**PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!**

Whether driving, walking, bicycling, or riding the Island Explorer through the park, we all must pay the entrance fee. Eighty percent of all fees paid in the park stay in the park, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the off-season) and $40 annual pass are available at the following locations:

**Open Year-Round:**
Acadia National Park Headquarters (Eagle Lake Road)

**Open May through November:**
Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Thompson Island Information Center
Sand Beach Entrance Station
Bar Harbor Village Green Bus Center
Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds
Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops

*For more information visit www.friendsofacadia.org*
This year marks Friends of Acadia’s 25th anniversary—25 years dedicated to the protection of Acadia National Park. We will be celebrating all year long, at our events, in our publications, and through special initiatives. Among the accomplishments to celebrate: The granting of more than $15.5 million dollars to conservation programs, like the restoration of the historic carriage roads and trail system, in Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. FOA programs and partnerships that have built trails in the communities, created opportunities to introduce the next generation to Acadia, and provided meaningful opportunities for volunteers of all ages to give back to the park. And the collective voice of FOA and its members, advocating for sensible management of and adequate funding for Acadia.

Our efforts are intended not to replace the federal obligation to fund the ongoing care and management of Acadia, but to enhance the park’s ability to do its best work.

That work is based on the National Park Service mission, established in 1916 to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” At the heart of the NPS’s ability to carry out that mission is funding—the ability to hire and train staff to understand the complex balance of protection and enjoyment and to manage that balance effectively.

Currently our national parks are operating under a temporary budget while Congress works to negotiate a budget for the remainder of this fiscal year, which ends September 30th. The financial decisions facing our senators and representatives are complex and difficult in this economic and political climate, as demonstrated by the deep divide between the appropriations bills proposed in the two houses of Congress. Negotiations are beginning, with the need to close that divide and pass a budget for this fiscal year. Yet Acadia has its work to do, and its mission to carry out. Right now the park must prepare for the summer season, uncertain if funding for seasonal staff, land protection, summer programs, and other endeavors will be cut—a little or a lot—or funded at levels originally proposed for this year.

FOA is working with national park partners across the country to support strong funding for our parks. We will be talking with our congressional delegation and relevant committee staff, to share the local view of what proposed budgets mean on the ground, in Acadia. We are fortunate in and grateful to Maine’s senators and representatives, who understand the value of Acadia to our state, as well as to our nation.

Acadia National Park is a powerful economic generator for Maine. In 2010 the park had 2.5 million visits. Park visitors generated $158 million in economic activity in the state, and supported more than 3,000 Maine jobs. But, the park must have adequate funding to continue to protect its resources and provide opportunities for current visitors to enjoy those resources without impairing them for future visitors.

Over the year, FOA will call upon our members and partners to join us in supporting adequate funding for Acadia National Park—adequate to protect its resources and to meet the needs of its visitors, today and in the future.

I invite you to visit the 25th anniversary page on our website, which includes highlights of the achievements our members and volunteers have made possible over the years. And this summer, please plan to join us for our Annual Meeting on July 13th, for a special celebration of 25 years of protecting Acadia. The park’s future is much brighter today because of your support and participation in Friends of Acadia. Thank you!

—Marla S. O’Byrne
FEATURE ARTICLES

8 A Golden Anniversary and a New Relationship
Exciting times at the Wild Gardens of Acadia
Aimee Beal

10 Reversing the Environmental Wrongs of the Past
Considering the value of unique habitats for fish and wildlife
Gregory Burr

11 Aquinas at Acadia
Secrets of a successful service-learning program
Ann Karasinski

12 Adapting to a Changing Climate in Acadia
A DEP report highlights threats and recommends actions
Malcolm Burson

14 Managing Invasive Plants in Acadia
Protecting our native plant communities
Aleta McKeage

16 Help Keep Insect Invaders Away!
Acadia officials are spreading the word: Don’t Move Firewood
Judy Hazen Connery

25 AYCC: Hard Work, but So Rewarding
Catherine Smith

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS

5 Memorial: Donald and Elizabeth Straus

7 Special Person: Rosemary Levin

18 Updates

26 Advocacy Corner

27 Book Reviews

DEPARTMENTS

1 President’s Column
25 Years of Protecting Acadia
Marla S. O’Byrne

3 Superintendent’s View
It’s a Matter of Priorities
Sheridan Steele

6 Poem
Leaving
David Sloan

28 Chairman’s Letter
25 Years, Past and Future
Lili Pew
IT’S A MATTER OF PRIORITIES

I once read that management is “doing things right” and that leadership is “doing the right things.” I do believe that focusing on a few of the right things is essential if an organization is to accomplish anything of significance. Having too many goals, or goals that continually change, is a sure way to wander off course or not accomplish much of anything. Without a map, any road will do, as they say. That’s why early in my tenure here at Acadia, I have focused my energies on four goals: filling in the “holes” of private parcels within the park boundary, assuring the success of SERC, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the visitor experience in Acadia, and engaging youth in the outdoors and their national parks. Why are these important?

**Fill in the holes:** The essence of any national park is the land within the park boundary, containing the natural and cultural resources that we are charged with protecting and that draw visitors to the park. Acadia has more than 130 private parcels within the legislated boundary yet to acquire. Every one of them is a potential threat to important park values or an otherwise high-quality visitor experience. Given the small size of Acadia, any incompatible use of land within the park will have “spillover” effects on park land around it. For example, lawn mower or chain saw noise carries a great distance, and these unnatural sounds would either drive visitors away from the noise or detract from the peacefulness of their Acadia experience. And bright lights can affect the dark night sky, which is another important park asset. With the assistance of Friends of Acadia and other concerned organizations and individuals, we are working to acquire each of these in-held parcels as they become available.

**Assure SERC success:** In 2002 the National Park Service took over the former Navy base at Schoodic, and we are now converting it into the Schoodic Education and Research Center. Once work is completed by July 2011, we will need to significantly increase new mission-related activities to make the operation economically viable. This major new facility must not drain funding from essential visitor services and resource protection work—it must pay its own way. Developing new partnerships and working with the nonprofit SERC Institute will be essential to success. Our vision is that SERC will be a world-class research and learning institution, providing knowledge and transformational experiences necessary for harmony between humankind and the natural world. We want to create inspiring educational opportunities for people of all ages but especially youth, advance mission-related science to benefit Acadia and other parks, and promote nature-inspired art that connects people to their natural and cultural heritage.

**Engage youth in the outdoors and their national parks:** With teenagers spending, on average, 7.5 hours per day on electronic media, and with a declining participation rate in outdoor recreation by those under 18, there appears to be less interest in outdoor activities and the environment among today’s youth. The Center for Disease Control says the current generation of youth may be the first to live shorter lives than their parents because of health issues associated with a sedentary lifestyle and obesity. If these trends are correct, they have frightening implications for the future of conserved lands, environmental protection, and even the way we relate to each other. We at Acadia want to find new ways to engage kids in nature and the wonderful array of values preserved in their national parks.

Maintain and enhance the high-quality visitor experience in Acadia: We want all visitors to “bond” with Acadia National Park, to be inspired by the incredible natural beauty and wonderful history of their park, and to leave with a greater understanding and appreciation of this very special place. Someone once said “we must eliminate the static so people can hear the music.” Park managers and partners are working on ways to reduce negative experiences from traffic congestion, inadequately maintained facilities, lack of appropriate services, and the like. One example is the acclaimed Island Explorer bus system. Last summer, the Island Explorer carried over 412,000 visitors with an average of 4,829 passengers per day. That means roughly 2,500 vehicles that were not on the roads each day. We hope to continue improving the Island Explorer service by extending the season, adding more buses, and reducing intervals between buses.

With the assistance of Friends of Acadia and other concerned organizations and individuals, we are working to acquire each of these in-held parcels as they become available.

**Peter Travers**

—Sheridan Steele
Acadia Winter Trails

At its meeting on February 7th, 2011, the Acadia NP Advisory Commission had a lengthy discussion about the excellent cross country skiing conditions on the carriage roads of Acadia National Park this year. The abundance of snow and consistent cold temperatures both contributed to good conditions, but equally important have been the efforts of the volunteers of the Acadia Winter Trails Association, a committee of Friends of Acadia. The Commission voted to send this letter of thanks in appreciation for the many hours of hard work those volunteers have dedicated to grooming the carriage roads. We recognize that the frequency and intensity of the storms this year have made their job even more challenging.

We also thank Friends of Acadia for providing the grooming equipment and for supporting the winter trails program.

In addition, we would like to thank the members of the park staff, especially Alan Farnsworth, for keeping the grooming equipment operating.

On behalf of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission and the winter users of Acadia, please accept our sincere thanks and appreciation for a job well done.

—Steven Katona, Chairman
Acadia National Park Advisory Commission

Happy Memories in Acadia

My gifts are often made in memory of my late wife, who died in 2007 after a three-year battle against colon cancer. I first introduced Eileen to Acadia in the summer of 1992 when she was pregnant with our daughter. We had just traveled through Maine, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, Cape Breton, and Nova Scotia, and finished up our two weeks of travel with a ferry ride from Yarmouth over to Bar Harbor for a two-day stay. Eileen’s reaction: “Why did we go all those other places!”

When my daughter was three or four, we started traveling back to Bar Harbor and Acadia for a week-long visit every summer. Those continued for a decade until our last visit as a family in 2006. Throughout the years, we often brought friends and family along with us. Since my wife’s death, my daughter and I have been able to return for a visit every summer until this year. I myself still hope to get up to visit Acadia for a day or two before Thanksgiving—the quiet season with too many of our usual favorite spots closed for the season, but I will still need “my Acadia fix”...It will do my heart and soul and spirit a world of good.

Thank you to your organization for helping to preserve one of my favorite corners of this world, where so many happy family memories remain fresh within me.

—Rich Beebe
Connecticut

Sharing Acadia with Friends

My wife and I visited Acadia during the Columbus Day weekend and brought along with us a couple who had never been to Acadia. They fell in love with the park just as we have been for years. Together we hiked Great Head as well as the new Jesup Path. The beautiful work done on the boardwalk through the Great Meadow confirmed for me that my contributions to the Friends of Acadia are being well spent. The stars were spectacular every evening and the colors were near peak across the island! I personally got to hike the Precipice Trail for the first time and knocked off one big item from my “bucket list.”

—Steve Hansen
New Hampshire
DONALD AND ELIZABETH STRAUS
They Dearly Loved This Place

With sadness we mark the passing of Elizabeth Allen Straus on December 6th, 2010, and remember, too, her husband Donald Blun Straus, who passed away on September 3rd, 2007. Don and Beth came to Mount Desert Island from New York, first as summer residents but ultimately living year round in their Somesville home. They dearly loved that property and they dearly loved MDI, and their sense of place coupled with remarkable public-spiritedness led them to live in a manner that undoubtedly enriched us all.

If you think Somesville is a beautiful Maine village, notice how much undeveloped land surrounds individual private homes. You’re looking at the power of the conservation easement—private land whose openness is a protected part of the view, as much a part of the scenic landscape as the park itself. Acadia National Park holds more conservation easements than any other unit of the National Park Service: 184 properties in 18 towns—more than 12,000 acres.

Beth was involved in the founding of Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and believed she should lead by example. Soon after purchasing their property, Beth and Don donated a conservation easement to Acadia National Park through MCHT, preserving a large in-town meadow bordered by Route 102 and Somes Harbor. This was 1974, and their generous gift was among Acadia’s first easements. Don and Beth participated in the start of a domino effect—easement after easement, often through Maine Coast Heritage Trust, came to Acadia National Park in the following years.

This act was far from singular in their lives, however, but of a piece. Don served as chairman of the board of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America, and on the boards of the International Council of Commercial Arbitration, the Population Resources Commission, the Society of Human Ecology, the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Institute for Advanced Study, and of the College of the Atlantic. Beth’s wide-ranging interests in horticulture, parks, and cultural institutions led her to serve on MOMA’s Board of Trustees and volunteer for the New York Botanical Garden, both for over half a century. As vice president of the Island Foundation (now the Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve), Beth was instrumental in the grant to Friends of Acadia that led to a wheelchair-accessible trail near the Jordan Pond House.

Beth and Don were major donors to Friends of Acadia, and he joined the board in 1992, serving for a dozen years. Recalls then-president Ken Olson, “Don was the one who could pointedly—but with a smile—figure out the logic in any stance we might want to take.” Beth and Don were awarded the Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award in 2003, and together were named honorary trustees in 2004. Adds Olson, “They were wonderful people. FOA was fortunate that both of them came within its compass.”

Beth and Don Straus were awarded the Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award in 2003.

—Aimee Beal
Leaving

The air feels filled with frankness today, 
a welcome inescapability.

The leaves are coppered and hammered out thin
enough to let light through. After the dazzle,
the understated dwindling begins. Robust
to sere, the center shrivels, dying in earnest.

No more strutting, struggle, averting
of eyes. I, too, want no part of showing off.

Give me earth-colored robes.
Taking a bow becomes bowing before…

what? Call it a coherence—the leaves, light,
geese overhead, a rake leaning in a porch corner,
the self ready for a ripe and rising wind.

—David Sloan

An English and drama teacher at Merriconceag Waldorf High
School, DAVID SLOAN is the author of two books on Waldorf
education. His poems and articles have been published in
Northern New England Review, Western Poetry Quarterly,
and Renewal.
In 2004 Rosemary Levin was looking for a way to support Friends of Acadia’s mission of protecting and promoting stewardship of Acadia. “I really love what FOA does for the park, especially with respect to maintaining and preserving the carriage roads. I wanted to contribute in a meaningful and unique way.” She and her husband, Garry, were already active members of the FOA Schoodic Committee—they live in Corea. An accomplished visual artist, Rosemary had begun making hooked rugs of hand-dyed wool over a decade ago. She conceived of a project combining two things she loves: a series of seventeen hooked rugs depicting the seventeen stone bridges of Acadia’s carriage road system.

Rosemary decided that she would donate a “bridge rug” to the FOA Benefit Auction each year, featuring each bridge in the order they were built. In January 2005, Rosemary, her husband, Garry, and their dog, Lucky, hiked to Cobblestone Bridge, built in 1917. Cobblestone Bridge is the only carriage road bridge constructed primarily of cobblestones collected from the area immediately surrounding the bridge, rather than locally quarried and cut stone blocks. Working from her on-site photos and drawings, Rosemary created the design and blended dyes to give the piece its individual palette. She completed the rug that May, and donated it to the Benefit in August.

Little Harbor Brook Bridge was next in 2006, followed by Jordan Pond Dam Bridge in 2007, Hemlock Bridge in 2008, Waterfall Bridge in 2009, and Deer Brook Bridge in 2010. For 2011, Rosemary will feature one of the smallest of the 17 bridges, Hadlock Brook Bridge. Modeled after a bridge that crosses a lake at 59th street in New York’s Central Park, Hadlock Brook Bridge is set in a picturesque glade that will become the focus of the rug. “The bridge and its environment are tranquil,” Rosemary explains. “I want to capture the quiet beauty of the forest that surrounds this bridge.”

Friends of Acadia is fortunate to have the support of many highly talented artists whose generosity makes the Annual Benefit Auction such a successful event. Rosemary’s grand 17-year vision represents a special kind of commitment. Says Friends of Acadia Director of Development Lisa Horsch Clark, “The exceptional commitment and generosity of artists and donors like Rosemary Levin help to ensure that the Annual Benefit will continue to support vital stewardship programs in Acadia far into the future.” She adds, “Rosemary’s rugs are always a hot ticket item at the Benefit.”

Says Rosemary, “While we love to clamber along the shoreline, hike the trails and climb the mountains, whenever we go to Acadia we walk the carriage roads. They are a respite, an opportunity to quietly be a part of the natural environment. I am proud to create and contribute a rug each year, and to support Friends of Acadia in this way. I thrill to the opportunity to combine hooking with the FOA effort to ensure that the carriage roads are comfortable and accessible, and that they will continue to serve as a testament to the harmony that is possible between man and nature.”

—Aimee Beal and Garry Levin
Wild Gardens of Acadia

A Golden Anniversary and a New Relationship

Aimee Beal

When the Bar Harbor Garden Club sponsored a hugely successful wildflower propagation contest in 1961, its members went looking for a permanent habitat to maintain the plants. Acadia National Park superintendent Harold Hubler agreed to allot a three-quarter acre plot to the project, stipulating that only plants native to MDI could be included. And so, beside a clear, winding brook fed by Sieur de Monts Spring, the Wild Gardens of Acadia have offered both a serene garden haven and a unique educational resource to Acadia National Park visitors for the past 50 years.

Although it’s well known that glacial activity carved Acadia’s rugged mountains and magnificent coastline, not everyone is aware that glacial effects also contributed to a remarkable diversity of plant life native to Mount Desert Island. By the time MDI started to emerge from the last ice age, around twelve thousand years ago, it had been scoured and shaped by a mile-plus-thick ice sheet for over ten thousand years. The durable granite of MDI’s mountains, formed by volcanic action some 370 million years ago, partly withstood the glacier as it moved from north to south. Weaker rock types fared less well; the glacier scraped mountains bare or nearly bare of soil and created deep and poorly-drained valleys between steep eastern and western slopes. When it retreated, the glacier left behind acidic glacial till, and marine clay deposits that encouraged wetland formation. And, when the ice was finally gone—the sea level having risen from meltwater and the land having rebounded from the removal of the ice’s weight—this group of mountains happened to end up just at the ocean’s edge.

As a result, MDI has many ecosystems, from subalpine to peat bog to saltwater, habitats that capture the range of MDI’s ecosystems. They brought in sand to create a beach and a granite dome for a mountain, and worked with existing wetlands to create a pond, bog, and marsh. They got permission to collect native species from private property and lands slated for development. They held plant sales and committed their personal resources to nurturing the Gardens.

By the 1990s, they were a beloved and integral part of Acadia. But, says WGA committee member Anne Kozak, “it was an untenable situation.” Funding for the Gardens was never secure, though the next generation of volunteers had unhesitatingly continued the founders’ tradition of purchasing the necessary soil amendments, tools, and other inputs. Time, too, was an issue: the welcome assistance of two students interns (the first funded by the park, with a second funded by FOA beginning in 2001) required that a volunteer always be present to supervise the students’ work, and the regular demands of maintaining the Gardens made it impossible for the volunteers to offer significant educational or interpretive programs to visitors.

According to WGA Chairman Barbara Cole, many solutions were discussed—everything from the park taking over the program, to abandoning the Gardens altogether. But Acadia lacked the resources to run the Gardens, and the volunteers were determined that the project would survive beyond them. A “big breakthrough,” according to committee member Sue Leiter, came in 2008 when Friends of Acadia committed to hire a professional head gardener with the expertise and ability to supervise the interns. She adds, “the head gardener position offers continuity; volunteers can come and go, but someone will be there with institutional knowledge, with the big picture in mind.
And it will allow volunteers to look at other ways to make the gardens meaningful, through education and interpretation.” The current head gardener, Geneva Langley, has a background in horticulture and botany, and worked for the park before coming to the Wild Gardens.

Finally, in 2010 Friends of Acadia signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Acadia National Park, establishing a formal relationship with the Wild Gardens of Acadia to ensure their stability and success. According to the MOU, WGA volunteers will continue conducting their usual activities—staffing, raising funds, maintaining the gardens, and implementing educational programs. In addition to hiring the supervisory gardener, FOA will help the WGA committee with volunteer support, fundraising, and administrative tasks. Acadia National Park will continue to host the gardens and provide utilities, technical expertise, interns, and maintenance.

Says Anne Kozak, “A great deal of credit goes to Marla, Lili, and Sheridan” for making the MOU a reality. She adds, “The MOU is dramatically important to our long-term viability.” It will offer support and continuity for the next generation of volunteers who will come to serve the Wild Gardens of Acadia. Its positive effects were felt immediately. In 2010, FOA volunteer crews and park staff assisted with maintenance projects including felling trees, fixing paths, and building stone patios, and Friends of Acadia staff worked with volunteers from the Wild Gardens and the Hancock County Master Gardener Program to create a highly popular guide to the Gardens’ fern species.

What do the next 50 years hold for the Wild Gardens of Acadia? Maintaining and improving the visitor experience is top on the list. The committee is thinking about new educational programs like the fern guide, and seeking new volunteer docents to greet visitors, give tours, and answer questions. In addition, some of the habitats need revitalization and others suffer from periodic flooding; the committee, together with the head gardener and Acadia maintenance staff, are developing a plan to ensure that the quality of the Gardens is not impaired.

The Gardens’ educational value can also be enhanced by increasing their role in rare plant rescue in the Acadia region. The committee used to have a plant rescue chairperson, but that position is currently vacant. Says Sue Leiter, “Every time someone builds a driveway or a house, the Wild Gardens should be called.” Volunteers have long responded to such calls, searching areas slated for development and transplanting threatened rare or noteworthy plants to the Gardens. Some species in Acadia are so rare, and others have such challenging cultivation requirements, that this is the sole means volunteers have of bringing them into the Gardens. Each plant rescue gives volunteers another opportunity to study the cultivation of that species, and shows WGA visitors something they might never see otherwise.

One last piece of the sustainability puzzle will be to grow the WGA fund, with a long-term goal of establishing an endowment for the Gardens’ perpetual maintenance. Friends of Acadia’s charitable status gives the Gardens the necessary standing for a significant fundraising campaign, and the excellent track record and collective expertise of FOA’s Investment and Finance Committee will assure donors that endowed and operating funds will be protected in perpetuity.

The remarkable hard work and tenacity of the volunteers of the Wild Gardens of Acadia have given park visitors a very special place over the past half-century. Now, with two strong allies standing behind them, the volunteers will be able continue to nurture and grow this award-winning microcosm of Acadia’s uniquely varied plant communities for many years to come.

AIMEE BEAL is the communications and outreach coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
Natural Resource Protection

Reversing the Environmental Wrongs of the Past

Gregory Burr

Even before the great industrial revolution people aspired to make their lives easier, more convenient and comfortable, and their surroundings aesthetically pleasing. These beautifications, comforts, conveniences, and efficiencies often came at cost to our natural resources. Because the protection of natural resources was not on the forefront of people’s minds, the technology to help preserve habitats, plants, and animals did not advance hand-in-hand with development. Many environmental compromises were, at the time, felt to be necessary to protect human lives, infrastructure, and jobs. Dams were built for hydro and electric power; rivers were widened, blasted, and straightened for log drives; streams were dug out for fire protection, beautification, and recreation; and bigger roads were constructed for more efficient travel. Little thought was given to the value of unique habitats, or the fragility of fish and wildlife species or rare plant communities that help make a landscape diverse and special.

If we take the microcosm of Mount Desert Island as an example, this beautiful place that we hold up as one of the geographic gems of the US has not been immune to environmental alterations that are still in place today and that degrade the value, quality, and quantity of both terrestrial and aquatic plants and animals. Observe around you—you don’t have to look far. Storm runoff and septic flows contaminate our intertidal areas, making their marine species off limits for human consumption. Golf courses and other large landscaping projects destabilize stream banks, fill in waterways, and change recharge rates, making them prone to flooding; they increase nutrient loading with the use of high phosphorous and nitrogen fertilizers, creating algae blooms that decrease oxygen levels; and they cut tree canopies above streams, warming the water and affecting native coldwater fish and inspect communities. Streams dammed for fire protection or ornamental gardens act as heat sinks, and block spawning migrations and summer coldwater refuges for native eastern brook trout, Maine’s number-one inland fish resource. Roads that were built too close to lakes, ponds, and streams cause nutrient loading and eutrophication that rob cold spring-fed waters of oxygen necessary for our native aquatic species. Roads built in natural stream channels, or crossing streams with undersized culverts, block fish spawning migrations and are prone to flooding, erosion, and sedimentation that lead to habitat degradation for native species.

If we could go back and build our communities over, we would do it with the mindset of protecting our resources for future generations. That good news is that we now know in many cases what our lands and waters need to be healthy, and we can reverse many of the mistakes we’ve made. Today we have the technology to redesign and retrofit our roadways, recreation areas, septic and storm water runoff flows, dams, and landscaping practices. At the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, we are working with many individuals, companies, and federal and state agencies to design, redesign, and retrofit many problematic, outdated mechanisms responsible for degrading our natural resources, quality of life, quality of place, and economic potential. We can help through community education, by finding funds for individual land owners and companies to redesign aging infrastructure, and by working with state and federal environmental regulatory agencies to ensure the future protection of our fish, wildlife, and plants.

Gregory Burr grew up in Northeast Harbor and graduated from Mount Desert Island High School. He holds a B.S. in fisheries management from Unity College, and is the head fisheries management biologist for all inland waters on Mount Desert Island and Hancock and Washington Counties with the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.
B
ty college-student standards, the day started early—eight o’clock—and it started hard and fast with a climb up the steep St. Sauveur Trail carrying packs, tools, and rough-cut cedar logs eight feet in length. The first job for one crew of Aquinas College students was constructing a bogwalk over a flooded portion of the upper trail; the remaining students spent the day brushing the trail beyond the construction site, distracted only by a breathtaking view of Somes Sound.

On Monday, October 18th, 2010, a group of thirteen students from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan began a week of volunteer work at Acadia National Park. Their visit continued a partnership that was established more than a decade ago, providing service-learning opportunities for AQ students nearly every fall since its inception in 1999.

From 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. each day, the students and two AQ advisors, along with FOA Field Crew Leaders Cliff Olson and Jim Linnane, worked on projects that were organized by Jonathan Gormley, the volunteer coordinator at Acadia. After Monday’s work on St. Sauveur, Tuesday’s efforts included carriage road grooming near Jordan Pond House and removal of lobster traps washed up on Hunter’s Beach. Wednesday morning brought a hike up Dorr Mountain’s Kurt Diederich’s Climb to the East Face Trail, where students retrieved tools and equipment no longer needed by the park crews repairing granite steps near the summit. Wednesday afternoon was spent removing silt fences and clearing brush near the Amphitheatre Bridge, and Thursday, the last day of work, was devoted to sling ing gravel at the rehabilitated Valley Trail and completing a new section of bogwalk at Hunter’s Beach.

During the week, students not only learned skills—how to build a crib and level a bed log—they developed capacity and problem-solving strategies. Relying on the expertise and experience of Cliff and Jim, the students supported each other, promoted good job quality, worked safely, and collected plenty of stories. The two FOA field crew leaders also shared history and stories about the park and the island. The variety of projects gave the students a broad tour of Acadia, including the east and west sides of Mount Desert Island, from mountain to forest to sea.

Prior to working together at Acadia, most of the AQ students had never met each other. But friendships were quickly formed, and when the workday was finished the students explored the park together. Many took on the challenge of the Precipice and thrilled at the rigor of the climb and the teamwork utilized to ensure the success of each student. In search of a sunset, the students were amazed at how quickly Cadillac Mountain was shrouded in clouds, obscuring a view of the ocean that was new to many.

On Friday afternoon, the week concluded with a lobster lunch and a presentation about National Park Service employment. In a roundtable discussion with park and FOA personnel, many AQ students reported how the pristine beauty of Acadia inspired them, and how they intended to return home and work on environmental issues in their own backyard (and beyond—to date, three students have returned to Acadia as seasonal employees).

Jonathan Gormley identified several things that contribute to the successful Aquinas-Acadia partnership. The first, which Jonathan called esprit de corps, is the development of excellent relationships between the students and their crew leaders, which in turn create a sense of unity and purpose. Another is the outstanding amount of work accomplished; Jonathan reported that Acadia has a lot of great student volunteers, but the AQ students are special in that they come for a week and put in four full days of work. “The students from Aquinas are easily one of our favorite groups,” he said. “The work ethic is super.” The educational opportunity is another benefit, giving students an understanding of conservation and park history.

For over ten years, Acadia National Park has provided Aquinas College students with learning opportunities, volunteer experience, and friendships. But most importantly, the AQ students have lived the legacy that is Acadia. By working together, they’ve contributed to something that will be cherished and enjoyed forever.

ANN KARASINSKI is a writer whose work has appeared on NPR and in essay collections and newspapers. A former school psychologist and an outdoorswoman, she visited Acadia with her husband, Gary, the director of Student Support Services at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They are eager to return as volunteers.
Adapting to a Changing Climate in Acadia

Malcolm Burson

The climate of the Acadia region, as everywhere else on the globe, is changing. Familiar and ordinary signals—such as the gradual rise of annual average sea level in Frenchman Bay, earlier leafing and blooming of native and ornamental plants, increases in ocean storm severity, and changes in the extent and timing of precipitation—all indicate that our climate is changing around us now, while an overwhelming scientific consensus tells us that these effects on the natural and human environments will only increase in the decades and centuries ahead.

A changing climate affects our personal and community life at the local and regional scale. And since we will only know after the fact the precise extent and timing of climate effects—such as changing temperatures, rising sea level, increases in plant and animal disease vectors like deer ticks or invasive species like Asian shore crabs, or flooding from severe rains—the planning and implementation of local measures to adapt to likely changes is both prudent and necessary.

The Maine Legislature underscored this in 2009 when it directed the Department of Environmental Protection to convene a diverse group of stakeholders to make initial recommendations on how the state should adapt to climate change. Their report (available at www.maine.gov/dep/oc/adapt/index.htm) identifies a number of steps that municipalities and local groups should consider to make their communities more resilient and sustainable.

While much public interest centers on increases in seasonal and average temperature, often called “global warming,” that direct impact may not be the most important for the Acadia area. The climate system as a whole is extremely complex, and there is some evidence that coastal currents in the Gulf of Maine may put Mount Desert Island in a cooler summer climate zone. At the same time, temperature increases elsewhere will likely bring more people to Acadia to escape summer heat. The principal temperature effect, however, will be realized in sea level rising from the thermal expansion of seawater and glacial meltwaters. The Maine Geological Survey and some state planning regulations assume a minimum local sea level increase of two feet by the year 2100.

Acadia’s natural environment, on which it depends to attract visitors to the park, will certainly be affected by these and related factors. As the accompanying map illustrates, ANP officials are already working to identify coastal salt marshes that will be at risk as sea level rises. The marshes (like Pretty Marsh) themselves will seek to adapt by moving “up”—that is, as low marsh is inundated year by year, the species that currently flourish there will replace those “high marsh” species that can’t tolerate wet feet. The high marsh plant and animal species will try to migrate into upland areas. But in many cases,
natural features and human development may keep that from happening. Natural resources managers must plan for this by, for example, protecting currently open areas into which these critical wetland species can move over time. One locally uncommon species is particularly at risk. The sharp-tailed sparrow nests in the area immediately above the high-tide mark, and Acadia’s only known colony breeds along the MDI causeway. Two feet of sea level rise may make nesting impossible.

In addition to the effects of sea level rise on the natural environment, there is clearly a need to assess the potential vulnerabilities of this area’s built environment. For instance, any increase in the frequency or intensity of ocean storms, which is likely, will have an impact on the area’s many wharfs, piers, and jetties. Current boat launches, ramps, and shoreside businesses may need to be raised or moved landward. And transportation officials will want to identify those roads likely to be inundated more frequently during storm surges on top of sea level increases, particularly to assure emergency access when needed.

The other most significant impacts Maine and the Acadia region are likely to experience in the coming decades will result from changes in the timing and intensity of precipitation. Once again, precise forecasting isn’t possible, but what we are seeing already is a good indicator of what to expect as we receive more frequent and heavier rain events, a shift in snowfall to a later and wetter pattern, and (paradoxically) greater likelihood of late summer drought. These changes have implications for public services such as stormwater and wastewater management, and for public and private drinking water supplies.

These changes in Acadia’s climate and weather, possibly combined with warmer temperatures, will also affect public health and welfare. We’re already aware of the explosive spread of Lyme disease in Maine, which is directly related to warmer winter temperatures that no longer inhibit deer ticks. Wetter late winter conditions are a cause of mold and mildew problems, particularly in older homes, and this can be exacerbated by efforts to “button up” for energy conservation since such buildings typically are not well ventilated. Should extreme summer heat become more common, public health officials must consider how best to respond, while school authorities may need to assess school ventilation systems as the local climate warms up earlier in the summer, and remains warm into “back to school” season.

The waters of the Gulf of Maine, and the cool coastal summers they bring, are a key natural resource supporting the area’s economy. There is significant evidence that the world’s ocean waters are becoming more acidic as a result of increasing carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere, and this has a direct impact on the ability of lobsters, crabs, and mollusks to form shells. The gradual warming of coastal waters is already encouraging the spread of the Asian shore crab, an invasive species detrimental to the fishery that has already been found in the mid-coast. And as summer climate heats up farther to the south, the demand for tourism infrastructure in Acadia can only increase: will Bar Harbor and adjacent towns be prepared to take advantage of the opportunity?

So how best to respond? At present, leadership on climate change at the national level is unlikely, and the change of administration in Maine and diminished state government resources mean that the most effective locus for actions to assess risk and vulnerability, develop plans, and implement “no risk” strategies that will be valuable regardless of the course of climate change, lies at the local and regional level. Tools to support this are being developed at the state and international levels. Elsewhere in Maine, the Southern Maine Regional Planning Commission is leading an effort among the towns of Scarborough, Old Orchard Beach, Biddeford, and Saco to plan together for the effects of sea level rise, including adoption of common model shoreland zoning ordinances. The City of Belfast is working with ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability to lower greenhouse gas emissions and develop adaptation plans. The Hancock County Planning Commission has held at least one seminar on climate adaption, and it may be worthwhile for municipalities and local interest organizations such as land trusts to consider taking further steps together in order to share resources.

While the reality of a changing climate is not within our control, and while the precise course of this change will never be certain, taking local action to plan and implement effective actions to help the communities become more resilient is key to assuring that this region is prepared for a sustainable future.

MALCOLM BURSON is the Climate Adaptation Program Manager in the Commissioner’s Office at the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and the principal author of the report to the Maine Legislature noted above. He was also the principal author of “A Climate Action Plan for Maine 2004,” which made 54 recommendations to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions in Maine in order to meet statutory reduction targets.

For more information, see “Maine’s Climate Future: An Initial Assessment” (2009) by the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine: http://climatechange.umaine.edu/mainesclimatefuture/index.html
Travelling the roads and trails of Acadia National Park, we see dense spruce forests, birch and aspen stands, and rocky slopes, and sense that this protected and relatively isolated landscape is largely unspoiled. While there is some truth to this, especially when the park is compared to the landscapes where most of our visitors reside, there are insidious threats to the ecological health and naturalness of our island. Invasive plants have made their way to coastal Maine, and without intervention are on their way to doing more damage than we can readily imagine.

As a plant ecologist, I have spent a significant amount of time studying the problem of invasive exotic plants. Even so, it took a recent trip to southern New England to show me the potential ecological threat these plants present. As I drove back roads in western Rhode Island, I realized that the lovely lush undergrowth was in fact a dense and thorny tangle of exotic multiflora rose. Nothing else was growing in the understory; not on the ground, not in the shrub layer. For miles and miles.

Subsequently, my travels took me to other areas choked by invasive plants, including Japanese barberry (another thorny understory shrub), glossy buckthorn, and Japanese knotweed. I saw wetlands and riverbanks overrun with flower spikes of purple loosestrife, as impenetrable to ducks, mink, and muskrats as the Rhode Island forest was to me. I saw Japanese knotweed taking over along riversides, on the edges of city parks and roads, and even deep in the forest. It became obvious that the natural places I love might well be nearly destroyed by these invasive exotic plants.

Any particular exotic plant might grow vigorously, but what makes some of them invasive, and why should we be concerned? What does it matter if there are new plants in our landscape—especially if they are attractive and provide food for wildlife?

The answer is never simple. Indeed, over a quarter of the plants growing in Acadia National Park now are not native, many being ornamental landscaping plants that jumped the fence. But as soon as a plant has disrupted an area's natural ecological relationships and processes, it can be said to be invasive. Even without completely dominating a landscape invasives can crowd out many natives, including rare plants. Invasives can distract pollinators from native plants, provide wildlife with fruit and foliage less nutritious than that of native plants, and even create physical barriers to wildlife moving freely through an area, detecting or evading predators, and finding shelter. As time and conditions allow, certain exotic plants will take over landscapes, wiping out native wildflowers and shrubs and with them the complex community of life dependent on those native plants.

Invasive plants have been in the United States since the nineteenth century but have in recent decades reached a critical mass, with populations exploding all over the country. Environmental changes have likely contributed, including factors that stress native plants and give invading plants an edge. With the development of land for agricultural and residential use, deer populations have exploded. Deer graze preferentially on the native plants they are accustomed to, while leaving thorny or less palatable invaders like barberry. Development creates open areas and disturbed soil that offer exotic plants plenty of sunlight and less competition. Atmospheric pollution, pathogens, and invasive insects can stress natives and give invasive plants a competitive edge. Many conifers in New England, including red spruce, red pine, and hemlock, are currently declining due to environmental stresses. To compound the problem, a warming climate stresses our native forests and extends the northern range of many invasive exotics, bringing the ecological destruction I saw in Rhode Island closer to Acadia each year.

Plants that become invasive generally share certain advantages, including adaptability, resilience, and astounding capabilities to reproduce. A single purple loosestrife plant can produce millions of seeds that are highly viable and spread easily in wet areas. Barberry, oriental bittersweet, and buckthorn produce fruits that birds and other wildlife happily eat; the seeds will pass unharmed through an animal's digestive system to be spread wherever it goes. Other plants, such as Japanese knotweed, don't even need seeds but spread by vigorous underground rhizomes. Even a tiny fragment of knotweed...
in roadwork fill can start an infestation that will choke miles of nearby roadsides, fields, and forests. And we’re now becoming aware of hybrids between native plants and vigorous agronomic or foreign strains, such as partially native reed canary grass, that grow more aggressively than their all-native cousins.

Acadia’s resource management staff has been at the forefront of efforts to control invasive plants in the national parks, beginning in the mid-1980s with a far-sighted effort to control purple loosestrife in the park’s wetlands. Loosestrife is now nearly eradicated, and only requires a few days to survey and manage each year. Acadia is now in an intensive multi-year campaign to control 15 species of invasive plants before they become unmanageable. This work began with an inventory and ranking of exotics in the park, and a management plan for 22 species identified as most threatening. Now, crews are working each summer and fall to eradicate these invasive plants.

Glossy buckthorn has invaded park lands near Great Meadow and Bear Brook for over a decade. Without management, buckthorn would eventually dominate the forest understory and wetlands, entirely crowding out the alders, aspen, birches, and willows that provide food and cover for wildlife such as beaver, deer, and grouse. Over 40,000 plants on 245 acres have been pulled or treated with herbicide applied to cut stems or foliage, depending on the size of the plant. The bad news is that buckthorn has been found creeping upstream along Bear Brook and has even colonized rocky slopes and higher-elevation pitch-pine forests at the edge of the Great Meadow, showing the amazing adaptability of this lowland plant. Significant buckthorn infestations have also been discovered on adjacent private lands; without an effort by landowners to remove buckthorn on their properties as well, it will be impossible to eradicate.

Resource management staff is assessing potential problems with hybridized reed canary grass, and is managing other species including giant hogweed, Canada thistle, colt’s foot, and spotted knapweed. Staff members, working with “weed watcher” volunteers, have pulled over 110,000 garlic mustard plants in the last two years. Japanese knotweed is close to being eradicated at the 45 known sites in the park. Acadia is managing several exotic shrubs that have proven to be highly invasive in other parts of the Eastern US which are present in Acadia but not yet dominant. Japanese barberry, exotic honeysuckles, and oriental bittersweet all pose an increasing threat as the climate of coastal Maine warms.

Oriental bittersweet that has become established in a few locations in Acadia. Originally cultivated for its striking orange and red berries, the vines can carpet an entire area, choking out all other vegetation, and grow thick woody stems which can overwhelm and kill even large trees. The area around Jordan Pond House shows what bittersweet can do if left to its own devices. The forest edge near the building is dominated by a dense bittersweet mat that is beginning to swallow the adjacent forest. Bittersweet is becoming established throughout the historic open vista, threatening the blueberry, huckleberry, and other native shrubs that have been nurtured there. The Park Service has begun to remove bittersweet from the Jordan Pond House area. Evidence of success can be seen just west of the building near the bicycle parking area. Park staff and the Jordan Pond House concessioner are working on a revegetation plan, tied into upcoming rehabilitation of the tea lawn. In the coming seasons, park staff will continue to sensitively manage bittersweet in this historic area, treating the infestation one section at a time.

Volunteers and private and municipal landowners can play a key role in controlling invasives and preserving the natural biodiversity of the park and surrounding private lands. Friends of Acadia volunteers and others have been vital to our efforts in the park, and additional volunteer assistance locating stands of invasive plants is needed. Landowners can provide invaluable help by eliminating invasive plants on their property and not planting invasive species in their landscaping.

Although many of these plants are difficult to control once established, in Acadia National Park many invasive plants are recent invaders with low, manageable populations. Acadia’s intensive exotic plant management campaign has incorporated early detection and rapid response, controlling many of the worst infestations before they become unmanageable and thus preserving more than just the park’s spectacular scenery. With careful attention now and in the future, Acadia will not suffer the fate of other areas, where invasives have won the battle, but remain a diverse, healthy, and beautiful example of a coastal New England landscape.

Aleta McKeage leads the exotic plant management program at Acadia National Park. To learn more about invasive plants and how you can help eradicate them, contact her at aleta_mckeage@nps.gov.
HELP KEEP INSECT INVADERS AWAY!

Judy Hazen Connery

A handful of non-native insect species threaten the very nature of the forests of Acadia, and have park officials joining with other state and federal agencies to get the word out: “Don’t Move Firewood!” Calling these invasive insects “potentially the greatest threat to Acadia’s forests in my lifetime,” park Chief of Resource Management David Manski and others on park staff are working to enforce the state ban on bringing untreated firewood from out of state and prevent these pests from getting a free ride to Maine on infested firewood or landscaping materials.

Particularly threatening are two beetles, Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer, introduced to the US on wooden packing materials accompanying products shipped from Asia. The larvae of these beetles girdle and quickly kill the hardwood trees they infest. If not contained, the impact of these beetles will be similar to the devastation from chestnut blight and Dutch elm disease combined.

The Asian longhorned beetle’s favored foods include many tree species found in Acadia, including the sugar and red maples whose striking fall colors attract millions of visitors to New England every year. In 2008 an infestation of Asian longhorn beetles was found just a few hours’ drive south of Acadia, in Worcester, Massachusetts. Within four days the area had been quarantined. To date, about 30,000 street trees have been cut and chipped into one-inch pieces, leaving bare neighborhoods once covered by stately, spreading trees, and the quarantine area has been expanded to 94 square miles. The integrity of the adjacent northeastern hardwood forest and the animals and industries dependent upon it is at stake.

Emerald ash borers attack and kill all species of true ash, including the park’s green and white ashes that shade our carriage roads and paint our hillsides yellow in autumn. Federal officials estimate that more than 30 million ash trees in Michigan alone have been killed since emerald ash borers were first detected in 2002. On their own, borers would move just a few miles each year. Aided by humans moving firewood or landscaping materials, they can spread hundreds of miles in a single day. The beetles can now be found as close to Acadia as Quebec and along the Hudson River.

Hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny aphid-like insect covered in a woolly mass, threatens the majestic hemlocks that shade our streams and provide habitat for a host of species. Hemlock woolly adelgids were introduced into Virginia in the 1950s, and after decimating hemlocks from Georgia to Massachusetts have recently moved into southern Maine. They have already been found on Mount Desert Island twice—in both instances inadvertently imported on nursery stock. Thanks to the watchful eyes of gardeners on these private properties, both infestations were caught immediately and the trees were destroyed before the insects could spread.

In fact, almost all early detections of invasive exotic insects are made by alert, informed community members. Because of the important role park neighbors and visitors can play in both preventing long-distance movement and finding invaders before they spread, our efforts to protect Maine’s forests focus primarily on education. We are telling campers before they leave home about the environmental dangers of moving firewood. Articles, public presentations, and posters will help visitors and neighbors identify and report Asian longhorned beetle, emerald ash borer, and hemlock woolly adelgid. If visitors bring out-of-state firewood to park campgrounds, they will be told to burn it all within 24 hours, or turn it in to campground offices so it—and the insects it may harbor—can be destroyed before they spread.

These non-native insect invaders and several other serious forest insect pests sit poised on Acadia’s doorstep. Should they hitchhike their way here, there will be little forest managers can do to protect the park’s lovely forests. Our greatest hope is to keep them away. So please, on your next visit to Acadia, leave your firewood at home.

JUDY HAZEN CONNERY is a natural resource specialist at Acadia National Park. She manages the park’s vegetation and environmental compliance programs. For information on invasive insect pests, she can be contacted at judy_hazen_connery@nps.gov.
New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Dorothy Abbott
Karen Abel
Jane and David Acton
William and Susan Arace
Frances Arnetta
La Von Arms
James and Diane Ash
Asherman Family
Marjorie Baird
Susan Baker
Meleta Baker
Donna and Ernie Barbieri
John and Mary Barnett
Ellen Barr
Janet Bartelmay
Edward and Carol Bartholomew
Mary and Ed Bartlett
Elaine Bell
Charles Benjamin
Mr. and Mrs. Anthony J. Berenato
Jack and Donna Bielaczyk
Kathleen and Richard Blewett
Michael and Tricia Blythe
Jane Boetiger
Jennifer Bonaventura
Robert and Vanessa Boyd
Brenda Brandon and
Max Blumenthal
David Brauner
Muriel Britton
Vincent Brotski, Esq.
Nancy and Raymond Bruni
Willem Brutsaert and Lieve Duvent
Elia Buck
Aaron Burgus
Susan Burtoff
Daphne Butler
Jason Butler
Caleb C. & Julia W. Dula
Educational and Charitable
Foundation
Kevin Callahan
Claudia and Duke Cameron
Dr. Richard and Peggy Cancelmo
Cape Elizabeth High School
Field Hockey Boosters
Anthony and Marie Cappuccio
Christopher Castle
Chimani, LLC
Chris Claus and Kathy Catlin
Pat Cline
Deborah and Albert Cofrin
Pearl Cohen
Stephen and Cynthia Cook
Lucinda Cordhill
Jackie Stack and Alton Coulter
Diane Courchesne
Winfield Crigler and Timothy Harr
Margot and Sam Crothers
Bradley Curtis
Lucinda and John Daurisch
Carolyn de Berry
Kenneth Decker
Dan and Gina Deddens
David and Patricia Taylor Domzalski
David and Mary Ann Donahue
Susan Dreier
Craig Dunkerley
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunlop
Tom and Nancy Dunncells
Bruce Eckert
Sally Ellis and Stuart Taylor
Hilary Emery
William Erkelenz
Andrea and Tom Evelius
Barbara Ewen and Ted Lyszezlarz
Teresa Febo
Craig and Janice Ferrell
Susan Fogg
Elizabeth Forrest
Kathleen Furgiuele
Steve Gabrielsen
Louis Gadrinab
Elissa Gallo
Nancy and Darryl Garfinkel
GE United Way Campaign
Alexandra Gerry
Ken Gleason
Louis Goldbloom
Marlene Goodman
Natalia Gorawski
Patricia Goudvis
Bruce Graham
Davy Grant
Kathy Grant
Gloria Grant
Angela Earle Gray
Jonathan Greene
Wayne and Gerry Kush Gregersen
Madelyn and Skip Griffith
Nancy and Peter Grove
Patricia Haigh
Sybil Hannah
Madeline and William Harbison
Donald K. Harrington Jr.
Lydia Harris
Holly Hartley and Oscar Anderson
Jenny and Steve Hauge
Diane Hellens
Joyce and Don Henckler
Bruce Hertz
Ryan Hews
Fielder Hiss
Susan Hogan
Judy and Mike Holden
Sharon Hosley
Marlene and James Howard
Paul and Lori Huber
Charlton Hudson
Grenville and William Hudson
Peter Hunt
Meehee Hwang
Isleview Motel
Scott and Yardly Roberts Jenkins
Leslie Jones
Pat Jones
James Kaiser
Frances and William Kasprzyinski
Ellen Kates
Paula Katseos
Colin Kelley
Warren and Patricia Kelley
Mary Kellogg
James Kendall
Barbara and Paul Kern
Gail and Bill Kincaide
John and Lynn King
Julie Kocher
Surender and Annette Kohli
Anne and Mark Landman
Elizabeth and James Lewis
Laure Lieberman
Sandi Lieb-Geiger
Nelly Lincoln
Mike Little
Lucinda Littleton
Kimberly Liu
Robert Lowe
Juergen Ludwing
Lori Luton
Charlotte MacLeay
Drs. Joan and Fred Mansfield
Mollie and Richard Maresco
Sally Marisic
Holly Markish
Scott Martin
Michael and Grace Martin
Massachusetts General Hospital
Dana and John Mather
Deb Matthews
David Mayshuck
Sally McCadden
Tom McCloskey
Carol McGonegal and Colby Munger
Joshua McIntyre
Meader & Son Funeral Home
Spencer and Joanna Meyer
John and John Severn
Emile Miller
Abraham Miller-Rushing
Judith Minor
Mr. and Mrs. John Montgomery
Margaret Moore
Wendy Morgan
Sarah and Jay Morgan
Morgan Family
David Moskwitz
Susan and David Moyer
Jamie Murray
Gary and Christine Nelson
Tim Newman
Robert and Anna Nickerson
Lisa and Peter Nitze
Kevin and Edie O'Brien
Cynthia Ocel
Scott O'Gara
Barbara O'Hare and Kenneth
Waxman
Frederick Olsen
Mary and David Opdyke
Oppenheim Charitable Foundation
Muriel Parker
M. J. Penn
Elisabeth and Robert Peterson
Joe Pennola
John Pennola
Benjamin R. Pierce
Richard Platt
Rachel Plattus
Alan Plattus and Nancy Berliner
Ryan Poyneer
Phyllis Poult
Bill and Mollie Purdy
Dr. Irving and Barbara Raksin
Lisa and Jeff Ready
Kenneth Reich
Janice and Peter Reilly
Patty Renaud
Kurt Repanshek
Scott Riccio and Staci Drake
Barbara and Dana Rice
Polly Riggs
Frank Roberts and Erin Hogan
Micah Rosenblum
Scott and Courtney Rosevar
Josh and Sarah Roy
Barbara Rushworth
Kay and Richard Ryder
Peter and Barbara Sartorius
Kumi Sato
Scott Schützinger
William Schroeder and Susan Boyer
Vincent and Donna Scoscia
Cornelia Seidel
Linda Shaw
Ronald and Charlotte Shelden
Mary Sherburne
Adam Shrechise
Susan Shuler
Harold and Jane Shute
Richard Slattery
Travis Smith
John Soter
Christopher and Nancy Kent Sowa
Meghan Starr
Charles and Susan Starr
Drs. Eric and Tina Stein
Miriam and Morton Steinberg
Karen Stewart
Cecilia and Herman Storick
Jacqueline Swartz
T.E. Middle School Faculty Club
Emily and John Templeton
Barbara Tennent
The Langeley School
The Swordpsot Foundation
Sharon and Miles Theeman
Carolyn Theis
Courtney and Ben Thompson
Seryl Titon and Carol Murdoch
James Tucker
Winston and Deborah Turner
Caleb Uecker-Herman
Frank Herron and Sandra Urie
Tracey Uting
Ellen and Jack Van Vassell
Linda Vanos
Mollie and Michael Vardell
Reese Vaughn and Pat Hathcock
David and Michele Vogelsong
Bill Voorhies and Tina Jeffords
Veronica Voorthies and
Maury Steigman
Janet Voorhees and Kern Wirt-Barton
Robert Waldman
Daniel Waldron
Helen and Wallace Wallace
Keegan Wardwell
Susan Warren and Dave Shepard
Joan and Andy Warren
David Waters
Patricia Waters
Deidre Watters
Stephen and Susan Weber
Ruth and Sandy Wener
Paul and Anne Whalen
Captain and Mrs. Sean Whitmore
Dixie Wigton
Jinny and George Wilkes
Corbin Wilkes
Dana Williams
Katherine Mary Wilson
Louise and David Winstead
Nancy and James Witt
Claire Woolfolk
Joanne Wyszenski
Sis and Bob Ziesing
Dee and Deni Zodd

October 1, 2010–January 31, 2011
Westside Challenge
We did it! In early November 2010, Friends of Acadia members met the Westside Challenge issued the previous year by an anonymous Fernald Point friend. The challenge—to raise $5,000 to support the rehabilitation of trails on the west side of the island—was completed with the help of forty members who have a great passion for hiking in the park. We thank these friends and the challenge donor for their continued investment in Acadia’s trails!

The anonymous donor was so pleased, she has issued another challenge—this time for $10,000—for Westside trails. “With much work slated for the Westside in 2011, these additional funds will enable us to put additional staff and volunteers on the job of restoring trails,” says Terry Begley, projects and events coordinator at FOA. Westside trails scheduled for work in 2011 include Flying Mountain, the Canada Cliffs connector, and the Valley Trail.

To be a part of the 2011 Westside Challenge, simply mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided with this Journal. Or call the office at 800-625-0321 or visit our secure website at www.friendsofacadia.org to charge your gift. Be sure to note that the gift is for the Westside Challenge. Happy hiking!

Trenton Trails
In late fall the National Park Service’s River and Trails Conservation Assistance Program granted Friends of Acadia a second year of Burnham Martin’s expertise in trail planning. In November, FOA programs staff hiked a flagged trail route behind the Acadia Gateway Center with Martin and trails consultant Lester Kenway. After reviewing Kenway’s report, the Trenton Trails committee supported his recommendation to make the trail a rustic footpath with boardwalks where needed and a viewing platform with interpretive panels at the heath. The committee has continued refine the trail route through the winter months and is currently developing its 2011 work plan, including a trail management plan. Friends of Acadia plans to host an inaugural stewardship project on Saturday, June 4th, for National Trails Day.

Acadia Winter Trails Association
Thanks to plenty of great snow and hundreds of grooming hours provided by the volunteers, cross country skiing at Acadia was terrific this year. Grateful skiers left numerous messages of thanks along with donations to the grooming program, using the envelopes provided at two of the trailheads. One wrote: “We had some great skiing on the trails this winter! Our thanks for excellent grooming!” Another shared this: “We spent the first week of January enjoying the park and miles of groomed ski trails! We are not regular visitors to the park and had not been there during winter; what a surprise to find such nice skiing conditions during winter on the park roads. Thanks to all of the volunteers for keeping the trails up!”
22nd Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit

When the big tent goes up at the Asticou this August, Friends of Acadia anticipates having close to five hundred guests mingling and bidding on auction items. Plans are already underway to make this year’s Benefit the best ever. Volunteers have a hard act to follow after last year’s record-breaking year led by Benefit chairs Gail Clark and Juliet Van Alen. This year’s committee of one hundred volunteers is led by Margaret Hamner, with Noelle Wolf serving as vice-chair. Martha Stewart will be this year’s honorary chair.

As with last year, the committee will have a preview party for Benefit Patrons to preview the live auction items. New for 2011, some auction items will be available for purchase online using the website Charity Buzz. “Using this new online service will enable us to broaden our audience and potential bidders and will also allow July residents and others who usually miss the Benefit, to participate in bidding,” says Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development.

For underwriting or advertising opportunities, to become a patron, to volunteer, or to donate an auction item, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

Schoodic Committee

Several members of the Schoodic Committee attended a January 14th public meeting to provide input into the National Park Service’s plan to rehabilitate the historic Rockefeller Building on the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) campus. The National Park Service hopes to turn the building into a welcome center with an information desk and interpretive displays, office space for the SERC Institute, a small conference space, and campus lodging. Visitors attending events such as the Schoodic Sculpture Symposium have shown great interest in seeing the inside of the building and learning more about the history of the Navy and the National Park Service at the site.

Following this meeting, the Schoodic Committee met to plan events for the year including roadside and shoreline clean-ups, special lectures, and new partnerships around Junior Ranger Day in April and the Acadia Night Sky Festival in September.

Running for Acadia

Friends of Acadia has been involved in the MDI Marathon since its early days, manning aid stations and funding the Island Explorer buses to shuttle participants between Bar Harbor and Southwest Harbor. In 2010, the MDI Marathon started Beyond the Finish Line, inviting runners to raise money for partner charities in return for guaranteed race entry, and Friends of Acadia became one of twelve local organizations to benefit from the program.

Nine FOA runners raised $9,921 for Friends of Acadia. Each runner finished the race and received an FOA t-shirt, hat, and goody bag in addition to FOA membership. The runners’ finishing times were: Eric Mauricette 2:57:54; Joe Peznola 3:58:58; John Peznola 3:58:58; Team Llama Racing (Jonathan Greene and Chris Castle) 4:02:02; Juergen Ludwig 4:04:20; Molly Moulton 4:09:16; Leslie Jones 4:15:21; Marnie Owen 4:23:46.

FOA runner Eric Mauricette placed sixteenth overall. Pre-race he wrote on his blog, “being stewards to the outdoors, FOA makes it possible for future generations to enjoy this beautiful national park.” Post-race Eric
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 P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/support.shtml 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 Property**
Give real estate, boats, artwork, or other 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.
wrote to his donors and supporters, “Awesome event! …A Boston [marathon] qualifier. Enjoyed every moment….Thank you everyone for your support!”

Friends of Acadia looks forward to next fall’s MDI Marathon and the new team of FOA runners in the Beyond the Finish Line program. For more information about the marathon, visit www.mdimarathon.org. Many thanks and congratulations to 2010 FOA MDI Marathon Runners!

Cliff Olson Retirement Party
In December of 2010, FOA bid farewell to Senior Field Crew Leader Cliff Olson. Cliff was an invaluable member of the Friends of Acadia team for 10 years, and was deeply dedicated to FOA, Acadia, and the volunteer program. Cliff had a remarkable ability to connect with thousands volunteers, both young and old and from all walks of life, always making them feel right at home volunteering on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads and leaving them eager to come back for more. Cliff has promised to return to the program as a volunteer—Friends of Acadia will hold him to that!

2011 Acadia Quest
Let’s Move Outside
The Acadia Quest has a new approach and new activities this year. Tying in to first lady Michelle Obama’s Let’s Move! initiative, Quest teams will be encouraged to “move outside” in Acadia while interacting with the park from a variety of perspectives: biking on the carriage roads, kayaking on Echo Lake, photographing the bridges, completing a scavenger hunt in the Wild Gardens, or attending an FOA stewardship or educational event. The challenge for teams this year is to try new ways to be active outside as they explore, protect, and learn! The Quest will begin in late April; details and registration information will be available on the Friends of Acadia website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

2010 Acadia Quest “team St. Ammand,” with L.L.Bean representative Peter Christopher (far right), won the drawing for one of three family camping packages generously donated by L.L.Bean.

Cliff on the Cliff Trail. Cliff Olson was an inspiration to volunteer crews on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads.
**Distinctive properties. 
Legendary service. 
Real estate professionals since 1898.
**
www.KNOWLESCO.com 
207 276 3322

Looking for the perfect gift for summer house guests, hosts, or anyone you would like to introduce to Acadia? Give the gift of membership in Friends of 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 (three issues) subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal
• 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

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

To give a gift membership, simply mail this form (or a photocopy), 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, protect, and promote stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.

*Survey statistics from the Island Explorer Passenger Survey 2010, conducted August 3rd and 5th, 2010. 519 surveys were distributed to groups boarding eight of the Island Explorer routes, with 502 returned for a 97% response rate.*
Wild & Scenic Film Festival
In July Friends of Acadia will join Patagonia, Cadillac Mountain Sports, and the Criterion Theatre to co-host the Wild & Scenic Film Festival Tour. The Festival, held in Nevada City, California for the past nine years, showcases environmental and adventure films that illustrate the Earth's beauty, the challenges facing our planet, and the work communities are doing to protect the environment, with a goal of motivating people to go out and make a difference in their community and around the world. While planning is still in the works, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival will take place on Saturday, July 23rd, with a kid-friendly matinee at 2:00 p.m. and an evening show at 7:00 p.m., music by local performers, local wine and beer tastings, and a panel discussion relevant to the films. Updates and details will be available on the Friends of Acadia website. Proceeds will benefit Friends of Acadia and the Criterion Theatre.

Visit Us on Facebook!
Get up-to-date news of FOA programs in Acadia, notices of events, job opportunities, photos and videos of the park in every season, and more—delivered right to your Facebook profile wall. Go to www.facebook.com/FriendsofAcadia and “Like” Friends of Acadia. But you don’t need to have a Facebook account to view our fan page. In addition to postings from FOA, you’ll see photos, comments, and links from fans. A growing and lively community has been developing since the page’s re-launch last November. Check it out!

Wild Gardens Benefit Plant Sale
The Wild Gardens of Acadia celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, and so does its benefit plant sale. Since 1961, the volunteers of the Gardens have held a plant sale each spring to help pay for amendments, tools, and other needs. Offerings include vegetable seedlings, herbs, annuals, and perennials. Plants are generously donated from several private estates on MDI, local nurseries, and many of the WGA volunteers’ personal gardens. The sale will be held Saturday, June 18th in the cloister of St. Saviour’s Episcopal Church in Bar Harbor, from 9 a.m. until noon. All proceeds help support the Wild Gardens of Acadia.
“Sustainable architecture looks to the future by looking at the past,”
-Stephen Gist

“Sustainable architecture looks to the future by looking at the past,”
-Stephen Gist

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.
In the spring of 2010, I was looking for a job. I remember that I was getting desperate enough to apply almost anywhere because time was running out. For a high schooler, it isn’t easy to find work on MDI for the summer. There are lots of job openings, but they fill up pretty quickly because of summer visitors or college students who come back to the island.

One day I was talking to my friend and his parents about my job troubles when they mentioned AYCC, the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps. My friend was applying and I decided that I should apply, too.

The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps is a summer work program run by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. Each summer, 16 high school students, ages 15–18, are chosen to build new trails and maintain existing trails on the island, improve the carriage roads, cut wood, and make the a park a nicer and safer place for those who visit.

I got the job. I was terrified. I didn’t know who I would be working with, what I would be working on, or where I would be working. So in the middle of June, at 6:00 in the morning, my dad woke me up and drove me to the Acadia National Park Headquarters at 7:00. It was raining and I was deathly nervous. I recognized and was pretty good friends with about a dozen of the fifteen other kids who were there. We had no idea what we were getting ourselves into until they started showing us the tools we would use.

Pick axes, chains, pulley levers, and heavy steel bars to move rocks were among the many things we would use during the summer. We were divided into four groups of four, and we would stay in those groups for the summer, although every two weeks we would switch our group leader. The four of us eventually became very close.

With chains we hauled rocks down the sides of mountains for steps, broke them with sledge hammers to make a path. It was hard work but it was so rewarding—the fact that I helped build a trail that will be around for such a long time and make Acadia such a beautiful place makes it worth it. The experience was truly spectacular.

Another part of the job was to cut firewood at Blackwoods Campground in Otter Creek and a few times at the Seawall Campground in Southwest Harbor. We would use a wood splitter and make sure that there was enough wood for the campers to burn. That was nice because every day we would take a back road and take our lunch break on the rocks near the ocean. We also cleaned up the carriage roads around Acadia National Park, raking leaves out of the drainage ditches and clearing sticks from the roads to prevent flooding.

I gained a lot from working with the AYCC. I gained strength, self confidence, and endurance. To be honest, I wanted to quit after about a week, but I felt that I couldn’t—that I had committed to this job by signing up, and I had to stay through. I am happy that I did.

Catherine Smith lives in Otter Creek and is a student at MDI High School. She loves to run and is active in cross-country and track and she plays the flute in the MDIHS band. Her hobbies are reading, writing, and photography.
Acadia Advocacy Network members have responded to two recent alerts about issues important to Acadia. On February 10th, Friends of Acadia President Marla O’Byrne testified before the Maine Legislature’s Joint Select Committee on Regulatory Fairness and Reform at a public hearing in Bangor. She spoke about the value of Maine’s environmental laws to Acadia National Park and to the Maine economy. Joining her were FOA Board Chair Lili Pew, Advocacy Committee Chair Jack Russell, and several concerned FOA members, who testified as Maine citizens. This was one of several hearings held around Maine to solicit suggestions for regulatory reform to aid economic growth.

Earlier in the year, Governor LePage had released a list of ideas for regulatory reform, many of which would have rolled back decades of carefully considered environmental laws supported by bipartisan legislators and a majority of Maine residents. Friends of Acadia opposed several of Governor LePage’s proposals, focusing our testimony on three concerns: 1) preventing mercury and other harmful pollutants from contaminating Maine’s waters and preventing sulfur dioxide from contaminating Maine’s air; 2) ensuring that large-scale development is considered carefully before being implemented; and, 3) ensuring adequate fish passage for Maine’s native fisheries when installing new culverts for roads, and protecting significant vernal pools and wading bird, waterfowl, and shorebird habitat. The Joint Select Committee will consider the testimony from around the state, as well as Governor LePage’s suggestions, as they formulate and debate a final package of reforms.

Acadia Advocacy Network members also responded to a federal budget threat to the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) by contacting House Leadership to encourage full funding in FY 2011. Five months into a continuing resolution, Congress is still working on the FY 2011 appropriations bills, and big cuts are being discussed. Acadia National Park was slated to receive $1.76 million to acquire a 37-acre parcel (with a total price tag of $3 million) inside park boundaries at Lower Hadlock Pond, but this funding would be lost at the lower appropriation levels. Maine Representatives Michaud and Pingree helped fight off amendments to decrease the Land and Water Conservation Fund and President Obama has recommended full funding for LWCF in FY 2012—including the full $3 million for Lower Hadlock Pond—but Congressional debate continues.

—Stephanie Clement
One of the best features of this book is that it showcases plants that the home gardener can actually find for purchase. There are no empty enticements with page after page of rare or hard-to-find plants that leave the reader frustrated and empty handed. To find and enjoy these native beauties, and to encourage the ethic of leaving wild plants in the wild, Ms. Heffernan lists excellent sources for online and nursery purchase and includes references for obtaining additional information about Maine’s native plants.

Why native plants? Aside from the usual gardening aesthetics, Heffernan offers persuasive arguments that adding native plants to one’s garden “strengthens a sense of place” and preserves the northeast region’s “botanical heritage.” As more and more native landscapes are lost to commercial activities, development, and infestation by nonnative invasive plants, gardening with native plants can be one way to bring Maine’s natural heritage closer to home. Native Plants for Your Maine Garden shows you how.

—Geneva Langley

Playing Smart Against Invasive Species: How to Enjoy and Protect the Great Outdoors
USDA Forest Service, 2010
DVD

Last year, a video crew from the US Forest Service spent some time in Acadia, filming Friends of Acadia volunteers and others about the park’s invasive plant management program. That footage and more now appears in a 26-minute video titled Playing Smart Against Invasive Species, an excellent lesson-in-a-nutshell about one threat to native plant and animal communities, and how we all can protect against it.

Shot in Maine, West Virginia, Arizona, Oregon, and elsewhere, the film explores specific species that threaten different regions, and looks at how a variety of outdoor activities—from birding to caving to four-wheeling—present specific challenges and opportunities for invasive plant management. In some 90 interviews filmed across the country, experts from U.S. Fish & Wildlife, State and National Parks, outdoors guides and outfitters, and others organizations speak about invasive species they encounter in their work.

The key message of the film is that invasive species are a critical threat to the integrity of America’s natural ecosystems, but there’s much that outdoor recreationists can do to prevent the spread of invasives in places they love. First, be aware of invasive species that threaten the environments you live in and visit. Second, prevent the spread of invasives by such techniques as checking clothing and equipment for seeds and plant fragments when moving from area to area. Third, be active in reporting any invasive species you sight in areas you enjoy. The video also discusses volunteering in species control programs.

A quick search online finds numerous books on invasive species, including several for kids, but this video provides an accessible introduction to the topic. Truly spectacular scenery throughout the video makes this extended lecture quite watchable. A short version includes the key points in 16 minutes, and a bonus feature provides additional footage and examples. The video is available for free on DVD—Friends of Acadia has copies in our office. Just call or drop by to request a copy.

The video can also be viewed online at http://www.fs.fed.us/invasivespecies.

—Aimee Beal
As I begin this letter, our precious Acadia is still covered in snow but yielding each day to brighter sunlight and longer days. It’s hard to believe that my New Year’s sunrise ski to the summit of Cadillac welcomed in the dawn of the 25th anniversary for Friends of Acadia. While watching the first light of the year reach from beyond the horizon across the vast ocean to meet our rocky coastline, I was filled with gratitude and pride for what Friends of Acadia has accomplished over the years through the power of effective grantmaking, strong partnerships, and most of all, dedicated members and volunteers.

A visitor to Acadia may spend their time hiking the trails, getting out on the carriage roads, or exploring the rocky shores, and through these activities build a powerful bond with the park and the natural world—a bond that crosses generations and touches lives in unexpected ways. But even to these devoted visitors, the vitality of Acadia’s natural resources may not be fully apparent, nor the dedicated, ongoing work that is needed to keep Acadia’s ecosystems healthy. The advocacy, volunteer, and program work that grew out of the FOA vision 25 years ago has contributed to a remarkably healthy natural place—particularly considering the intensity of park use here in Acadia. Our focus on grants and initiatives to benefit the environment has supported efforts that are helping to restore fishways, eradicate invasive species, and fight pollution and the effects of climate change. We are learning day in and day out that this ongoing work has lasting and momentous impact on Acadia, and far beyond.

One very special place and an epicenter of education about Acadia’s native natural world, is the Wild Gardens of Acadia. FOA recently established a formal relationship with the Wild Gardens, just in time for their 50th Anniversary. What started in Sieur de Monts with a group of enthusiastic volunteers and a thumbs-up from the park has grown into a laboratory for the collaborative cultivation of plants native to Acadia—including trees, shrubs, mosses, and flowers. The Wild Gardens is one of the most visited areas in the park. Environmental groups, students, botanists, gardeners, and interested visitors come to the Gardens to learn about indigenous plant communities and see sustainable landscaping in action.

This in turn spreads the word about the benefits of gardening with native plants, which grow more successfully, benefit native pollinators, and especially, avoid introducing invasive species that can be extremely damaging to the diverse, healthy ecosystems of our park. It is shocking how much it can cost to eradicate invasive species once they are introduced. Good stewardship begins with education, and we are so very fortunate to have the Wild Gardens of Acadia, along with Wild Gardens leaders like Sue Leiter, Anne Kozak, and Barbara Cole who have worked wonders to position the Gardens to thrive for another 50 years. Friends of Acadia will be proud to be a part of it.

The promising future of the Wild Gardens is just one example of the power of FOA’s partnership efforts to steward the precious resources of Acadia National Park. In an issue of Trust (the magazine of the Pew Charitable Trusts) that focused on environmental initiatives, I recently read: “The one sure thing about the future is that it will always be there. The important question is, what kind of future will it be?” The future that the FOA board, staff, members, and volunteers envision includes Acadia National Park protected against all threats, so that future generations may enjoy its magnificence as we do today. We began working toward this future 25 years ago. Today, I welcome each of you to join me on this journey by becoming a member of FOA, joining our advocacy network, or helping as a volunteer. Let’s carry forward the past quarter-decade’s legacy of gratitude, pride, and enrichment into the next 25 years, and see what more we can accomplish together for the benefit of Acadia.

—Lili Pew

WGA committee members Barbara Cole (far left) and Sue Leiter (far right) share the Gardens with two visitors.
25 YEARS OF PROTECTING ACADIA

Friends of Acadia turns 25 this year! We’re celebrating all year long—we hope you’ll join us!

For more information about these and other FOA events, visit www.friendsofacadia.org or call us at 207-288-3340.

2011 Calendar of Events
April 30 ...................... Earth Day Roadside Cleanup
May 15 ....................... Tremont Trails Day
June 4 ....................... National Trails Day
July 7 ....................... Acadia Society Event
July 10 ...................... Family Fun Day
July 13 ...................... Annual Meeting—An extra-special celebration of our 25th anniversary
July 23 ...................... Wild & Scenic Film Festival
August 13 ................. Benefit Auction
September 6 .............. George B. Dorr Society Event
September 17 .............. Clean Water, Clean Shores
September 22–26 ........... Acadia Night Sky Festival
November 5 .............. Take Pride in Acadia Day

Volunteer!

There are so many ways to give back to Acadia. Friends of Acadia has been organizing and supporting volunteers for 25 years.

Advocacy Network—Be an advocate for the park! Email stephanie@friendsofacadia.org to join the Advocacy Network and receive alerts about issues and legislation affecting Acadia, with suggestions about how to contact legislators and make your voice heard. When: Year round

Family Fun Day—Celebrate summer in Acadia! Volunteers are needed for set up, break down, greeting visitors, and assisting with activities. Stay for an hour or the entire event. Volunteers receive a free t-shirt and lunch. Contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org. When: Sunday, July 10, 2 p.m.–5 p.m.

Membership Table—If you love to share your love for Acadia, join us at the FOA membership table outside the Jordan Pond House. Volunteers personally tell the story of Friends of Acadia citizen stewards preserving and protecting the park. Training is provided. Contact Sharon Broom at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org. When: Weekdays from mid-June through Labor Day

Office Volunteers—Working in our Bar Harbor office, volunteers help with data entry, prepare mailings, and otherwise lighten the load on our staff. Volunteers with computer data entry skills are especially needed. Contact Sharon Broom at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org. When: Year round

Schoodic Committee—In love with Acadia’s mainland? The Schoodic Committee organizes programs focusing on the Schoodic Peninsula, including roadside and shoreline cleanups, lectures, and special events. Contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org. When: Year round

Stewardship Volunteers—Trail work, carriage road maintenance, roadside and shoreline cleanup, weed watchers…There are lots of ways to help in and around the park. Come for a morning, a season, or a lifetime. Visit www.friendsofacadia.org for more information, or contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org. When: Spring, summer, and fall.

Wild Gardens of Acadia Docents—The Wild Gardens at Sieur de Monts Spring display over 400 species of native plants, grouped into twelve typical habitats. Volunteer docents greet visitors, give tours, and answer questions from “Where are the bathrooms?” to “What is this tree?” Training is provided, and new docents are partnered with experienced volunteers. Contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org. When: Summer and fall through Columbus Day

Volunteer opportunities are fun and flexible to fit your schedule. Everyone is welcome—come be a part of it!
Mission

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