This high-quality 18" x 24" full color poster (suitable for framing) commemorates our 15th anniversary of protecting Acadia and the surrounding communities on MDI.

It can be yours with a gift of $100.

Mail your tax-deductible contribution in the postage-paid envelope inserted in this Journal, and you’ll be doing your part to ensure that the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality and cultural distinctiveness of our island is preserved forever.

Your poster will be sent in a sturdy mailing tube within three weeks.

Thank you for your support!

If you’ve recently joined or renewed your membership in Friends of Acadia and would like a poster, please call Terry Sosa at 207-288-3340.
THE NEXT FIFTEEN YEARS: FORTRESS ACADIA?

A fateful transition is underway. To understand it, look north.

Once every year or two, another chunk of land along Route 3 below Ellsworth changes hands and a building goes up. Nothing illegal or remarkable is going on, and some people like the reliable tempo of commercial expansion. But nothing suggests that the gradual consumption of the natural scene will cease.

Zoning is often toothless, and even modest control of signage is a hobgoblin, as we see with redundant superstores nearby. Route 3 is redeemed mostly by Hancock County Airport. In its present configuration, the airport doubles as last-minute open space. Its horizontality allows uplifting views of the signature ridgeline of Acadia, the park to come.

Many national parks are under siege at their rims. The west entrance to Yellowstone, the Pigeon Forge corridor to Great Smoky, the Estes Park gateway to Rocky, and the stripier sections of Gettysburg are examples. Each overly commercialized area collides with its adjacent park instead of providing a graceful introduction. Unless so-called “smart growth” methodology is applied on Route 3, the best we can expect is its conversion to a foreground strip that, only by accident, offends little, just another place to hotfoot through on the way to Eden.

The darkest extrapolation is that Mount Desert Island will become a fortress fending off inappropriate development, as if Eastern Bay and Western Bay were a moat and the Thompson Island causeway a drawbridge. What a dismal thought — that the most we can do is protect what we have. Still, what we have is a natural and economic asset beyond compare, well worth protecting no matter what happens elsewhere.

I marvel at how futuristic the park’s founders were. Assembling Acadia was an immense act of gift giving, brilliant conservation politics and foresight, informed by a powerful reverence for place in a time when “awesome” had a meaning. The park was a land planning accomplishment of nationwide significance perfectly timed within Maine. Had the founders not acted, the lower and mid-slopes of MDI’s mountains and all the available undeveloped Atlantic shore would have been occupied long ago. (If the space were empty today, it’s doubtful Acadia could be established from whole cloth. Politics and real estate prices would align against it. Faced with receiving a new Acadia largely through land gifts, the federal government would nonetheless resist.)

Yes, the national park draws traffic and commerce, much of it good, much of it not. But Acadia’s legal impregnability to most kinds of development makes it, to borrow from T.S. Eliot, “the still point of the turning world.” In it we find solace, earthly pace, natural order, while much around it spins. When you are within Acadia, it is within you, and you experience a sense of wholeness that includes humans nicely but de-emphasizes Me First, Fast and Most.

Park use has doubled every twenty years. Unchecked, visitation will reach four million by 2016, an increase of a million, most people arriving by car. We will see sooner whether the park, governments, citizens, businesses, and organizations like ours unite to control traffic, or whether this place simply acquires to the increases. The propane bus system is a good step but has not undone congestion from day visitation via automobile. This is the biggest challenge of the next fifteen years.

A national park without reasonable limits on vehicles will destroy itself. Here this will harm air quality, further reduce natural quiet, displace people on foot or bicycles, and re-characterize MDI overall from a collection of unique villages into a close copy of anywhere else, as is occurring just north. We might still have a fixed point to center us, but will have disserved the spirit of the park’s founders, which like Acadia itself is a preservation-worthy legacy.

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Happy Anniversary!

Fifteen years ago doesn’t seem that long. Maybe that’s a sign of advancing maturity. During 1986, I was still the Superintendent of Lake Clark National Park, one of the national park areas in Alaska established in 1980. It, too, was a special place — reading through my old flight log book for the year brings back lots of good memories, as well as a few scary moments. It was the year our daughter, Kirstie, left for Thailand as an American Field Service exchange student. It wasn’t easy for dad to say good-by.

Acadia National Park was different then. Headquarters was located in a small building since converted to offices for the interpretive division and a winter visitor center. Maintenance of the park relied on a large force of summer seasonal employees, and the trail “crew” consisted of one permanent employee. Entrance fees were first charged. Carriage roads were in tough shape. A permanent park boundary was established by legislation for the first time and work toward completion of a general management plan labored on. Using a different method of counting, more than four million park visitors were reported; and the fiscal year base budget was $1.5 million.

Friends of Acadia was just beginning. Marianne Edwards, I am told, was a leader in the establishment of this exceptional organization. She and other close friends such as Ken and Ruth Sergeson were members of a hiking club that regularly enjoyed the park’s trails. They and others wanted to give something back. They volunteered to do trails work on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays and worked to establish a truly effective “friends” group. You have to wonder whether the charter members of Friends of Acadia could have sensed the organization’s potential and future work.

It is difficult to understand changes within national parks from a seasonal or yearly perspective. If a person looks back in five-year increments, in this case times three, trends emerge, accomplishments are realized, and future challenges come into better focus. Is this park better because dedicated souls cared about this place? I’d say without question, it is. The trends are for future improvements to the park’s facilities, protection of the area’s natural and cultural heritage, vastly expanded science programs, and improved visitor services — the result of dedicated staff work and the support of many friends.

As we move ahead to the next fifteen years, let’s continue to maintain the carriage roads, rebuild and maintain the trails, expand the Island Explorer transit system by tying it directly to a state-wide system of public transportation, and continue to encourage our joint volunteer programs. Let’s also address future challenges such as converting the Schoodic Navy Base to a first class center for research and education, doing the work to understand park use limits, and taking measures to keep this an exceptional place. We need, also, to encourage as many friends as possible to join Friends of Acadia.

As park staff, we salute Friends of Acadia on your 15th Anniversary. Thanks for caring about this place. We look forward to working with you in the future.

— Paul Haertel, Superintendent, Acadia National Park
WAYS OF GIVING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For more information about any of these suggested methods of giving to Friends of Acadia, please contact us at 207-288-3340.
AN INTERVIEW WITH

MARIANNE EDWARDS

This year marks the 15th Anniversary of Friends of Acadia, a time to reflect on how the organization began, what was the inspiration, who were the leading forces. In this issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal, you’ll find several articles about the early days of Friends and Acadia National Park.

In 1986, Marianne Edwards had an idea that became Friends of Acadia. A former Bar Harbor seasonal resident, Marianne enjoyed hiking, climbing mountains, learning about the geology and natural history of this area, and people. She was a member of the Downeast Outing Club, and shared her outdoor skills and enthusiasm with park visitors and staff. Mrs. Edwards lives in Massachusetts, and continues her work with a group preserving the natural and cultural heritage of Cape Ann.

Editor: Mrs. Edwards, what gave you the idea to start a friends group for Acadia National Park?

Edwards: In the mid-1980s, I was working as a volunteer with Acadia at the Visitor Center, and on trips to Baker Island. I thought some of the programs, particularly with volunteers, could be better organized. I’m a very well organized person, and it just seemed logical that a group could help.

Editor: Did you have a model for a friends group, or how did you get started?

Edwards: I didn’t know about friends groups. I just had an idea that there was interest and energy out there that could be coordinated to help out the park. Joe Abrell was the Acting Superintendent, and he told me about groups helping other parks. He assigned Lois Winter, then Acting Chief Naturalist, to help me research these other groups. She had access to information and contacts that I didn’t have. She was very important in getting Friends of Acadia started.

Editor: What was your vision for the organization?

Edwards: We started out with three goals: to help organize and increase volunteerism in the park, to raise funds for special projects, and to act as liaison between the park and the island communities. There was definitely a “town and gown” feeling at that time, and we hoped to improve relationships.

Editor: When you look at Friends today, how do you feel about the way the organization has evolved? Has it lived up to your hopes?

Edwards: Oh, it’s far exceeded my hopes. I couldn’t in my wildest dreams have anticipated where it’s gone and what it’s done. A friend and I each gave $50 at the beginning, and we got a lot of return on our money! And I was very happy to be at the Annual Meeting this year. I liked the tone, and the friendliness of it. We should be very proud of what’s being accomplished.

Editor: Who stands out in your memory of the early days of Friends?

Edwards: John Kauffmann, Lois Winter, Joe Abrell, Gary Stellpflug were all important to the success of Friends. John was the right person to take over the Chairmanship in 1987. I was delighted with him and his know-how. He knew that Friends of Acadia should move out of the park and be independent. He was very knowledgeable about what could go wrong, and also what could be accomplished.

Joe Abrell knew about friends groups, as I said, and Lois was invaluable in researching groups, and how they are established.

Gary was assigned to work with volunteers. I recruited volunteers to work with the park’s trail crew from the Downeast Outing Club. Ken Sergeson and George Buck were two of the first from the Outing Club to volunteer. Gary was wonderful to work with, and very much fun. Volunteers helped by peeling logs, grooming trails, and hauling signs up the trails. We took visitors and grandchildren along. In the late ’80s, Ken Sergeson, Gary, and I were sent to Washington to be recognized by President Reagan as one of our community’s “Points of Light” [a program started by Vice President George Bush]. It was quite an honor.

Editor: What problems do you see facing Acadia today, and how might Friends respond?

Edwards: Well, actually Friends seems to be doing a good job, and I’ve turned my attention to the small state park near my home. I’ve been working with the Friends of Halibut Point State Park in Massachusetts for the past several years. We run interpretive programs on granite quarrying on Cape Ann, are building a granite museum to preserve the history, and lead walks to talk about and explore tide-pools, wildflowers, and local plants.

Our thanks to you, Mrs. Edwards, for having a good idea and setting it in motion. You’ve earned a prominent place in Acadia’s history of philanthropy. — Marla Major
It was a fine spring morning in 1987. I was minding my own business, picking up the mail in Northeast Harbor, when Bob Suminsby clapped me on the shoulder with one huge ham hock of a hand and invited me to “do something for the community.” Thus, I became involved, more accurately “embroiled,” in Friends of Acadia.

After my first few board meetings, I didn’t know whether to laugh or cry. We made big plans without resources to implement them. We made small plans to raise a few hundred dollars to defray the cost of the park’s $40 million maintenance backlog. Impatient with an organization that
wasn't sure who it was or where it was going, some board members quit. Believe me, it crossed my mind. Maybe I responded to the persuasive presence of Bob Suminsby, or the gentle goodness of John Kauffmann, our first board chairman, or the sensitive, soft-spoken human ecologist, Bill Drury. Good people get good things done; be patient, I told myself, something will come of this.

Something did, and it wasn't good. Our first and part-time executive director, Jim Batchelder, accompanied by John Kauffmann went to the park one day to discuss a philosophical disagreement. A donnybrook erupted. The superintendent at the time wondered: who are these piss ants coming in here and telling me how to run a national park? He tore up our Memorandum of Agreement and refused further communication. We tried to make the point that true friends sometimes disagree. You've heard of water off a duck's back? We watched it roll. We had burned our bridges with the very people we were trying to help. Now what?

A period of painful self-examination ensued. We concluded that we needed to be taken seriously in order to accomplish anything meaningful. We needed to build clout and market the organization and its ideals. We set about strengthening the board, building our membership, building public awareness, and generating sufficient income to pay for an administration. In 1988, we recruited and hired Duane Pierson (at no mean financial sacrifice to him) to be our first full-time executive director, and rented office space above Bee's candy store in Bar Harbor.

Within days of Duane's arrival, head-butting began between administration and board. The board learned quickly that there was no longer any need to micromanage the organization. Friends of Acadia might not exist today if we had not hired him. He walked a fine line between treading on the sensitivities of our constituencies and meeting the objectives of the organization. In my opinion (having been there myself) it takes this kind of entrepreneurial leadership to establish any organization.

In 1989, FOA came to understand the difference between abstract concepts and concrete results. (We have not forgotten.) While ideals attract interest, on-the-ground projects attract energy and resources. The campaign to restore and permanently maintain the carriage road system was the catalyst our fledgling organization needed to raise money, raise friends, and raise expectations. Much good came of it. Friends established a $4-million carriage road endowment, matching a like federal commitment. A badly deteriorated historic resource was restored in perpetuity. FOA energized the media, state and local government, the federal government, the National Park Service, other park friends groups, influential private citizens, and the MDI community, not to mention our own park's personnel. Our constituencies came to believe that FOA was a serious organization that did what it said it would do. Membership increased. Interest increased. Influence increased. And most important, Acadia National Park and surrounding communities benefited.

This is not to say that there weren't bumps in the road. I can tell you that going hat in hand to one's relatives for the sole purpose of meeting the weekly payroll is a humbling experience. However, thanks to a wonderfully successful summer benefit auction and generous annual membership contributions, our financial house is now very much in order.

By 1993, the entrepreneurial phase of Friends of Acadia's development was drawing to a close. I'll stop here, for this was my time with the organization — day to day, sometimes minute to minute. I like to think that we made more friends than enemies, broke new ground for private/public sector partnerships, and re-established the value of conservation at a critical time in a beautiful place.

Today, under the inspired leadership of Ken Olson, Friends of Acadia has moved into a new phase — call it the institutional phase — in which we are building an organization designed to perpetuate itself. This will enable us to assure our many friends and supporters that their time, money, energy, and trust were and will continue to be well placed.

Charlie Tyson, former FOA President and Board Chairman is a writer, teacher, and marketing communications consultant in Salisbury Cove.
One of the most popular tourist stops on the Park Loop Road is the Wild Gardens of Acadia, nestled beneath the jutting facade of Dorr Mountain. Visitors routinely walk to the nearby Abbe Museum and the Sieur de Monts Spring. Few take notice of a prominent memorial adjacent to the Nature Center, midway between the spring and garden. Tarnished and difficult to read, the stone fragment relocated from the top of Cadillac Mountain is inscribed:

IN MEMORY OF
GEORGE BUCKNAM DORR 1853-1944
Gentleman Scholar Lover of Nature
Father of this NATIONAL PARK
Steadfast in his zeal to make the beauties of this island available to all.

This memorial was dedicated August 29, 1947, not by the Federal Government but by the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (Trustees). Destroyed by the Fire of ’47, the current memorial is the backdrop every summer for thousands of posed snapshots. Few visitors make the effort to learn more about the gentleman honored by this memorial. While it is more commonly known that Harvard University President Charles W. Eliot originated the idea of an organization to protect the scenic splendors of Mount Desert Island (MDI), the magnitude of Mr. Dorr’s efforts to extend and administer the development of Acadia is little understood. Many may be unfamiliar with aspects of the conservation legacy of Acadia’s Founder. It is especially fitting during the Trustees’ centennial celebration to retrace both familiar and little understood characteristics of its first Vice President.

It is disconcerting to find that Mr. Dorr has been largely ignored by both popularizers and the academic community. No historian has chosen him as a biographical subject, his extensive writings have not been subjected to literary analysis, and the few publications that even allude to his achievement are sketchy at best. The exception is the insightful Trails of History by trails enthusiasts Tom St. Germain and Jay Saunders.

George Dorr’s The Story of Acadia National Park offers the reader perhaps more than they wish to know of the political complexities faced by those who sought to preserve exceptionally scenic Mount Desert Island properties for the perpetual use of the public. But to understand the “Founder” we must look beyond his publications, even the fascinating studies of MDI flora and fauna, geology, and history that span the 23 Sieur de Monts Publications. Mr. Dorr’s life prior to the 1901 establishment of the Trustees and his administrative roles as Park Superintendent for nearly three decades offer rich opportunities for the serious researcher.

George Dorr was the younger of two sons born to Mary and Charles Hazen Dorr, prominent Bostonians who had accumulated wealth from international trade and textile manufacturing. Charles served in the Massachusetts legislature and political discussion was a family constant. Following the Civil War, the Dorrs established themselves in Bar Harbor and purchased the Old Farm property in Cromwell Harbor that would become Mr. Dorr’s principle residence until his death sixty-five years later.

Provincialism was not the source of the family’s affection for MDI. Repeated travel to the Continent and the western states provided Mr. Dorr with a dimension of education that he could not find within the Harvard yard. In fact, the daily editions of The London Times, The Boston Herald, and The New York Times provided him with “a great political education, the best the world could give [since these newspapers] reflect the movement of the world and are better than books.”

Mr. Dorr shared with his mother a scientific, aesthetic, and commercial interest in horticulture, and both assumed growing duties with the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society. As the 20th century approached and he grieved the loss of immediate family, Mr. Dorr’s inheritance permitted the acquisition of parcels of MDI real estate. In time properties would be given to cultivate the arts, to erect a library, and to foster the establishment of an island biological laboratory.

One achievement of lasting significance for the park grew out of his considerable historical interest in the celebrated 1604 MDI coastline voyages of the French navigator Pierre du Gua, Sieur de Monts. In 1909, Mr. Dorr purchased a spring at the base of Dry (later Dorr) Mountain and built an enclosure for the renamed Sieur de Monts Spring. The site was the cornerstone of his efforts to amass contiguous properties. Realizing the political threats to the tax-free status of Trustee land holdings, Mr. Dorr concluded that the preservation of these properties could only be assured through national park status. Deeds were assembled, maps were drawn, and title abstracts were gathered to support arguments for a Na-
Lafayette National Park was established three years later. While Charles W. Eliot and John D. Rockefeller, Jr. had a larger public profile, it was Mr. Dorr’s strategic planning, financial ingenuity, and behind-the-scenes negotiating skill that convinced a reluctant Washington establishment to accept the Trustees’ holdings as a national reserve. President Coolidge’s January 1929 signature authorized the purchase of additional property for the renamed Acadia National Park. This collective achievement rests on the philanthropy of MDI benefactors Daniel Brewer, Eliza L. Homans, John S. Kennedy, Fred C. Lynam, George L. Stebbins, and Guy E. Torrey, to name but a few.

One of the first site administrators of the newly formed National Park Service, Mr. Dorr sought to apply key objectives articulated by Eliot in *The Right Development of Mount Desert*. For nearly thirty years this Old Farm bachelor showed remarkable flexibility in his administrative efforts to accommodate the very precise wishes of JDR, Jr. for routing and landscaping the more than fifty miles of carriage roads and bridges that provide a “green” alternative to the Loop Road that he also financed. For several decades some islanders vigorously defended preserving the landscape as rough and wild while others championed accommodations to culture and accessibility. The correspondence and summary reports contained in both the National Archives and the Rockefeller Archive Center reveal a remarkable treasury of arguments regarding public benevolence versus private control, solitary trail access contrasted with populated roadways, town meeting democracy versus Gilded Age elitism.

The pursuit of Mr. Dorr leaves a number of important questions for further investigation. What environmental factors contributed to the evolution of Mr. Dorr’s conservation strategy? What qualities inspired the confidence of Eliot and other prominent Rusticators? What character traits did Mr. Dorr display that led the richest man in America to collaborate with him in development of the park infrastructure? Did Dorr’s interactions with the Astors, Carnegies, J.P. Morgan, Joseph Pulitzer, and the Vanderbilts influence his conservation ethic? How did the blindness of the lanky Old Farm gentleman both thwart and motivate his efforts to foster public awareness of the riches of Acadia? Fortunately, accessible archival repositories provide anyone with the documentation to resolve such questions — and three are no further away than Bar Harbor!

Ronald Epp is Director of Libraries at the University of Hartford. A professor of environmental ethics, his research is aimed at a full-length biography of Acadia’s founder.
VENI, VEDI, VICTUAL

In 1992 Friends of Acadia held its first Benefit Auction. Over the years, auction items have included fabulous pieces of art, antiques, trips, and other unusual, irresistible things. For the first several years, the live auction was the showcase of the night. But the focus of the evening changed in 1999 when the Benefit Gala Committee Chair, Lynne Wheat, asked her friend Chef David Bouley if he would work his magic and turn an already successful auction event into a Benefit Gala. All he had to do was prepare dinner for approximately 350 people, at no charge! Chef Bouley graciously agreed. Since then Chef Bouley and his cadre of dedicated and skilled kitchen crew have transformed the Benefit Gala into a highly anticipated social and culinary event. As a result, attendance has increased, unique and valuable items continue to be donated, and proceeds from the event have nearly doubled.

David Bouley grew up in Storrs, Connecticut with strong influences from his parents and grandparents’ French heritage. From these beginnings he developed a lifelong love for cooking, and an appreciation for the occasions created by enjoying good food in an agreeable environment.

After working in several restaurants and studying business administration in college, David traveled to France to embark on the study of French language and culture at the Sorbonne. From there he continued to pursue his deep interest in the culinary arts. He worked in the kitchens of a number of Europe’s most accomplished chefs, among them Roger Vergè, Joel Robuchon, Gaston Lenütre and Paul Bocuse. Upon his return from Europe David went to New York and worked in such leading restaurants as Le Cirque, Le Perigord, and La Côte Basque.

In 1987, he opened his own restaurant, Bouley. The New York Times awarded the restaurant four stars and deemed it “one of the treasures” of New York. From one success to another, Chef Bouley has plans for a network of culinary services. The first step was the opening of the Bouley Bakery, a restaurant and wholesale/retail baking operation, followed by a Viennese-inspired restaurant, Danube. David, obviously, has not gone unnoticed in New York. Among the many prestigious awards he’s received are the James Beard awards for best chef and best restaurant, and the 1996 American Express award for best chef. New York Times critic William Grimes credits Chef Bouley with creating food that is “nothing less than inspired.” And what about the man behind all this good food and ambiance? Well, David is nearly as famous for his good looks, elegance, finesse, and flair — not to mention his Harley motorcycle and leather jackets — as for his excellent food.

David summered as a boy in the Bucksport area, so his love of Maine is also an important part of his heritage. In the last few years he’s developed a special affinity for Mount Desert Island. When time allows, David likes to tour the island and Acadia on his Harley. He’s been sampling the local fare over the past few summers, and is happily impressed by some of the culinary skills of the local chefs.

Friends of Acadia is grateful to Chef Bouley and his talented assistants for all that they have done to support our organization and programs. He has set the mark by which future Friends of Acadia Benefit Galas will be measured. Thank you, David! — Terry Sosa
Conversaion

The red chairs facing the sea are empty.
They do not wait for the tide to turn.
They do not notice sunset tipping the birch rose.
They do not hear the gulls crying over streaked pools.

Only the green ears of moss listen, pressed
together under syllable
of moon, just beginning to murmur to herself
in that gleaming presence someone once named water.

for Meryl Sweeney

— Candice Stover

Candice Stover’s collection of poems, Holding Patterns, won the 1994 Maine Chapbook Award. Her writing has appeared in The Beloit Poetry Journal, Hope magazine, The Boston Globe, and Seattle Arts, among others. She teaches at College of the Atlantic and designs writing workshops with a focus on poetry and women’s autobiography.
Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear—our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mt. Desert Island’s natural wonders—is a wise investment. You can help us protect Acadia Forever.

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

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

2. I hereby devise ______ % 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.

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

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

Please call us at 207-288-3340 for more information.
Across the National Park System during the 1980’s, local people who cared about their particular national park banded together to form a Friends of the Park support group. The National Park Service gratefully encouraged this support, of course, for there was much that the chronically under-funded parks could not do financially. The needs were either inappropriate for budgeting — social kindnesses to service staff and guests, for example — or simply beyond the park’s means.

Mount Desert Island summer resident Marianne Edwards, a Volunteer in Park, realized this need at Acadia National Park, and founded Friends of Acadia in 1986. I, a retired NPS planner, had recently moved to MDI, and she recruited me for the board of directors of her fledgling organization.

Under a park agreement and working closely with park staff, especially with Ranger Lois Winter, our park liaison, the Friends group at first conceived of itself as merely supportive, unquestioningly so, and also, of course, very modestly so. All we could do at that early state was, perhaps, to help with refreshments if the park had to entertain visiting dignitaries, or buy the park some small piece of needed equipment for which there was no budget.

I was also serving at the time as a trustee of the National Parks Conservation Association, established by Stephen T. Mather, founder (in 1916) and first director of the National Park Service. Mather created NPCA as a complementary non-government organization because he realized that his Interior Department agency might need a citizens’ oversight and watchdog presence to make sure that the Service adhered to the high standards and vision of its mission. He knew that his highly dedicated service was nevertheless mortal and, despite the good repute it was to earn in government, it needed a conscience. It needed a friend to help when it was starved financially, when it was picked on politically, to be bucked up when it quailed at citizen de-
mands for inappropriate or damaging programs, or, when misguided or wrongheaded, it needed a good scolding.

Marianne and I discussed all this in depth, and she agreed wholeheartedly that Friends of Acadia needed to be supportive, but also had a whistle to blow and a flag to toss out if Acadia’s custodians were not doing their jobs or were taking management actions that threatened the park’s integrity and quality. There were some in the Service who did not like this policy, who wanted us to shut up and just “bake cookies.” We baked our share of cookies, but Friends also has always had whistle and flag in hand. This was the first “leg” of the bench from which Friends of Acadia has both watched and supported our park.

The second involved real estate — the ecosystem that is Mount Desert Island and its satellites. It is an ecosystem, a most varied and complex one, each aspect important and affecting the whole. Friends of Acadia realized that it could not logically confine its purview to the federally owned acreage only, superb as it is in its scenic, natural and recreational values. There is so much more of MDI that needs tender loving care lest small hurts damage large and important wholenesses. Beyond park jurisdiction, Friends advises, encourages good stewardship and reliable protection, acts if danger to important resources is detected. Scolding here would only bring resentment, but like all good friends, we must speak up earnestly in the cause of MDI’s long-term health and comeliness. In many ways, the park’s needs are subsumed in the needs of the island. Early on, Friends of Acadia realized that its mission includes caring about all that is wonderful about this special place.

Our third “leg” was a practical administrative one. A vibrant organization like Friends of Acadia could not be managed by a board of directors meeting once a month, and whose job was to set policy. It needed someone to “run the store.” Otherwise, Friends would get nowhere in the daily relationships that were its reason for being, communicating and, by building membership, finding the money with which to help the park and its setting. Our treasurer, bank president Erwin “Kip” Soule, firmly agreed that Friends needed an executive director. Somehow, despite the slenderness of our bank account we found the means to hire Jim Batchelder, then a recent College of the Atlantic graduate. Reliable in his instincts as to what was needed, soft-spoken and diplomatic in some difficult early-day relationships, Jim incubated our organizational chick, and when he was ready to move on, Friends found someone with broad conservation experience to take us on to the next step. And now we have leadership of national stature, and the present state of Friends of Acadia speaks for itself.

After my two-term chairmanship, I stepped down to be succeeded admirably by Jeannine Ross, Charlie Tyson, Linda Lewis, and now Lee Judd. Along the line, Friends constructed the fourth “leg” of its bench — a Board of Honorary Trustees that provides the eminence, influence and support to make Friends of Acadia one of the most outstanding groups of its kind in America. Not that we lacked warm-hearted supporters in the early days. Among them were David Rockefeller, of course; Ted and Anne Roosevelt, to whom I was privileged to present Friends of Acadia’s Marianne Edwards Award; and Gerrish Milliken, who led successful efforts to rekindle the park’s Bear Island Light. Early directors of Friends of Acadia included Mike Ross and John March, who both lent legal assistance; Bob Suminsby, vastly knowledgeable about Acadian land; ecologist Bill Drury of College of the Atlantic; Seldon Bernstein of Jackson Laboratory; Dorothy Pulis, hiking enthusiast and volunteer; Jack Perkins, whose videotaped appreciation of this Acadian treasure has thrilled countless view-listeners; Cherie Mason, who helped us as long as she could spare time from her important conservation broadcasts; and Margery Matlack our loyal and able board secretary.

Thanks be to all, all who have helped, watched, and cheered, all who are Friends of Acadia!

John Kauffmann is a founding member and former chairman of Friends of Acadia. He is a Board Member with the Forest Society of Maine, and a Trustee of the College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor and the North Yarmouth Academy in Yarmouth, Maine where he now lives.
One of the unique and important institutions in Downeast Maine's history is the corporation-styled Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. It was the forerunner of Acadia National Park and, indeed, it is almost certain that the National Park would never have been, but for the great work of the Trustees.

The Trustees was conceived in the fertile mind of Charles William Eliot, Jr., son of the great reformer president of Harvard University. Charles, Jr. had among his ancestors men and women of education, wealth, and position. At a young age Charles developed a talent for sketching, a sense of locality, a fondness for maps, and an appreciation of scenery. Graduated with a B.A. degree from Harvard in the class of 1882, he was drawn by talent, interest, and education into the new profession of landscape architect.

In November 1885 Charles sailed to Europe for a year's study and visits to England, France, Italy, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, and Russia. He noted his observations of gardens, parks, and scenery. These notes and professional writings were put together by his father in a book, *Charles Eliot, Landscape Architect*.

On his return to Boston, Charles opened an office as a landscape architect in 1886. He was successful, and designed a system of metropolitan parks for greater Boston. In March of 1893, at the urgent request of Frederick Law Olmsted, he joined Olmsted's firm, which then became Olmsted, Olmsted and Eliot.

One historian pointed out that Eliot "understood and voiced the need for the public acquisition of scenic regions," and his endeavors led to the incorporation in Massachusetts of the Trustees of Public Reservations. With the backing of this new organization, he persuaded the General Court to create the Metropolitan Park Commission, to which he became professional adviser. In connection with the selection and development of the Commission's holdings, he formulated principles of park and reservation planning which have exerted a profound influence throughout the country.

For four years the new firm was concerned with large public and private enterprises all over America. Charles was returning from one of their projects at Hartford in early 1897 when he died suddenly of cerebro-spinal meningitis.

President Eliot was heartbroken by the sudden death of his son Charles, who had such promise of a brilliant career in landscape architecture. In order to write a biography of his son, President Eliot went through Charles' papers and came upon material dealing with Mount Desert Island and the Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations. It was quickly apparent to President Eliot that a similar mechanism could serve Hancock County, Maine equally well. The family had great regard and love for the scenic beauty of Hancock County, having summered in Northeast Harbor since 1881.

President Eliot secured the incorporation of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, modeled after the Massachusetts corporation. One suspects that a part of his motivation was to create a remembrance of his deceased son.

Maine statutes provided that a charitable society might be incorporated by seven persons applying in writing to a Justice of the Peace, who may then issue his warrant directed to one of the applicants, instructing him to call a meeting at such time and place as the justice required. The application for incorporation was dated August 29, 1901, and was directed to Bertrand Clark,

The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations was incorporated with provisions stating that the “corporation shall have power to acquire by devise, gift or purchase, and to own, arrange, hold, maintain and improve, for free public use, lands in Hancock County, Maine, which by reason of scenic beauty, historical interest, sanitary advantages, or for other reasons, may be available for the purpose.” Charles W. Eliot was elected president and George B. Dorr, vice president.

The first deed to the trustees corporation was dated May 14, 1908, and conveyed a lot at “Sea Cliffs near the village of Seal Harbor in the town of Mount Desert, on which is located the Champlain Monument.” George B. Dorr became fascinated with the acquiring of land on Mount Desert Island for the purpose of conservation and free public use.

Dorr (1853-1944) was a scholar, rich gentleman (said to have inherited some ten million dollars), lover of nature, and generally considered the father of Acadia National Park. In his history The Story of Bar Harbor, Richard Walden Hale wrote that “the park reflects his personality, a very unusual personality it was. He was a great scholar, in the old sense of the word, a true amateur lover of the classics....He had a fund of that sort of available and illuminating knowledge that can be so impressive. In person he was impressive, too — a tall, big man, with a striking, down-sweeping moustache.”

Hale also pointed out that circumstances placed Dorr in a position to further the founding of the park “to which he really gave his life.”

Dorr used the Trustees to acquire and maintain all the land purchases for free public use. He had the idea that the watersheds of Eagle Lake and Jordan Pond ought to be protected and that the best way was for the Legislature to grant eminent domain powers to the Trustees. In 1911 session of the Legislature an act was passed authorizing the Trustees to exercise a limited power of eminent domain with respect to the two watersheds.

The act generated considerable adverse feeling about the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations and its operations. Many natives resented the loss of taxable property and were fearful of the power of eminent domain, and of the influence of the summer people. The local people engaged in the lumber business were particularly fearful of the loss of timberlands. There was talk in the next legislature of repealing the tax-free provision of the Trustees.

Hale wrote “[I]t was plain to Mr. Dorr that the Hancock County Trustees were at the mercy of their creator, the Maine legislature.” He decided to remove the property from the jurisdiction of the Maine Legislature by giving the land to the United States of America, which was done July 27, 1916. This gift was called the Sieur de Monts National Monument. In 1919, Congress passed an act creating Lafayette National Park, renamed Acadia National Park ten years later in 1929.

The park, containing in excess of 35,000 acres, nearly two Maine townships, was created by a multitude of gifts of land and money. There were at least 129 separate transactions handled through the Trustees. At the annual meeting, held at the Black House August 21, 1951, it was voted to “transfer and convey all of the real estate and interest therein situated on Mount Desert Island” to the United States of America. Although this concluded all connection between the Trustees and Acadia National Park, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations still carried with it work of preserving scenic and historic spaces.

Today the Woodlawn Museum in Ellsworth, Maine continues the Trustees’ rich legacy of preservation. Bequeathed to the Trustees by George Nixon Black, Jr. in 1928, the Woodlawn estate (now called Woodlawn Museum) includes the historic Black House built by Col. John Black in 1824-27 and a 180-acre public park. Original furnishings, beautiful formal gardens (designed under the consultancy of Beatrix Ferrand), and two miles of hiking trails make Woodlawn Museum a treasure. This grand estate is a fine example of the continuing efforts of the Trustees to ensure that land of scenic beauty or historical interest is free for public use.

Herbert T. Silsby, II is a retired Justice of the Maine Superior Court, and a columnist for The Ellsworth American, writing on local historical topics. He lives in Yarmouth, Maine.
Acadia National Park will benefit this summer from the sage analysis of two consultants hired to examine the park’s budgets. David Ianetta from the MIT Sloan School of Management and John LaBarca from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University began work in early June dissecting park budgets, translating them into common terms, and calculating budget deficits.

The consultants have been hired through the Business Plan Initiative, a program started by the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) in conjunction with the Park Service and several private foundations. Friends of Acadia is providing additional support for the program at Acadia.

At the end of the summer, the consultants will prepare a report detailing where park funds are spent presently at Acadia, what programs are limited because of inadequate annual appropriations, what National Park Service goals could be better achieved with additional resources, and what long-term investments are needed at the park. The consultants also plan to include financial strategies the park can employ to reduce costs, improve efficiency, or save money in other ways.

The final analysis will provide defensible figures with which Friends can work with the Maine Congressional delegation to increase operating appropriations. Stay tuned for details of the consultants’ findings.

In its continuing efforts to showcase America’s scenic national landmarks, the U.S. Postal Service issued a new international rate postage stamp honoring Acadia National Park on May 30, 2001. The First Day of Issue ceremony was held at the Jordan Pond House. A sweeping vista of Jordan Pond and the Bubble Mountains in the background provided a striking example of the awesome beauty that is Acadia.

One might have expected to see rocky shorelines and pounding surf on the stamp, an image that many associate with Maine. The photographer Clifton Carr, however, chose to highlight the alpine beauty of Acadia. The stamp is a lovely image of lichen covered rocks, blueberry bushes, conifers, and fog — elements familiar to those that hike the mountains and visit the interior of Acadia. The Acadia National Park stamp is one of nine that comprise the Scenic America Landscape series. The other natural areas featured are: Mount McKinley, Nine-Mile Prairie, Badlands, Niagara Falls, Mount Rainier, Voyageurs National Park, the Rio Grande, and the Grand Canyon.


The Acadia stamp is now available at post offices for international rate mail.
HEART OF THE MATTER

“While the immediate subject of our attention today is, in its most base description, a simple path on the ground, the thing we are celebrating is not so much what is described in the word ‘trail’ as it is what is contained in the word ‘connector.’ One hundred years ago, people didn’t hike, they went for a tramp. To them the paths were not so much a chance for exercise but rather an opportunity to share good conversation and revitalize their imaginations surrounded by Nature’s wonders.

"... I don’t believe it was any accident that the movement to establish national parks and to preserve natural areas arose during the early heady days of the modern Industrial Age. There is an obvious correlation between humanity’s embrace of technology and the push by those of great wisdom to ensure the natural world was not forgotten... Despite all the conveniences that increase our physical comfort and safety, our souls will always remain, at least on some level, connected to nature.”

— From remarks by Earl Brechlin, inauguration of the Great Meadow Loop, Bar Harbor, Maine, April 26, 2001. The footpath is a “village connector” made possible by Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park and 1051 donors to ACADIA TRAILS FOREVER.

WALKING TO ACADEIA

The village of Bar Harbor has a new opportunity for a quiet walk in town, and into Acadia. On a mild April day, Friends of Acadia was joined by local hikers, trail planners, project donors, and park staff to welcome the Great Meadow Loop into the local trail history. Earl Brechlin, hiker and Bar Harbor Times editor, was the keynote speaker.

Friends has worked with the local community, landowners, Acadia National Park, the Rivers & Trails Program of the National Park Service/Appalachian Mountain Club, the Maine Conservation Corps, and Maine Coast Heritage Trust to plan and construct this two-mile connector trail. Funding has been received from the Richard Hainan National Parks Foundation, Fields Pond Foundation, Maine Department of Conservation Recreational Trails Program, Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, and ACADIA TRAILS FOREVER donors.

The Great Meadow Loop provides an easy walk from downtown Bar Harbor to Sieur de Monts, and on many trails in the area up Huguenot Head, Dorr, and Kebo Mt. More than a mile of the Great Meadow Loop is currently on the ground, and additional trail segments are scheduled for construction this fall. A brochure about the trail, including map, is available from Friends of Acadia.

Village connector trails like the Great Meadow Loop provide alternative routes into the park, and between communities. Friends and the Village Connector Trails Committee are working with local communities on Mount Desert Island to plan other connector trails. Trail construction is scheduled in Southwest Harbor this fall to connect the Lurvey Spring and Western Mountain Roads. That trail will be built for use by hikers, bicyclists, horseback riders, and cross-country skiers.

Summer is the time to be adventurous and plan a long hike out your door and into Acadia—without a car. Through Labor Day, Island Explorer shuttle buses are available to take tired hikers home, which opens up an abundance of possible one-way hiking routes.

For more information about village connector trails, or to share an idea you have for a trail in your community, contact Marla Major at marla@friendsofacadia.org, or 288-3340.

THANK YOU!

We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of Friends’ programs and events:

Donors of Goods and Services
Preti, Flaherty, Beliveau, Pachios & Haley, LLC reduced rates on legal services
Dobbs Productions reduced rates on services
Outside the Lines reduced rates on web site design services
Mollie Phemister office volunteer

Volunteer Crew Leaders
Individuals leading volunteer work groups on Acadia’s trails, carriage roads, and vistas
Bucky & Maureen Brooks
George & Anna Buck
Betsy Champlin
Don Curley
Libby Donnan
Charles Edwards
Rod Fox
Bill Jenkins
Bob Sanderson
Julia Schloss
Dee & Howard Solomon

In Gratitude

Betty Tiedemann photo

Update

Only Connect

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Book Review

AN EXPLORATION SEQUEL

Beyond the Park Loop Road: Continuing the Exploration of Acadia National Park
written and photographed by Robert A. Thayer.

A sequel to “The Park Loop Road” (published in 1999), this equally beautiful and affordable coffee table book was written for those who have visited Acadia before and want to see more than the typical attractions along the Loop Road. The book can be read in less than an hour, or better yet, you can absorb the information about one of the 16 featured sites immediately before embarking. Day trips will be more fulfilling when you’re fortified with new knowledge of the geology, history, and interesting facts about the places you visit.

For instance, Thayer tells us that Lower Hadlock Pond was a source of profit in the late 1880s — a savvy islander harvested 100-pound blocks of ice from the pond and shipped them to Boston and New York to meet the refrigeration needs of the wealthy. Readers will also learn that more than 50 years ago as many as 65 people lived on Baker Island, which is now uninhabited. Only a few buildings remain standing as a reminder.

Thayer’s book will inspire you to visit — or revisit — these places and more.

— Grace Marshall

OFF THE SHELF

The Rusticator’s Journal: Essays About Mount Desert Island & Acadia National Park
edited by Tammis E. Coffin.

This collection of articles from the Journal of Friends of Acadia range in topic from natural history essays, musings on life along Somes Sound, the history of memorial paths and trail markings, to the early days of the movie industry on Mt. Desert Island. So many writers, so many stories. Find out why some folks call the area at the end of Harden Farm Red Rock Spring. Read the scuttlebutt about the masked man who held up a horse-drawn carriage on its way up Green Mountain. Consider the nearly century-old debate of motorized vs. non-motorized transport on MDI. A plentitude of photographs and illustrations build on the stories — a tea house on Great Head, the construction of a grand carriage road bridge, the Bar Harbor Building of Arts.

Everyone who cares about Acadia and MDI should find a kindred spirit in The Rusticator’s Journal.

— L. O’Byrne

HEART OF THE MATTER

Sustained Against Destruction

“There are certain values in our landscape that ought to be sustained against destruction or impairment, though their worth cannot be expressed in money terms. They are essential to our ‘life, liberty and pursuit of happiness’; this nation of ours is not so rich it can afford to lose them; it is still rich enough to afford to preserve them.”

— Newton B. Drury, Former Director, National Park Service
In May, 2001, I had the good fortune to travel westward to Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, Bryce Canyon, and Zion National Parks to study the park transportation systems at each of these sites. Like Acadia, many of these parks were designated as transportation demonstration parks under a 1997 Memorandum of Understanding signed by the Secretaries of Interior and Transportation establishing the sharing of expertise and resources between these agencies. The goal of my trip was to meet with National Park Service leaders and transit system operators at each site, understand how their systems work in comparison to the Island Explorer shuttle bus system, and explore our common needs.

The lessons learned from the trip were many and varied. Each transit system is different and has evolved from the unique situations at the parks studied. The Grand Canyon’s bus system is the oldest and has been running in some form since 1974. Last year, an estimated 4.9 million people boarded the buses, and the Park is exploring mandatory light rail and articulated bus options to bring visitors to the Park without the use of their cars.

Bryce Canyon and Zion National Park are the newest systems, starting service last summer. Both are fare-box free, seasonal services that bring passengers from gateway communities or nearby hotel developments into the parks. Unlike Acadia, however, the propane-powered shuttle buses at Zion are mandatory if visitors wish to see the Zion Canyon Scenic Drive, a popular section of the park that previously experienced gridlock during busy periods.

One of the most interesting components of my trip was studying how parks have funded their bus systems. Zion, Bryce, and the Grand Canyon have partially solved the operations funding question by charging transit fees as a portion of the $20.00 park entrance pass. These transit fees are dollars that are retained at the park and attributed directly to the cost of bus operations. Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) have recently begun exploring this idea as a more secure funding source for the Island Explorer.

A second area of interest on this trip was to see how park transit systems are integrated with public transportation options and visitor information centers. Some parks were well connected with AMTRAK and public bus lines, but others were reached only by private automobile or bus tour. The Grand Canyon opened a new visitor center in November 2000 that is oriented toward visitors arriving on the park shuttle buses or via the light rail/bus system planned for future years. Both the Grand Canyon and Zion’s visitor centers are set up as campuses that encourage visitors to stroll among informational signs as they plan their visits to the Park. Acadia will benefit from the wisdom of these parks as we begin looking at options for a new day-use parking area/visitor center/transportation hub associated with the Island Explorer.

Finally, there was much to learn from comparing the institutional arrangements that parks use to operate bus systems serving their visitors. Several parks contract with professional transit companies for service. Yosemite’s internal shuttle bus system is operated at no cost to the Park Service as a condition of Yosemite Concession Services’ contract to run the hotels, restaurants, and gift shops inside the park. However, the buses connecting Yosemite to gateway communities as far as three hours away are operated through a formal three-county transportation agreement, recognized by California state law.

From all of my travels, it appears that Acadia’s bus system is truly unique. With a very limited budget, an informal partnership among diverse agencies and organizations, and a lot of heart, the Island Explorer has managed to thrive as a transportation demonstration project within the Park Service. More than 193,000 passengers rode the buses on MDI last year, helping to improve air quality and reduce traffic congestion by 57,800 vehicles. As more visitors discover Acadia, we look forward to working with our local partners and our extended family of transportation contacts to develop the Island Explorer as one of our best visitor assets in the National Park System.
The Air We Breathe

Some days the views from Cadillac Mountain are so extensive, you can see the peak of Mt. Katahdin. There are many days, however, you cannot. Sometimes it’s the weather and a good Maine fog that obscures the view, but sometimes it’s a product of air pollution. Air pollution is not only what we see or don’t see, it’s the air we breathe, which can threaten human health. Air pollutants can also impact other park resources (water, soils, and vegetation).

Stop by the Hulls Cove Visitor Center to observe a slide program (which cycles continuously), displaying current visibility, ozone pollutant levels, and weather conditions in the park. Data, monitored from the McFarland Hill air quality station, will be updated hourly, and the visibility picture updated every 15 minutes. Current visibility photos can also be viewed at the website: www.hazecam.net/acadia.html

Celebrating 100 Years:
The Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations

2001 marks the 100th anniversary of an organization that dedicated itself to preserving parts of Mount Desert Island for all to enjoy, eventually spawning the idea of a national park on the coast of Maine. In 1901, Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard University and an island summer resident, called together a group of friends and colleagues to discuss the idea of setting aside lands for public use. Alarmed by development that eliminated access to special places, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations was born, and directly influenced the creation of Acadia National Park. Thanks to the foresight of the Trustees, millions still enjoy the natural beauty of the park in a new century, and find their own inspiration here.
The Hawks are Coming!

Along with cooler days and nights, and colorful foliage, autumn marks the annual migration of raptors to warmer climes. Many hawks, falcons, and eagles fly right over Mount Desert Island. The prevailing winds over the island’s mountains, and pockets of rising air from the uneven heating of land and water, provide energy-saving pathways for these migrating birds, which in turn provide a great opportunity for those who love to watch them. Join the HawkWatch, August 26 through October 13. Park rangers and volunteers will be on hand daily from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM to identify, count, and discuss migrating raptors. Stop by the HawkWatch site on Cadillac Mountain, 200 easy yards along the North Ridge Trail, from the summit parking area. Be prepared for chilly winds! Binoculars are useful, but not essential. HawkWatch will be cancelled in rain or fog.

Walks, Talks, Cruises, and Hikes Abound at Acadia

What better way to learn more about the natural and cultural history of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park than by heading out into the woods, up a mountain, or walking a carriage road? Rangers offer their expertise to all who join them, not in a lecture hall, but on the trail, experientially, and surrounded by the natural beauty of the park.

Ever wondered about the story behind the formation of the island’s granite mountains and rocky shoreline? You may find answers on the hike, Written in the Rocks.

Who were the hardy pioneers who settled Downeast, rather than out west? Their stories are told on the Islesford Historical Cruise, and the Baker Island Cruise.

What’s that little brown bird? Expert birders on the park staff will help you identify it — and many others — on Acadia’s Birds.

What inspired John D. Rockefeller, Jr. to build carriage roads on the island? What does his inspiration mean to us? Follow a carriage road with a ranger on Mr. Rockefeller’s Bridges.

These are just a few of the offerings from the interpretive staff at Acadia National Park. We hope you’ll join us. To find out where and when, please continue reading.

Want to Join a Ranger-led Program but Don’t Know When?

The park newspaper, the Beaver Log, lists a schedule of ranger events, and can be picked up at any information station in the park. Don’t want to leave your armchair to find out when the next Discover Acadia starts? You can also access the Beaver Log on the park’s website: www.nps.gov/acad/
A TRADITION OF PHILANTHROPY FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Barry Macintosh

The National Park System benefited from private contributions even before Congress created the National Park Service on August 25, 1916. In 1907, Mr. and Mrs. William Kent donated what became Muir Woods National Monument; and in June 1916, a group of private donors gave the land for Sieur de Monts National Monument in Maine, forerunner of Acadia National Park. These were the first of many parks created or enlarged by philanthropy.

Before and after he became the first director of the National Park Service in 1917, Stephen T. Mather contributed from his personal fortune to support the parks and their administration. In 1915, he and others bought the privately owned Tioga Road for Yosemite National Park. The next year he got several western railroads to join him in contributing $48,000 to publish the National Parks Portfolio, which publicized the parks and helped persuade Congress to create the National Park Service.

The first park museums resulted largely from philanthropy, beginning with the museum at Mesa Verde National Park, built with contributions from Stella Levison and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and the museum at Yosemite funded by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial. Both opened in 1925.

The contributions of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. and his son Laurance S. Rockefeller are especially remarkable. They gave more than $3 million for land and park roads at Acadia; more than $2 million to enlarge and improve Grand Teton National Park; more than $5 million for land to establish Great Smoky Mountains National Park; more than $2 million for the land comprising Virgin Islands National Park; more than $1.6 million to expand Yosemite; and lesser amounts for lands at Big Bend, Glacier, Grand Canyon, Haleakala, Lassen Volcanic, Olympic, Rocky Mountain, and Shenandoah national parks; Antietam, Big Hole, and Fort Donelson national battlefields; Capulin Volcano and George Washington Birthplace national monuments; Colonial National Historical Park; Ford's Theatre National Historical Site; and the Blue Ridge Parkway. In 1996 Laurance and his wife gave their historic Vermont estate with a $7.5 million endowment to establish Marshall-Billings National Historical Park.

Similarly, the Mellon family has contributed generously to the growth of the park system. Between 1947 and 1971, Mellon family foundations gave nearly $7 million to fund seacoast and Great Lakes shoreline surveys that led to the creation of several national seashores and lakeshores; to purchase much of the land for Cape Hatteras and Cumberland Island national seashores; and to enable federal acquisition of Hampton National Historic Site.

Other Mellon gifts contributed to the preservation of Redwood and Rocky Mountain national parks. In 1990, the Richard King Mellon Foundation donated $10.5 million for lands at Antietam, Fredericksburg, Gettysburg, and Petersburg battlefields; Pecos National Historical Park; and Shenandoah National Park. Mellon foundations have also given generously to other National Park Service activities, from the landscaping of Lafayette Park fronting the White House to the Vail Symposium on the 75th anniversary of the National Park Service.

In the largest park fundraising venture to date, corporations joined with individuals, foundations, and other nonprofit entities in contributing more than $350 million to refurbish the Statue of Liberty and restore Ellis Island's Great Hall in the 1980s. Between 1988 and 1998, Mount Rushmore National Memorial supplemented revenues from concession contracts and commemorative coin sales with $11 million in personal and corporate gifts to carry out major preservation of its colossal sculptures and renew its visitor facilities. Countless school children contributed nickels and dimes to that preservation effort as well.

In 1998, Walter and Leonore Annenberg gave $10 million to help develop a new Liberty Bell complex and provide other improvements in the Independence Mall area of Independence National Historical Park. And in 2000, Golden Gate National Parks Association announced the largest individual non-land gift ever received in support of America's national parks. The combined Haas Funds donated $12 million from the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund and $4 million from the Robert and Colleen Haas Fund to convert Crissy Field from barren army land to an urban park in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Congress formally recognized the importance of private philanthropy to the parks in 1935 when it established the National Park Trust Fund Board, which it replaced in 1967 with the National Park Foundation. Launched with a $1 million contribution from Laurance Rockefeller, the National Park Foundation has become increasingly active and effective in generating private sector funding for the parks, particularly through corporate support.

Philanthropy is more than a source of land and money for the parks. It is a means of building and strengthening bonds between the parks and their advocates. While all taxpayers contribute to the parks, those who make additional voluntary contributions will have a special interest in the parks' welfare. The parks and the National Park Service benefit from their devotion as well as their dollars.

Barry Macintosh is a former National Park Service Historian. This article is reprinted with the permission of the NPS Cultural Resource Stewardship & Partnerships Office.
Painters of Acadia’s timeless splendor represented by

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**TAKE PRIDE IN ACADIA DAY**

*Saturday, November 3, 2001*  
*8:30–12:00, barbecue follows*

Spend a morning in the park and prepare the carriage roads for winter. Free barbecue lunch. Free t-shirts for first 150 registrants.

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Register with Friends of Acadia by October 30. Call 207-288-3340 or marla@friendsofacadia.org
The mission of Friends of Acadia is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby to ensure a high quality experience for visitors and residents.