a level of stewardship in addition to that of the NPS, which has ultimate park responsibility.

Familiarity with Events, Activities, and Programs

Respondents were most familiar with “mature” events, activities and programs, because awareness grows over time. They were less familiar with newer activities, events, and programs, but large turnouts and rapidly growing participation already show increasing awareness and interest. Specifically:

• 90% of members and volunteers are familiar with the Island Explorer bus system.

• 83% know about the Friends of Acadia Journal.

• 70% are familiar with the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

• 65% know about the Peregrine Falcon/Hawk Watch program.

• Between 40% and 80% of respondents were familiar with some events, activities, and programs, including the Carriage Road Endowment, the Village Connector Trails Program, Acadia Trails Forever, Earth Day Roadside Clean-up, and weekly volunteering in the park.

• Members and volunteers were less familiar with newer events, activities, and programs, including the Advocacy Network (10%), Acadia Quest (22%), and Family Fun Day (33%).

Volunteering

Volunteers are incredibly important to FOA’s success. People volunteer because they identify with FOA’s mission and activities and enjoy pitching in on projects. Those surveyed expressed an extraordinarily high level of satisfaction. Specifically:

• An impressive 98% of volunteers are “satisfied or very satisfied” with their FOA volunteer experience across categories including camaraderie, sense of accomplishment, and adequacy of tools and training.

• Respondents rated “giving back to the park, sense of accomplishment, making a difference” (37%) and “working with other volunteers, camaraderie, meeting new people” (25%) as what they most like about volunteering.
IT’S NOT ALL WORK...

Our members and volunteers love to play, too! When they visit Acadia National Park, 98% of FOA members and volunteers hike trails and mountains and more than 90% also enjoy walking, jogging, and running on the carriage roads. The third most popular activity is driving around the Loop Road, followed by visiting Schoodic Point, photography, bicycling, and kayaking and canoeing.

Service Improvement
Respondents rated suggested service improvements in several categories. They ranked maintaining FOA activities at a high performance level and preparing the next generation for awareness and stewardship of the park as their top priorities. Much of what FOA does reflects this, and we will use this input to keep our focus on these elements of service improvement. Specifically:

• The highest percentage of respondents (24%) said that FOA should continue to focus on existing programs and activities. Respondents’ second priority combines providing more information about activities with communicating more frequently.

• Across activities for which FOA could be involved or increase its involvement, members (5%) and volunteers (18%) most frequently cited activities for children or families, activities for schools, and actions to enhance information about these offerings.

These are just a few highlights of survey results. Your responses have helped FOA to clarify how our members, volunteers, and others view the organization, what we do and how well we do it, and what FOA should do in the future. Thank you again for sharing your feedback!

MIKE SIKLOSI is a member of Friends of Acadia’s Board of Directors and a survey volunteer.

Keeping up the great work: When we asked what services areas we could improve, the resounding response was “keep focusing on existing programs and activities.” Here, members of the 2009 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC), a partnership program of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, pose with members of Acadia’s trail crew and FOA President Marla O’Byrne. The program provides high-school-aged students with valuable work experience, while lending a much-needed helping hand to Acadia’s trail crew.

Looking to the future: Survey respondents said that preparing the next generation for stewardship of the park is an important priority. Here, students from the Pemetic School in Southwest Harbor help out Friends of Acadia with our Earth Day Roadside Clean-up.

Care and commitment: More than 90% of members and volunteers expressed satisfaction with FOA’s programs and services. Of course, we couldn’t do it without all of you!

Having fun while making a difference: Volunteers said that giving back to the park and camaraderie were two of the biggest rewards of pitching in with Friends of Acadia.
The driver clucked softly and the horses nickered in reply. “Step up boys,” he called, and the team surged forward, the gleaming carriage in tow.

After climbing the steep hill, the two Clydesdales fell into their synchronous rhythm. Within minutes, the carriage had pulled past the Triad-Day Mountain Bridge and was headed up the mountain. American beech, yellow birch, and striped maple intertwined to make a vibrant green canopy. As the horses picked up speed to a trot, the dense canopy gave way to the brilliant blue of sea and sky.

This scene may surprise some visitors, but horses and national parks have a long history together. Since the creation of the first national park in 1872, horses have helped rangers and visitors alike protect and enjoy the rich natural and cultural resources. In Acadia National Park, John D. Rockefeller Jr., a skilled horseman, wanted to travel on motor-free byways via horse and carriage into the heart of Mount Desert Island. His construction efforts from 1913 to 1940 resulted in roads with sweeping vistas and close-up views of the landscape. As a result of Rockefeller’s vision and attention to detail, the carriage road system in Acadia blends harmoniously with the landscape. On horseback or by carriage, visitors can enjoy every contour and vista just as Rockefeller intended.

The tradition of park rangers on horseback was reinvigorated in Acadia in late 2003 when protection rangers started a mounted horse patrol program. The program has been very successful in giving visitors the opportunity to engage with a ranger in the most iconic of settings. It also helps rangers contact a larger, more diverse group of park visitors. Young and old alike are drawn to the silhouette of a ranger and horse patrolling carriage roads and helping protect park resources. The park’s interpretation and education programs are some of the most anticipated aspects of the park.

“As a result of Rockefeller’s vision and attention to detail, the carriage road system in Acadia blends harmoniously with the landscape. On horseback or by carriage, visitors can enjoy every contour and vista just as Rockefeller intended.”

Things to Know

When horseback riding on Acadia’s carriage roads, be sure to have a copy of the Carriage Road User’s Map to better identify the trails, routes, and roads where horses are permitted. The use of pack animals (horses, burros, mules, llamas, and alpacas) is permitted on the following trails, routes, and roads:

- Carriage roads, except as noted below
- Western Mountain Connector Trail, when the Western Mountain Road and Lurvey Spring Road are closed to motor vehicles
- Motor vehicle roads when closed to motor vehicles
- Established crosswalks
- The following unpaved roads: Hio Fire Road, Man-O’-War Brook Fire Road, Marshall Brook Fire Road, and Valley Cove Fire Road
- Within the developed area of Wildwood Stables

The use of pack animals is prohibited on:

- The Witch Hole Pond and Paradise Hill loops of the carriage roads
- The Eagle Lake loop of the carriage road system except between junctions # 7 and # 8 as shown on the park’s official Carriage Road User’s Map
- Hiking trails, off routes, and on motor roads when open to vehicular traffic
cation staff teamed up with protection rangers to offer a new weekly program called "Meet Max." In 2009, this engaging and popular program reached 427 visitors interested in meeting a patrol horse, learning more about the park, and talking to a ranger. All told, Max met nearly 4,000 visitors last season.

Enjoying Acadia’s extensive carriage roads can be daunting for many visitors, especially if you’ve left your horse at home. Carriages of Acadia, Inc., which is based at Wildwood Stables, offers tours of the park along several different routes. This new concessioner was awarded a ten-year contract in 2008, and last season marked the first year of a fresh and valuable partnership with the park.

Michael Carpenter, an attorney from Houlton, Maine, owns and operates Carriages of Acadia. He grew up in “the county” and brings with him a passion for horses and an enthusiasm and care for preserving the resource. During the busy summer months, he can be found mucking stalls, talking to visitors, or driving a carriage. His care for horses is evident in their sleek manes and well-trimmed feet. Two of Mike’s horses were rescued as yearlings and now comprise one of his favorite teams, “Homer” and “Bea.”
For many visitors, two accessible carriages donated to the park by the Friends of Acadia provide the perfect way to experience the quiet and solitude of Acadia.

John Bickford Sr. turned 78 in May and wanted to see the ocean for his birthday. On May 30, 2009, Tom Bickford and his wife, Gail, brought his dad to Bar Harbor to celebrate.

“We were limited by what we could get out and do as John [uses] a wheelchair,” Tom Bickford wrote. “As we headed home, we passed the Wildwood Stables and I quickly asked Gail to pull in with the hope that John could say hi to one of the horses. Many of Johns’ childhood memories include his horse ‘Indian Chief.’ The two of them apparently were inseparable and did everything together… A volunteer greeted us but said that the stables weren’t open until the following weekend. However, seeing any or one of the horses could be arranged. John didn’t show any fear at being around the huge horses and stuck his head out to nuzzle them…I can’t thank Liz [Weston], and Michael Carpenter [enough], who took us in and helped make it a day my dad would never forget… We are hoping to make it back soon for a ride on one of the accessible carriages the Stable has to offer.”

In 2009, Carriages of Acadia conveyed nearly 19,000 visitors by carriage and they hope to reach more in 2010. The concessioner also provided overnight stabling with over 2,800 “overnight stays” last season.

To date, the park has spent close to $950,000 to improve and rehabilitate the Wildwood Stables facilities. Built in 1913, the main barn has been preserved with caulking, sealing, and additional improvements. In addition, the park has built new restroom facilities, an office addition, fencing, gates, new wiring and electrical upgrades, and improved road surfaces. In 2010, the park will complete a cultural landscape inventory of the Wildwood Stables and the (former) Dane Farm area. This comprehensive inventory will provide an analysis of this cultural, historically, and culturally significant landscape. The study will help park management preserve and maintain the significant features of the Wildwood Stables so visitors can enjoy the area for many years to come.

Whether you are visiting for the first time or are already familiar with every bridge and road feature, Acadia’s carriage road system is unlike any other in the world. Consider exploring Acadia from a different perspective—from a carriage or on horseback.

LIZ WESTON is the Commercial Programs Specialist for Acadia National Park.

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**Tips for a Fun, Safe Ride**

As you head out with your horse, be sure to keep in mind the following:

- Brown Mountain parking lot and Wildwood Stables provide adequate room for horse trailers. Please do not block parking lot access. There is a fee to park at Wildwood Stables. Information about vehicle restrictions (height, length, etc.) in other park areas is also available.

- Please clean up after your horse in parking lots.

- If riding during the winter, please do not let your horse walk in cross-country ski tracks. Remember that snowmobiles are permitted in certain areas of the park.

Whether by horse-drawn carriage or on horseback, enjoying Acadia’s carriage roads is a unique experience the park is committed to protecting for all visitors. As visitor J. Sanders of Rhode Island wrote, “Without a doubt, riding the Acadia carriage road system this past weekend was the most beautiful ride I have participated in. The footing for the horses, the views and woodlands, and Wildwood Stables are as good as it gets.”
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Carter Agar  
Gary Allen  
American Royal Hardware  
Barbara Arter  
Tom Ayers and John Murphy  
Katharine Banzhal  
Kristin Barbieri  
Krisen Barletta  
Christine Adams Beckett  
Douglas Belding  
Mark Bennett  
Joanne and George Ballas  
Chris Boget  
Barbara and Frank Bonzani  
Bob Boyd  
Vanessa Boyd  
Samuel Bradbury  
Kathleen Breeze  
Diane Brennan  
Lisa Brenskelle  
Joseph and Susan Browder  
Marvin Bunch  
Tim Burns  
Jeffrey and Mary Busha  
By Design  
Joseph and Denise Callahan  
Natasha Carlitz  
Deborah Catalano  
Mary and John Caulfield  
Mary Cavanaugh  
Lara Cerri and Ted McLaren  
Ken and Kellie Chinchar  
Ciba Corporation—BASF Group  
Eliza Clark and Steve Mancini  
William Clarke  
Barbara and Samuel Clement  
Kenneth M. Cole III  
Bruce and Whitney Bell Condit  
Cornelia Cogswell Rossi Fndtn. Inc.  
Kimberly Counts  
Jeannine Cox  
Richard Credell  
Hilly Welch Crazy  
Emily Crosman  
Deborah Dearborn  
Jonathan Del Collo  
Annie Diano  
Michael Diener and Lisa Bennett  
Edward and Nicole Dobrowolski  
Walter Donovan  
Sharon Dover  
David and Missy Druley  
Beth and Chris Duguay  
Phyllis Dykes  
Edgemont FTA  
Sibylle Ehrlich  
Marvin Ellison and Franklin Brooks  
Jason Emmett  
Laura Estes  
David and Laura Finch  
Tracy and Michael Fitzmaurice  
Sara Foster  
Jillian Foster  
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Lisa and Frank Fruth  
Jody Fuda  
Leslie and Benjamin Fuller  
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Robert Gehret  
Robert and Barbara Gibson  
Linda and J. Frank Gilbuena  
Michael and Lili Gill  
Ken Goldstein  
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Lisa Gootee  
Marlene and Dave Gordon  
Gene Gorman  
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Linda M. Irving  
James Foundation, Inc.  
Nancy and John Januszewski, Jr  
Curt and Janet Jodrie  
Harold Johnson  
Donald and Susan Jones  
John Kalkow  
Peggy Kelehan  
Patrick Kennedy  
Duncan and Katherine Kennedy  
Samuel Kimball-Sperberg  
Donald and Linda Kimmelman  
Allison Klugh  
Terry Wagner and Kevin Knopp  
Joy and Norm Komich  
Alice Kopelow  
John Kotchau  
Dr. Paul Kotila  
Michael and Darcy Krajewski  
Nathan Kraisanda  
Nancy and David Kurr  
Lynne Lamstein  
Michael and Althea Landymore  
Kate and Samuel Lawrence  
Thelma Lewis  
Scott Lewis  
Stephen and Evelyn Lieb  
Carole Liss  
Carol Loffstedt and Joyce Goodwin  
Tom and Kathy Long  
Lois and Goody Lovvoll  
Brian Lowit  
Ed and Betsy MacNair  
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Kate Massey  
Kirsten and Matthew Mauritson  
Christine and Jim Mazur  
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James L. McClellan IV  
and Amy Robertson  
Kreg McCune and Sarah Tewhey  
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Bruce and Linda McLeod  
Colette Mensch  
Colette Mensch and Lief  
Kent and Eileen Mercer  
Todd and Deb Merritt  
Joseph Miska  
Emiliano Muagnini  
Bethany and Tom Mullen  
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Steven Napolitano and Linda Hughes  
Richard Lund  
and Josephine Newton-Lund  
Kristen Nicholson  
Janice and Niel Nielsen  
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Dave Shepard and Susan Warren  
Sarah Sherwood  
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Lewis duPont Smith  
Russell Smith  
Troy and Anna Smith  
Gloria Sosa  
Greg and Marjorie Steffe  
Toby Stephenson and Andrea Perry  
Janet Stifflear  
Brian Sturm  
Shannon Sturm  
Ron and Esther Sundelin  
Whitney Swenson  
Michael Tambroni  
Barry Tarr and Mary Cordo  
Timothy Thornton  
Natalae and Steven Tillman  
Carol Trask  
Jean Travers  
Triangle Community Foundation  
Patricia and Dale True  
Elizabeth True  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District  
Brian Waldron  
Charlotte and Terry Walther  
Daniel Ward  
Man Warner  
Madalyn Weber  
Sharon and Daryl Weeks  
Jerry and Suzy Weissman  
Hunt and Laura Welch  
Mark Wentworth  
Arlyn Whelaw  
Eileen Wilck  
John Wilson  
Clare and Mike Winchester  
Paul Womer  
Susan Wood  
Rick Woods and Alice Christian  
Alexi Zentner  

October 1, 2009–February 28, 2010

New Members
In Gratitude

IN-KIND DONATIONS
KLR Communications, Inc.
Maine Natural History Observatory
NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance
Joe Fagan
Brian M. Robertson
Wallace Tent & Party Rental

OFFICE VOLUNTEERS
Jean Howell
Eileen Linnane
Barbara Loveland
Marsha Lyons
Mary Ann Siklosi
Jean Smith

ACADIA WINTER TRAILS VOLUNTEERS
Timothy J. Adelmann
Andy Beekman
Kay Beekman
Dirck Bradt
Peter J. Brown
Abigail Curless
Mark Fernald
Matt Gerrish
Michael Giffilin
Peter Hastings
Paul Haertel
Karol Hagberg
Mike Heniser
Bill Jenkins
David Kief
Stephen Linscott
H. Stanley MacDonald
Robert Massucco
Dennis Smith
Adam Wales
Charlie Wray

TAKE PRIDE IN ACADIA DAY SPONSORS
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
The First
The Knowles Company Real Estate

IN-KIND DONORS
National Park Sea Kayak Tours

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.

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, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

• I hereby bequeath $_________ to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, P.O. 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, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes: [legal 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.

For more information, call the office at 800-625-0321, e-mail the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Friends of Acadia members walked the halls of the Statehouse in Augusta this spring with a mission. At stake were the firearms regulations at Acadia, which changed on February 22, 2010, as a result of a federal law that pegged firearms regulations in national parks and wildlife refuges to the laws of the state in which the park or refuge is located. Maine’s laws set a precedent for restricting firearms in season and scope within certain state parks, but did not address Acadia. Friends of Acadia, Maine Citizens Against Handgun Violence, and many businesses, non-profit organizations, and individuals joined together to encourage the legislature to pass a law spelling out the State’s intent for firearms at Acadia.

Senator Dennis Damon sponsored L.D. 1737, An Act to Clarify Safety Requirements at Acadia National Park. Co-sponsors included Speaker of the House Hannah Pingree, and Representatives Rob Eaton, Elsie Flemings, and Ed Mazurek. The bill was written to restore the national park firearms regulations that had been in place since the early 1980’s, allowing firearms to be transported through Maine’s three national park units as long as they were unloaded, broken down, and stored or not easily accessible. The legislature’s Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee hotly debated the bill, and the majority voted to support amendments to restrict the bill to Acadia, to allow people with proper concealed weapons permits to carry their firearms through the park, and to allow retired police officers to carry concealed weapons. This version of the bill passed the Senate in a 27-6 vote, and survived an effort in the House to kill the bill. The Governor signed the bill on April 5, and it is presumed to take effect on July 12.

While the bill did not accomplish all that Friends hoped for, it is a more effective regulation for Acadia’s rangers to prevent poaching and protect public safety.

Friends of Acadia would like to thank the bill’s sponsors and co-sponsors, outstanding advocates across the state, and the organizations and individuals who joined us in advocating for the bill, including Bill Harwood and Toby McGrath from Verrill Dana and Maine Street Solutions, who provided pro-bono guidance through the complicated legislative process. It was an incredible effort, leading to the first state law implementing more thoughtful firearms regulations at one of our national parks.

Advocacy Corner

MAINE PASSES BILL ON GUNS IN THE PARK
Cleaner Air for Acadia
On April 5, 2010, Governor John Baldacci signed into law a bill to reduce sulfur content in home heating oil and in industrial emissions in Maine. Acadia National Park Resource Protection Chief David Manski and Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement testified in favor of the bill at the public hearing in January and participated in the formal signing ceremony with the governor.

Sulfur in air emissions is the greatest contributor to regional haze at Acadia, obscuring vistas from Cadillac and other mountain summits. It also contributes to acidification of Acadia’s lakes and streams through acid rain, snow, and fog. The new law will reduce the sulfur content of home heating oil by 2018 and will establish a process by which Maine industries, such as the pulp and paper industry, can reduce an equivalent amount of sulfur via alternative means agreed to by the Maine Department of Environmental Protection. Acadia National Park is a federally designated Class 1 area under the Clean Air Act, meaning it should receive the highest level of air quality protections. Maine’s new law will help the state meet these requirements.

Volunteer at Our Membership Table
If you love to share your excitement about the park and want to encourage others to join Friends of Acadia, you’ll enjoy volunteering at our membership table. The membership table is located at the bustling entrance to Jordan Pond House most weekdays from mid-June through September. Over the past three summers, the project has gained more than 1,000 new members for Friends of Acadia.

Volunteers at the table engage visitors in conversation about Acadia, what the park means to them, and how their membership gifts can help Friends preserve the natural beauty of the park. Visitors often say they have been meaning to join Friends for years, and they are pleased that the membership table is there to make it easy for them.

New membership table volunteers are encouraged to attend a training session that includes role-playing to make sure they are comfortable talking to visitors about Friends. Two volunteers staff the table; new volunteers are scheduled with those who have considerable experience at the table.

To volunteer at the membership table this summer, please contact Sharon Broom, Development Officer, at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org.

**Process Initiated to Improve Route 3**
The Bar Harbor Town Council appointed Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement to serve on a task force initiated to seek federal and state support for reconstructing Route 3 from Ireson Hill to West St. in Bar Harbor. The task force prepared a needs statement outlining the problems associated with the road, including crumbling infrastructure, inadequate accommodation for bicyclists and pedestrians, and high levels of traffic.

Route 3 is the main entry point to Acadia National Park and downtown Bar Harbor, serving an estimated 2,408 hotel rooms, 400 students at College of the Atlantic, and 1,400 employees at Jackson Laboratory. Clement helped the Task Force navigate the federal funding process and prepare for meetings with the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT), Federal Highway Administration, and Maine Congressional delegation staff members.

The Maine DOT has selected this section of Route 3 as one of three pilot projects for context-sensitive design. Over the next year, a larger group of stakeholders will meet to develop goals and visions for the corridor, conduct public meetings, and collaborate on preparing the final road reconstruction design. While road reconstruction funding is not immediately guaranteed, the process will get the project “shovel-ready,” leading to long-term improvement of the corridor for automobiles, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

**Join the Westside Challenge**
In early fall 2009, an anonymous Friends of Acadia member challenged FOA and other members to raise $5,000 to support trail rehabilitation on the Westside of Mount Desert Island. The Fernald Point neighbor will match every dollar raised up to $5,000 to support the restoration of Westside trails.

The Footloose Friends, a group of FOA members, has already embraced the challenge. They “adopted” the Canada Cliffs Connector on the Westside as part of their 25th anniversary celebration. Last fall, they took advantage of the matching challenge and raised more than $2,800 to help restore the abandoned trail. This spring, they plan to volunteer as trail restoration begins.

All gifts to support Westside trail restoration are eligible for matching money. To make a contribution to be matched simply mail a check, made payable to Friends of Acadia, and enclose it in the envelope provided with this Journal. Or, if you prefer, call the office tollfree at 800-625-0321 or visit our secure website at www.friendsofacadia.org to make your gift with a credit card. Be sure to note that your gift is for the Westside Challenge.
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/support to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call 800-625-0321 or visit our 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 FOA 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 Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Wild Gardens of Acadia Needs Docents
A great way to share your enthusiasm for Acadia’s botanical treasures is volunteering as a docent at the Wild Gardens of Acadia (WGA). The Wild Gardens at Sieur de Monts Spring is an educational facility displaying native plants in twelve of Acadia’s habitats from mountain summits to bogs. Volunteers help maintain the Wild Gardens by raking paths, filling brochure boxes, composting, labeling plants, and assisting with other projects.

WGA volunteers are hoping to expand their ranks with volunteer docents to greet visitors, point out interesting plants in the gardens, provide directions, and answer questions ranging from “Where are the bathrooms?” to “What is this tree?” New docents are partnered with seasoned volunteers and garden staff for orientation. Docents are particularly needed during the busy summer and fall season when charter and cruise ship bus tours stop at the gardens. If you have several hours a month that you can spare and enjoy talking with people about Acadia, please consider becoming a volunteer docent. For more information, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

Acadia Winter Trails Association
A wonderful storm blanketed the carriage roads in January and launched the winter trails season.

A dedicated group of 21 Friends of Acadia volunteer groomers, including 5 new volunteers, logged many hours laying skate and classic ski tracks along designated areas of Acadia’s carriage road system, including Witch Hole, Aunt Betty’s Pond, the west side of Eagle Lake, Upper Hadlock, Around the Mountain and Amphitheatre.

This year, Friend’s Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment funded the purchase of a 2009 Yamaha VK Professional Utility grade, 4-stroke engine snowmobile. The machine, which came highly recommended by ANP, replaced a much older snowmobile in the grooming fleet. This purchase will enable groomers to do their job more efficiently and with a more dependable snowmobile.

National Parks Conservation Association Honors Friends’ Outstanding Work

On March 23, Friends received the prestigious Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the National Parks Conservation Association, recognizing our advocacy work for Acadia National Park. From left are: NPCA President Tom Kiernan, Friends Board Chair Lili Pew, Friends President Marla O’Byrne, and NPCA Chairman Alan Lacy.
If you would like more information about the Acadia Winter Trails Association, please contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

**Be a Trailblazer**

Friends of Acadia offers the Trailblazer program as an easy and convenient way to spread your membership gifts throughout the year. Trailblazers make monthly gifts to Friends through direct charges to their credit card or bank account. Trailblazers’ gifts go farther, saving paper and postage costs by eliminating renewal requests.

Sydney Roberts of Seal Harbor has been a monthly-giving member since 2007. “This is a gentle and painless way of giving,” she said. “I’m surprised at how much I have given because it just doesn’t hurt.” She commented that monthly giving is especially helpful to members during times of economic uncertainty.

Sydney also believes it is important to support Friends and Acadia National Park without using paper and postage. “Acadia is about leaving no trace,” she said. “The Trailblazer program is a way to continue my membership in Friends with minimal impact on the environment.”

Friends of Acadia will process your Trailblazer gift on the first business day of each month, beginning the month after you sign up. Every January, we will send a letter acknowledging your total giving for the past year with gratitude for your help protecting Acadia—all year long.

For information about Trailblazer membership, contact Sharon Broom, development officer, at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org.

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**In Memorium**

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

- Samuel David Amitin
- Bakalians
- Banshee and Jet
- Curtis Barnett
- Mary-Frances Below
- William Baillas
- Wilmer Bradbury
- Ruth Koe Brady
- Ethelyn and Benjamin Breeze Sr.
- Francis Brooks
- Charles Bybee
- Dow Case
- David and Kitzi Crofoot
- Thomas Davis
- Francis Dinsmore
- Sallie Dinsmore
- Patrick Driscoll
- Monica Estes
- Dani Faramelli
- Henry Frick
- Richard Frost
- Richard Gagnon
- Sheila Garden
- Samuel Gray
- Lois Frazier Hackett
- Evelyne Hale

Henry F Harris
John Harris
Eleanor Hart
Donald Higgins
Donald Hill
The Hopper Family
Lester Hughson
Robert Hunnewell
John Jenkins
Carol Ann Katz
David Keezell
Harvey Kelley
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Edward LaFonte
John LePage
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Richard and Marjorie Marcyes
Teresa Peabody Metcalf
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Eunice Thompson Orr
Leo Panek
Romona Pezzella
Ursula Poland
Kevin Potter

Virginia Pitchett
David Rabasca
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Sammie and Nikki
James and Virginia Sauer
Helen Schoene
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Nancy Silverman
Michael Paul Simpson
Henry Smith
Walter Smith
Edward Stool
Ellen Tateo-Bebee
Dwight Taylor
Mary Thomas
Elizabeth Thorndike
Frances Tucker
Elizabeth Trahan
Theresa Waldron
E. Sohier Welch
Andrew West
Theresa Yerkes

October 1, 2009–February 28, 2010
Acadia Adventures

Sunday, July 11, 2010
2:00–5:00 p.m., rain or shine
Sieur de Monts

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park invite families to get outdoors for an afternoon of learning and fun activities geared toward children ages 2–13.

The fun includes:
• Rock climbing
• Nature-themed arts & crafts
• Camping & hiking activities
• Pony rides
• Fly-tying and fishing activities
• Refreshments
• And more!

Reservations are requested, but not required, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

To make a reservation for Family Fun Day, and for information on both events, contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.
Although the park sees far fewer visitors in winter and early spring, nature keeps the Acadia National Park road crew plenty busy. This shot shows a boulder that tumbled down the backside of a trail above Eagle Lake in late winter, landing on Carriage Road South, according to ANP Roads Foreman Alan Farnsworth. The crew removed the boulder this spring, clearing the way for visitors to again enjoy the seasons on this beautiful stretch of carriage road.

Give the Gift of Acadia

Looking for the perfect gift for summer house guests, hosts, or anyone you would like to introduce to Acadia?

* Gift package includes:
  • Greetings from the Heart of Acadia, a packet of six lovely note cards designed especially for Friends of Acadia.
  • 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 form below, along with a check made payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.
saving Maine: An Album of Conservation Success Stories
By Bill Silliker, Jr.
Down East Books, 2002
96 pp., Hardbound

In the midst of an economic downturn and reduced budgets, it can sometimes be discouraging to work for a conservation nonprofit. I wake up wondering, how will we protect the land? How will we preserve the natural resources so my daughter will be able to enjoy them when she is an adult?

Reading Saving Maine offers a timely dose of motivation and inspiration. Bill Silliker has compiled a beautiful collection of his original color photographs and paired them with conservation success stories from all corners of Maine, ranging from the Southern Maine coast all the way north to the St. John River. Silliker’s images and words pay homage to the conservationists who have protected the mountains, coasts, rivers, wetlands, and forests that support a diverse population of wildlife in our very special state.

Of course, I’m partial to the areas and conservationists closest to my heart: Acadia National Park and President Eliot, Governor Baxter, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, an outstanding land protection partner for Friends of Acadia.

Governor Baxter, obviously a hero to Silliker, said it best when he observed, “This park will prove a blessing to those who follow us, and they will see that we built for them more wisely than our forefathers did for us.” The governor was talking about what would become Baxter State Park, but he easily could have been speaking of any of the conserved areas featured in the book. Baxter also could have easily been interchanged with President Eliot, George B. Dorr, John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and their fellow members of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations who preserved, parcel by parcel, the glorious land that would become Acadia National Park.

The book’s most striking visual elements are the comparison photos—logged forest lands compared to a photo of pristine woods, dams blocking water ways versus rivers running free to the Atlantic. When you see these photos and read the stories of successful land conservation in Maine, you can’t help but feel uplifted and hopeful that the very best of our natural resources will be here for many generations to come.

—Lisa Horsch Clark

Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants
by Douglas W. Tallamy
Timber Press, Portland, OR
Updated and expanded version, 2009
358 pp., $17.95, Softcover

O.T., a former neighbor, once mentioned that he no longer heard a dawn chorus of birds. He recalled, “When I was young, it was so loud it would wake me up.”

No wonder his mornings had grown quiet: O.T.’s yard was a manicured square of grass, two trees, and no shrubs. It was clear that his devotion to lawn maintenance made his yard a desert for most birds.

Researchers have documented the diminishment of the dawn chorus. They have found that certain neotropical migrant bird populations in the U.S. have declined 1% annually since the 1960s. The silencing of O.T.’s dawn chorus, however, is due to more than just habitat simplification as entomology professor Douglas Tallamy explains in Bringing Nature Home.

Although Tallamy’s book is hardly the first to point out the importance of native plants to wildlife, he discusses the connection with logic, clarity, joie de vivre and supporting data. His point: most exotic ornamental plants do not feed our insects, and loss of insect populations destroys a crucial link in the food chain. We have killed our yards with non-native plants that act as energy bottlenecks, inhibiting the transfer of energy from sunlight to insect biomass. As more and more undisturbed habitat is lost to development, viable ecological communities perish.

The hopeful news is that habitat fragmentation can be buffered—somewhat—by a new landscaping ethic. Tallamy connects many dots in a most revealing way: how leaf chemistry and insects have co-evolved, the problems associated with non-native plants (such as a reduced role in the ecosystem, associated pests, invasiveness, even obstructive plant architecture), how native is “native,” and the importance of balanced natural communities. An unexpected bonus is the beauty of the insects that Tallamy has photographed; they rival the most stunning wildflowers. Bringing Nature Home also includes plenty of practical information, including extensive lists of native plants and the insects they nourish. Because biodiversity matters, this book is a clarion call.

—Helen Koch
Chairman’s Letter

WORKING HARD TO “RESTORE A NATION”

“I think our challenge as lovers of our national parks in the twenty-first century will be the challenge of restoration… Our national parks are not only our best idea, but our highest ideal of what it means to live with an enduring grace that will survive us. I think that every time we walk into a national park we make vows. We make vows that we will live beyond ourselves. We make vows that we will not just care about short-term gains, but long-term vistas. We remember the sweetness of engagement; that this is the open space of democracy. And it is, as John Muir has reminded us, the beginning of creation.”

—Terry Tempest Williams

Upon returning from a recent trip to Washington, D.C., and the National Parks Conservation Association, I was bursting with a renewed sense of urgency and encouragement to help spread the message of advocacy on behalf of our beloved national parks. Friends of Acadia had just received a prestigious Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award from the NPCA, honoring Friends as a champion advocate for Acadia National Park and a model of great advocacy efforts for all Friends Groups. As we set our vision for Acadia’s next century, advocacy on a local, regional, and national basis will be a vital component of our actions to help Restore a Nation. This term was coined in a new report by the National Parks Conservation Association, the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System since 1919.

My focus on advocacy has grown over the past year, largely due to FOA’s disciplined educational efforts to share how important this role is for all who love and value our national parks, especially Acadia. On the surface, advocating for our park may seem focused on efforts to protect and preserve its scenic and environmental aspects. Across the nation, however, there also is a tremendous need to create and support projects that will have a positive economic impact on people and communities surrounding national parks through jobs and revenue-generating activities. According to Restore a Nation, national parks are economic engines that:

- Support more than $13.3 billion in private-sector activity
- Maintain 267,000 jobs
- Provide $4.8 billion in wages

Your voice is essential to Friends of Acadia’s success in advocating for policies, programs, and funding for our national park and positive economic outcomes for our communities. We’re working hard to call attention to areas of concern for our park, or as I call them, areas of opportunities for enduring success!

Protecting and preserving lands that are still privately held within the park’s legislative boundary through conservation or purchase is the highest priority for Friends of Acadia.

Our efforts to keep Acadia’s critical ecosystems and habitats intact and resilient are the keys to ensuring the health of our park, as well as the economic future of the communities that surround Acadia now and for the next century. As NPCA champion Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote after she successfully protected and preserved the Everglades from development and destruction of the ecosystems that drive Florida’s nature tourism, “you cannot conserve what you don’t have.”

Please join me in lending your voice and your support for Friends of Acadia as we work hard and advocate for protecting and preserving our precious Acadia. Thank you!

—NPCA 2010 Report: Restore a Nation

Lili Pew

—Lili Pew

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO RESTORE A RIVER, A NATIONAL PARK, OR FOR THAT MATTER, A NATION?

In conservation terms, restoration is defined as the process of re-establishing self-sustaining habitats and building resilience to support numerous species now and in future… Resilient ecosystems are essential not only for the fish and wildlife but for countless American communities whose economic well-being and jobs depend on the goods and services provided by a sustainable, and functioning natural environment.

— NPCA 2010 Report: Restore a Nation

Friends of Acadia Journal
FRIENDS OF ACADIA’S
ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, July 15, 2010
3:45-6:00 p.m.
THE BAR HARBOR CLUB • 55 WEST STREET, BAR HARBOR

Celebrate another year of hard work and dedication to a mission that matters!
Learn more about how your contributions help preserve and protect Acadia.

Casual dress.
RSVP by July 3 to Mike at 207-288-3340, 800-625-0321, or mike@friendsofacadia.org

Parking is limited. If possible, we encourage use of the Island Explorer.
Bus schedules: www.exploreacadia.com

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY
AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

Saturday, June 5, 2010
8:00 a.m.–12:00 noon
TRAIL SHOP AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS

Join Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park for:

8:00–8:30 Trail Shop Open House (coffee & doughnuts)
8:30–12:00 Carriage Road Volunteer Work Project
9:00–10:30 Guided hike for beginners/first-time hikers
9:00–12:00 Guided trail hike

RSVP by July 3 to Mike at 207-288-3340, 800-625-0321, or mike@friendsofacadia.org
Parking is limited. If possible, we encourage use of the Island Explorer.
Bus schedules: www.exploreacadia.com
Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.