HAVE A LITTLE FUN THIS SUMMER…

Volunteer with Friends of Acadia in Acadia National Park.
Work on trails, carriage roads, vistas, boundary lines, and other stewardship projects.

8:30 to 12:30
Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday mornings, June–October
Wear sturdy shoes, and bring water, insect repellent, snack, and lunch.

Meet at Park Headquarters on Route 233/Eagle Lake Road (not the Visitor Center) at 8:30 am.

This fall, join us to prepare the carriage roads for winter on
Take Pride in Acadia Day, Saturday, November 2.

Friends of Acadia

For more information call 288-3340, or 288-3934 for a recorded message of work projects and locations.
L.L. BEAN DONATES $1 MILLION TO FRIENDS OF ACADIA FOR ISLAND EXPLORER BUSES

The late Pulitzer Prize winning writer Wallace Stegner characterized national parks as “the best idea America ever had.” Now, thanks to the generosity of conservation-minded L.L. Bean, Acadia may take top honors among the 385 national park units as best of the best.

The famed outdoor equipment manufacturer, of Freeport, Maine, has donated $1-million to Friends of Acadia (see stories, pp. 11 – 13). This extraordinary corporate gift will increase Friends’ grant giving by 40% annually, to $850,000. We will direct the L.L. Bean funds to the Island Explorer bus system serving Acadia National Park, Mount Desert Island, and Trenton, operating this summer from June 23 to Labor Day.

The L.L. Bean gift will: a) enable the expansion of Island Explorer service into the fall, from Labor Day to Columbus Day, beginning in 2003; b) count toward matching funds for federal grants to purchase three to eight new buses, anticipated in 2003 or 2004; and c) augment the system’s crucial operating funds, the hardest money to raise.

The donation celebrates L.L. Bean’s 90th anniversary. Company CEO Chris McCormick said: “L.L. Bean is making this contribution to help at a time when national parks throughout the country face increased use and underfunding. We want to help draw attention to the added burdens on park staff and park assets. Additionally, the impacts of pollution on the park are of great concern to a company whose foundation is to promote recreation and sound stewardship of our natural resources.”

The $1-million grant helps protect the natural and cultural qualities that make Acadia great. Since their inception in 1999, the propane-powered buses have carried 575,000 riders, prevented at least 16.3 tons of noxious emissions, and removed 211,000 personal vehicles from the road—tantamount to a traffic jam extending 516 miles, from Trenton, Maine to Trenton, New Jersey. L.L. Bean’s generosity ensures that the robust numerical indicators of a healthier Acadia will continue to rise.

Think of the company’s contribution as an economic development grant, too. It not only underwrites bus salaries, but subsidizes a growing commuter work force—year round and seasonal residents account for 22% of ridership, versus 16% in 1999. The Explorer is frequent, clean, convenient and fare-free, and adds to MDI’s hospitality quotient, a key intangible that brings many visitors back each summer. Fall service offers the same amenity value and will spread park visitation into the economically tenuous shoulder season, buttressing tourism-reliant commerce. MDI businesses will be asked to chip in modestly.

The L.L. Bean donation sets a significant conservation precedent as the first corporate contribution to nonprofit public transit in America’s National Park System. At the same time, the grant continues an honored tradition of private philanthropy begun when Acadia, the first national park established east of the Mississippi, was donated to the nation in 1916.

David Rockefeller, Jr., a Mount Desert Island resident whose grandfather John D. Rockefeller, Jr. helped create and expand Acadia, said: “The L.L. Bean donation is a magnificent expression of corporate stewardship. I hope other businesses will match the company’s generosity across the National Park System.” David is a valued Friend of Acadia member and the Vice Chairman of the National Park Foundation, which has partnered with L.L. Bean on charitable projects benefiting Washington, D.C.-area national parks.

To make the gift a reality, Friends of Acadia worked closely with the company’s outstanding staff, Superintendent Paul Haertel and Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock and other National Park Service officials, Downeast Transportation, Crikelair Associates, Gary Friedmann and Associates, Z Studio, and Jim Maddy and the National Park Foundation. Friends’ own board of directors, chaired by Lee Judd, also contributed to this wonderful outcome.

The Island Explorer grant marries one revered Maine institution, Acadia National Park, with another, L.L. Bean. Friends of Acadia is proud to have set up the blind date (and arranged the prenuptial agreement). We thank Chris McCormick and the great people at L.L. Bean for making “the best idea America ever had” even better.
Friends of Acadia Journal
Summer 2002
Volume 7 No.2
A Magazine of Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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SCHOODIC UPDATE

Earlier I wrote an article on the history and planned closure of the Naval Security Group Activity, Winter Harbor base, located within the Acadia National Park at Schoodic. Readers might recall that portions of the base also are located within the communities of Winter Harbor and Corea. It seems like yesterday, but quite a lot has occurred during the past two years. The following is an update and abridged report of the park’s activities during this time.

Park service general management planning for Schoodic has moved ahead. From its rather informal beginning and description of general guidelines, draft alternatives for the required environmental impact statement (EIS) have been developed. There are two action alternatives: one considers only a National Park Service (NPS) presence at Schoodic, and the other recommends both an NPS presence and a center for research and education. A formal meeting to gather public comments on these alternatives was held in June. Following that meeting, the final draft EIS will be prepared, the public will be given another opportunity to comment, and in early 2003 a general management plan (GMP) for Schoodic will be completed. This is important business for the park; it will determine directions for park management of the Schoodic area for the next 10-15 years.

The Navy has reduced its military and civilian staff on schedule. From a staff two years ago of 15 officers, 257 enlisted personnel, and 145 civilian employees only a few remain at this writing. Not an easy task, these reductions were accomplished with care and sensitivity to each person’s needs. Also, all of the personal property on the base was either moved to other military locations or set aside to be used in the future by the park or local communities.

On May 17th, the mission of the Navy at this facility officially ended. A ceremony commemorating the efforts of past and present Navy personnel was held, and a “key” to the base was presented to the park. It was a fine occasion (see photograph from the event on page __). The land transfer of the Schoodic portion of the base from Navy to the National Park Service occurred on July 1st.

Since the last report, also, Acadia National Park received startup funding for a National Park Service Learning Center. Twelve of these centers are currently authorized within the national park system. NPS learning centers are intended to fully integrate research about and within parks with educational programs, and to create programs in which park natural and cultural research is encouraged and coordinated. In conjunction with a learning center, we are researching the feasibility of a Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). Through the work of Dr. Steven Kahl, more than 70 institutions have expressed interest in participating in the future activities of SERC.

There is a lot of enthusiasm for this proposal. Both endeavors fit within one of the draft GMP alternatives. Conceptually, SERC envisions an education and research center with multiple partners, functioning much as a college campus and managed by a non-profit with whom the park has an agreement. The parameters for education and research are broadly defined as those which would be non-commercial and related to human health and the environment. SERC would provide facilities for state-of-the-art education and research and meeting space for seminars, scientific meetings, and educational retreats.

As with so much that happens within Acadia National Park, your best ideas and support will be needed to make this management plan a reality. We believe strongly in the prospects for real benefits to future visitors, park management, and local communities. Making it happen will require joint effort and a great deal of hard work.

— Paul Haertel, Superintendent, Acadia National Park
Notes from Friends

Gift of Acadia
My fiancé and I have been visiting Acadia National Park every year for about eight years. We were married on June 14th and have decided, in lieu of favors, that a donation to Friends of Acadia in each guest's name would be meaningful. Attached are the names of our guests and our donation. [See “In Nomine” list on page 20.]

—Christine Wentworth and Anthony Lucas

Valuing Forests
The spring 2002 issue of Friends of Acadia Journal was filled, as usual, with a number of excellent articles. Each issue of the Journal evokes a feeling that FOA is truly helping to make good things happen at Acadia National Park.

As I leafed through the Journal one point came to mind that raised a concern. In Ken Olson’s column on “The Most Productive 45,000 Acres in Maine” he cited $6.8 billion as the annual value of the forest products industry in the state. While commercial forestry remains an important part of Maine’s economy, the statistic Ken referenced appears to be seriously inflated based on unsupportable multipliers. Dr. Thomas Power, in a report prepared last year on economic decisions facing the Maine Woods, deconstructed the supposed $6 billion impact of the forest industry in Maine. I would be happy to send a copy of Dr. Power’s report to anyone interested.

This does not alter the essential point of Ken’s column. However, it is important to have an accurate understanding of the economic impact of forestry in Maine. There are fundamental shifts underway in the state’s economy. As we focus on the future we need to appreciate the tremendous and growing value that conservation lands can have, which is what Ken did so effectively in his column.

—Jym St. Pierre, Maine Director
RESTORE: The North Woods, Hallowell, ME

Happy Campers
The following comments were received from the Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA group leaders (Becket, Mass). The group is generally 10-15 teenage volunteers and 2-3 adult leaders, working a couple of 5 to 7-hour days in the park. Friends is grateful for this group’s tradition of volunteer stewardship in Acadia.

—Editor

“Mike Alley [FOA field crew leader] picked us up at the campground at 9 am and we headed off to the Bubble Pond Carriage Road to begin our service project. We were given clippers and gloves to trim back the shrubs from the roadside. We cleared everything within two feet of both sides of the road. This was great. We felt that we were helping the beautiful National Park we were in. Bikers, walkers, and horses passed us as we were cutting and clearing. They thanked us and encouraged us to keep going. The campers loved this project, felt good about themselves and what they were accomplishing. We cleared about a ½-mile of road and spent five hours doing this. The directors of the program stopped by to meet us, take a photo, and to thank us. We loved this and couldn’t wait for the next day.”

“Mike picked us up again at 9 am the 2nd day. We went to a different area and cleared more roadside. Again we loved it and felt great. We stopped earlier today so that Mike could take us atop Mt. Cadillac for a sight see. He was great and helpful. We then went to the headquarters for a presentation and “thank you” from Jonathan Gormley and Smokey Bear. The kids were all smiling with pride and accomplishment.”

Thanks again, it really doesn’t get much better than that!

—Lynn McDonald, Becket-Chimney Corners YMCA

Correction
In the 2001 Annual Report, we mistakenly identified the Appalachian Mountain Club—Echo Lake Camp as the “Appalachian Mountain Club—MDI Chapter.” With apologies, we would like to correct the record, and thank the Appalachian Mountain Club—Echo Lake Camp, its governing committee, and staff for generous financial support of the Island Explorer bus system in 2001.
Lee Judd recently stepped down from the chairmanship of Friends of Acadia after five years of distinguished service. He became Treasurer, replacing Nat Fenton, who also remains on the board.

Lee Judd’s successful tenure included: the strengthening of the organization’s financial base and grant giving, the launch and completion of Acadia Trails Forever, the development of a strong Investment and Finance Committee, headed by Fenton, and the upgrading of office technology.

“I’ve been pleased with how much Friends has accomplished over the past five years,” said Judd. It’s been my privilege to work with a talented and experienced staff; with Paul Haertel, who must be one of the Park Service’s most progressive superintendents; and with a tremendously supportive board and membership.”

Friends President Ken Olson said, “Lee Judd led this organization into an era of substantial growth as measured by Friends of Acadia’s impact on the protection and betterment of Acadia National Park. The Friends of Acadia family thanks him for his excellent judgment and an unusual suite of management skills.”

At the July 12, 2002 annual meeting, Judd received the organization’s highest honor, the Marianne Edwards Award, which read in part: “For his outstanding leadership and his evenhanded approach to board governance; his concern for the opinions and well being of staff; his acuity with complex financial numbers that has helped chart for this nonprofit a safe course across the walloping high seas of the present investment market; and not least his dedication to the mission-first conduct of Friends of Acadia’s business no matter the extraneous events threatening to distract the organization…we his fellow Board Members, the Honorary Trustees and the Staff of Friends of Acadia do happily celebrate Lee Judd — Chairman of the Board, summa cum laude — with this highest recognition, the Marianne Edwards Award…. “May future leaders of this organization find a helpful touchstone in your generous ways, Lee....”

He also received a National Park Service award presented by Park Superintendent Paul Haertel. Judd is President of Hinckley Marine Insurance and former President of the Causeway Club, and recently joined the board of the Maine Seacoast Mission. He spends free time fly-fishing at his camp on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick or hiking in Acadia. An alumnus of Princeton University, he holds an M.B.A. from the University of Maine. Lee and his wife, Annie, live in Southwest Harbor, Maine, where she is active in conservation and civic projects emphasizing community betterment.

The Judds have six children and two grandchildren, and are building a winter home in South Carolina.

Lee Judd is succeeded as Chair by Dianna K. Emory of Bar Harbor. Said Olson, “It’s my good fortune to have worked for two outstanding board chairs over the last seven years, Linda Lewis and Lee. We welcome Dianna Emory as part of the tradition of superb volunteer leaders for Friends of Acadia.”
WAYS OF GIVING

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

*For more information about any of these suggested methods of giving to Friends of Acadia, please contact us at 207-288-3340.*
First Prize Winner of the 2002 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize

TEN TOURISTS VISIT BAKER'S ISLAND, MAINE
circa 1900

Mason:
This hurly-burly, these misshapen slabs,
I can barely stomach it, yet
what walls I could make.

Dancer:
These pink platforms by the sea!
Where is my partner?
Where are my slippers?

Aquarellist:
Hues, here, by the score,
the sea calling for blues,
the sky washing the horizon.

College Professor:
I catch my thoughts between
sea beats and find Blake
in a grain of granite.

Geologist:
I have died and gone to heaven!
Oh, heart swollen by stone!
Oh, ledge of eternity!

Mortician:
Boulders mock the symmetry
of chiseled graveyard markers — no
monument in this place.

Naturist:
Skin warmed by rock,
I lie in my hidden alcove,
chapel for sun worship.

Composer:
The sounds are chaotic
Where surf slams the isle —
notations for a sea symphony.

Natural Historian:
Only I notice rafts of eider
in ocean hollows, and tide pools
reveal whole worlds.

Stowaway:
I explore the glorious edge
as the boat full of fools
sails back to the mainland.

— Carl Little

Carl Little lives in Somesville, Maine and is Director of Communications at Maine Community Foundation. His book The Art of Maine Winter will be in bookstores this fall from DownEast Books.
It’s August 2, 2001 on the Island of Mount No Longer Deserted. It’s the pinnacle of prosperity in Bar Harbor, which is chock full of cheery and consuming tourists. In Acadia National Park, the customary mile or more of motionless motor city flivvers snakes its way down the right lane of Ocean Drive, glinting in the bright sunlight. Cars are circling the Sand Beach parking lot like vultures, waiting for an open space. They spill out of every parking area from Acadia Mountain to Wonderland (not quite A to Z, but close enough). Island Explorer buses are packed with people like sardines in a can. Three hundred hikers ascend Gorham Mountain—for a round trip of 2 miles that’s 1.2 million footsteps. Nearly five thousand more seek a peak experience on the 110 miles of other trails. Six thousand people visit Cadillac Mountain. Two thousand people, mostly bikers, hit the carriage roads. Most people are having a good time, maybe a great time.

Is any of this really a problem? If it is, is the problem too many vehicles or too many people? If you wanted to control visitor use of park lands on MDI, how would you do it? What approach would you take? What is the appropriate scale to address visitor capacity? Should it be based on geography? If so, should it be island-wide, East Side-West Side, or other smaller pieces? Should it be based on recreation systems like the Park Loop Road, trails, and carriage roads? Or should it focus on major attractions like Cadillac Mountain and Jordan Pond? What is the role of the Island Explorer in all of this? What desired future conditions would you manage for? What would you monitor and how? What new information do you need to make sound, informed decisions?

While some 30,000 people visited Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and guests who have studied these questions nationwide take a look at what happens when three million people try to share 30,000 acres of natural landscape.

How many are too many... Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and guests who have studied these questions nationwide take a look at what happens when three million people try to share 30,000 acres of natural landscape.
for some serious fun last year on August 2, 35 others were engaged in an intensive three-day workshop to seriously consider and try to answer the above questions. The goal of the workshop was to develop recommendations on visitor management and visitor capacity of park lands on MDI. Hosted by Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia, this workshop is the first major step of a long process addressing this critical issue.

A group of more than 20 experts in various disciplines from ten other entities including other NPS offices, other federal and state agencies, nonprofit organizations, the private sector, universities, and the local community joined ten park staff and three FOA staff over the three days. This august August group had over 500 years of experience in recreation management, transportation planning, park planning, urban planning, landscape architecture and design, visitor impact research, and social science research. Visiting experts all saw firsthand and confirmed the need to address visitor capacity.

Participants were divided into four teams. Each team addressed the same questions. Two teams looked at capacity on a large scale—looking at all park lands on Mount Desert Island. Two teams looked at the Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain sites. The entire group convened several times for reporting and discussion. Four case studies from other areas of the country were also presented. A final report describes the process and results of the workshop in detail.

We weren’t able to answer all questions or come up with a brilliant new strategy for visitor capacity. Visitor capacity and visitor management at Acadia are complex issues. There is uncontrolled access from State and town roads, high visitation, fragmented park lands with many entry points, and limited park staff to manage it all. The local communities share at least some of the same problems, and have a very important role in helping to solve them.

The workshop validated many ideas that park staff have discussed informally over the past several years. It served as a motivating, energizing event to move forward, experimenting with various actions to address visitor capacity issues. The community, the visitors, their experiences, and most importantly, the resources of the park depend on all of us to face visitor capacity directly and make the best decisions possible. Will we become the Island of Mounting Congestion or the Island of Sustainability? There are many more Augusts to come. What should they be like?

Charlie Jacob is a natural resource specialist at Acadia National Park.

Recommendations from the Visitor Capacity Workshop included:

- Develop a zoning system more detailed than that described in the General Management Plan to guide capacity decisions, including descriptions of the desired resource and visitor experience conditions. Use a rational planning process, like the one used to develop a visitor capacity for Acadia’s carriage roads, and support it with applied research.
- Understand visitor travel patterns through simulation modeling.
- Establish public transit for Cadillac Mountain during the summer season to assure a quality visitor experience, protect resources, and educate visitors.
- Explore a “no net gain” option for adjusting parking capacity throughout the park, and develop a parking plan for Acadia.
- Continue to pursue Intelligent Transportation System technologies (see page 10).
- Increase community awareness and public education about visitor demand approaching and exceeding the available supply of recreation opportunities. Develop a daily (e.g. 10 am and 3 pm) visitor capacity index for Cadillac Mountain and report it to the media, similar to that of a hotel occupancy rate.
- Conduct a car-free test for the Park Loop Road using the Island Explorer and supplemental buses during the off-season at a relatively busy time.
- Some participants believed there would be value to proactively decide upon a numeric capacity for Cadillac Mountain and Jordan Pond House, and that further delay would compromise resources and visitor experiences.
SATELLITES AND BUSES

This summer, Island Explorer passengers waiting at Sand Beach, the Bar Harbor Village Green, and Jordan Pond don’t have to guess when their bus will arrive. Thanks to new technologies sponsored by the U.S. Departments of Transportation and the Interior, intelligent transportation system tools are assisting with the efficiency and safety of national park transportation systems.

Acadia National Park has been selected as a field test location for computer equipment and other transportation-related tools. Geographic information systems (GIS) software and satellite technology track the location of all Island Explorer buses. The buses periodically communicate with satellites that pinpoint the geographic location of the buses. This data is then transmitted via radio signals to computers that translate the location onto maps of Mt. Desert Island roads.

Island Explorer dispatchers use this information to track buses off schedule and send out replacement buses or emergency vehicles if problems are encountered. Eventually, any computer user with access to the Internet will be able to view a map showing the current location of all buses in the Island Explorer fleet.

New electronic signs at the Village Green, and other key locations in the park, have been installed to display arrival and departure times at those locations. The displays give Island Explorer passengers an up-to-the-minute idea of when to expect their bus, increasing confidence in the system’s reliability.

Other technologies visible, and audible, to bus passengers this summer include automatic onboard bus stop announcements. These standardized announcements will be triggered by the bus location as pinpointed by satellites. Announcements include the bus stop name and information about trailheads and other key park destinations, such as the Jordan Pond House, Wild Gardens of Acadia, and restrooms.

Island Explorer buses now also are equipped with automated passenger counting devices. Previously, bus drivers kept track of passenger numbers and embarkation and debarkation points by hand. Island Explorer managers typed that information into computers and prepared summary reports. Passenger counts now will be downloaded from bus counters daily, increasing efficiency while reducing the data collection burden on drivers.

Vehicles entering Acadia National Park will also be counted more accurately this summer as part of a new technology system. Wire loops, such as those that trigger stoplights, have been installed in the pavement at many Acadia entrances. Visitors may also notice new solar panels and brown boxes beside these entrances that are part of the counting system. The goal is to help the Park understand and better manage vehicle travel patterns in and through Acadia.

In addition to vehicle travel patterns, Acadia is testing technology to assist with parking problems. A video camera will be installed at the Sand Beach parking area so that dispatchers will be able to see how many spaces are available at the site. This will assist rangers in determining when they need to direct traffic away from the lot. Eventually, planners hope to display the live view of the parking lot on the web. Visitors will be able to see for themselves how many parking spaces are available at this popular destination and decide whether to take an Island Explorer bus rather than their car.

2001 in the park—
2.8 million: visits to Acadia
11th: rank of Acadia in volume of visits among the 55 National Parks

Vehicles crossing the Trenton bridge on an average summer day:
12,139 — 1996
12,324 — 1997
12,952 — 1998
13,396 — 1999
13,437 — 2000
14,109 — 2001

Proud of our mountains, sea, c's air; and of supporting Friends of Acadia

Peter Forbes, FAIA
Architects

12 Main Street, Seal Harbor Maine 04675
207 270 0970

Summer 2002
Carrying on its longstanding tradition supporting outdoor conservation, L.L.Bean is donating $1 million to Friends of Acadia to help protect Acadia National Park. The money will be used for the propane-powered Island Explorer buses that serve park visitors. The donation comes as a gift to the state from the Freeport, Maine-based outdoor retailer as it celebrates its 90th anniversary this year.

“L.L.Bean is making this contribution to help at a time when national parks throughout the country face increased use and underfunding,” said Chris McCormick, CEO of L.L.Bean. “We want to help draw attention to the added burdens on park staff and park assets. Additionally, the impacts of pollution on the park are of great concern to a company whose foundation is to promote recreation and sound stewardship of our natural resources.”

With 3 million visitors to its flagship store annually, L.L.Bean shares first place with Acadia National Park for most visited spot in Maine. The donation will allow the bus service to expand to meet growing visitor demand and will allow the Island Explorer to begin providing fall service in 2003.

L.L.Bean’s commitment to the outdoors runs deep. As a reflection of both customer interest and the focus of the company’s product line, L.L.Bean partners with national, regional, state and local conservation and recreation organizations that promote conservation and stewardship of natural resources. Through these partnerships, L.L.Bean customers are afforded opportunities to pursue quality outdoor experiences. Among the company’s current partners are the National Park Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Conference, Student Conservation Association, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Ducks Unlimited, the Maine Island Trail Association, and now Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

L.L.Bean is dedicated to ensuring access to quality outdoor experiences. In recent years, the company has contributed significantly to a variety of conservation projects targeting land acquisition and expansion of stewardship programs. Those projects include The Nature Conservancy’s efforts to preserve the St. John River in northern Maine for recreational and aesthetic value; the Appalachian Mountain Club’s plan to expand educational programs, improve hut systems, and build a center to service thousands of hikers; and the Student Conservation Association’s initiatives to expand stewardship efforts in national parks.

The company encourages all of its employees and their families to enjoy the outdoors responsibly. Since 1980, L.L.Bean employees have volunteered over 26,000 hours toward the ongoing responsibility of maintaining an 18.5-mile section of the Appalachian Trail.

L.L.Bean also inspires volunteerism by connecting customers and employees with various outdoor organizations. In addition to local, state, and national conservation groups, L.L.Bean is committed to supporting dozens of health and human service agencies, education partnerships, and culture and arts organizations within the communities where the majority of employees live and work.

“We are thrilled to be working with Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service,” Mr. McCormick added. “By reducing cars and pollutants in the park, and by offering creative recreational opportunities, the park experience will be enhanced tremendously. It is a natural treasure that we in Maine are honored to help preserve.”
L.L. BEAN – PROTECTING OUR NATIONAL PARKS

To commemorate its 90th anniversary, L.L. Bean donated $1 million to Friends of Acadia to support the Island Explorer bus system. On June 21 at the Bar Harbor Village Green, Friends of Acadia, the National Park Foundation, Downeast Transportation and the National Park Service celebrated L.L. Bean’s extraordinary commitment to sound stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park.
Friends of Acadia board members Howard Solomon (left) and Linda Lewis (right) flank Dee Solomon. Rear left: Shawn Gorman, Senior Manager, Partnership Marketing, L.L. Bean.

Left: Karen Zimmerman and Melissa Wells, Z Studio; Tammy Davenport, L.L. Bean; Gary Friedmann, Gary Friedmann & Associates; Tom Crickair, transit planner; Shawn Gorman, Betsy Perry, Jim Morris, and Rita Armstrong, L.L. Bean. All helped make possible the $1-million grant to Friends of Acadia.

The propane-powered Island Explorer carried reception guests to and from the Jordan Pond House.

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of the world.
—Henry David Thoreau, "Walden"

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ACADIA’S VOLUNTEERS: DIVERSITY AND DEDICATION

Howard Solomon

Acadia National Park has its roots in the early 1900s, when Harvard University President Charles Eliot, George Dorr, John D. Rockefeller Jr., and others put their energy and resources into the creation of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. The land protected by the Trustees led to the establishment of Sieur de Monts National Monument on July 8, 1916, the forerunner of what we now call Acadia National Park.

From that auspicious start, volunteerism in the park has increased dramatically. In 2001, nearly 2,000 people contributed more than 34,000 hours to diverse projects through the National Park Service Volunteers-in-Parks program, and through Friends of Acadia’s stewardship volunteer program.

Work included projects in maintenance, on trails and carriage roads for example (13,268 hrs); interpretation (8,388 hrs); resource management (6,349 hrs); administration (1,883 hrs); search and rescue (1,805 hrs), and campground hosts (1,187 hrs).

The stories behind the workers are as diverse as the story of America: retirees and students; blue collar and white collar workers; island residents and vacationers from out of state or out of country; families and individuals join together to provide important services. Among them are: two retirees who have traveled from Florida for the past 10 years to give out information at the Hull’s Cove Visitor Center; two retired school teachers from Nebraska working alongside two Florida lawyers as campground hosts at Blackwoods; and a volunteer who has driven up from Belfast, Maine one day a week since 1991 to work on trails. As noted by Jonathan Gormley, the park’s Volunteer Coordinator, “Volunteerism is a long-standing tradition at Acadia. Our volunteers contribute their skills, experience, and good humor. This would be a very different place if not for this ‘unpaid staff’.”

Friends of Acadia’s history also begins with volunteers. Friends founder Marianne Edwards volunteered with trail crews in the 1980s and understood the park’s need for additional support. From the beginning, Friends has supported volunteers working on Acadia’s hiking trails and carriage roads. In recent years projects have expanded to include work on park boundaries and vistas, revegetation projects, and village connector trails on private property.

Friends provides work tools, bow and pole saws, loppers, shovels, rakes and hand clippers; weed whips and mower; gloves; a tool shed at park headquarters (built by volunteers, of course); training; two seasonal staff leaders who coordinate and lead work projects with volunteer crew leaders; and a van or two to transport people and tools to work sites.

Gary Stellpflug, Acadia trail foreman, has seen the size of his paid trail crew grow dramatically over the past couple of years, with increased funding from the Acadia Trails Forever initiative. Nevertheless, volunteers remain an important part of the trail maintenance equation. Last summer, volunteers dedicated one volunteer day almost every week to lay gravel on the east side of the Jordan Pond Trail. Stellpflug applauded their work, “Volunteer crews wheel barrowed about 270 cubic yards of gravel for fill and tred material at Jordan Pond. This outstanding effort allowed park trail crew to tackle the heavier work of wall building and rock moving, and together we completed over 2,000 feet of trail reconstruction. It was an excellent cooperative effort.”

On the carriage roads weeds, vines, and leaves must constantly be cleared from drainage ditches and culverts to allow rainwater to run-off adequately. Brush is removed from around coping stones, and protruding branches that might be a hazard to hikers, bikers, and other carriage road users are cut away. In the view of carriage road foreman Merle Cousins, “Without the volunteer groups my road maintenance program would fall behind each year. These folks know where the work is, and they’re willing to get it done. My hat’s off to all the volunteers.”

FOA-sponsored volunteer trail crews are not easy to categorize. The crew size ranges from two or three workers — especially in early May and late October — to as many
as 40 or 50 workers in mid-summer. Groups of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Brownies, church youth and YMCA campers from various parts of New England volunteer service days in Acadia. Educational institutions like Colby College (Maine), and Salisbury College (Maryland) often donate time on stewardship projects during their fall break. A University of Maine forestry class clears vistas and removes hazard trees annually. A mentally challenged group of men and women from Bangor work on the carriage roads each year. U.S. Coast Guard, Secret Service, and Maine Air National Guard personnel have used vacation time to volunteer in Acadia.

Age is no barrier to the rigors of trail work, either. It’s common for seniors to work alongside teenagers who participate with their parents. Last summer, a veteran volunteer’s five-year-old granddaughter pitched in with a small shovel on the Jordan Pond Trail. As evidenced by a 40-member multi-family group from Pennsylvania, which annually volunteers on the trails, the “family experience” is alive and well in the park.

The richness of the experience is enhanced by the international flavor of some groups. Volunteers over the years have come from France, Italy, Spain, Germany, the Philippines and Nepal. Some are university exchange students. Volunteer on the right day, and you might be able to brush up on your college German or Italian.

There is, moreover, an abundance of humor and fun along with hard work. During breaks FOA trail crew leader Alley enjoys reading outrageous tales from a book called The World’s Most Truthful Man, much to the delight, and sometimes the groans, of his captive audience. And music is offered on occasion. Without any prompting, two senior volunteers have been known to break out into song, mostly delighting those within hearing distance, occasionally sending a crew member further down the road. It is hard to please everyone.

What brings these dedicated individuals to the park year after year is not difficult to identify: a desire to “give back” in exchange for some of the pleasure Acadia has given them. And working outdoors, in an atmosphere of comaraderie and singular purpose on the very trails and carriage roads they have traveled, seems to be its own reward.

George Feltus, a long-time volunteer leader, has worked with many trail crews over the years. What strikes him is the pride in the faces of those volunteers who look back on an improved trail or carriage road. According to Feltus, they see “the magic and the reality rolled into one. They can’t leave a greater gift to the world.” Or as one young man from a vocational school simply put it, “We have done good.”

America’s national parks are seriously underfunded and Acadia National Park is no exception. In this context its vibrant volunteer program is perhaps more important than at any other time in Acadia’s history. While hardly a solution to major budget problems facing the National Park Service, these efforts are crucial to keeping the Park one of our country’s favorite places.

Howard Solomon is a Friends of Acadia board member and longtime volunteer crew leader in Acadia National Park.
The impassioned scarlet of woodbine spills down the vines embracing whatever is strong and upright, spills flaming down to where asters stand in lines of perfectly cool violet.

The year falls towards Winter. Summer’s green vault goes lax, burning with achievement, replete —

triggered by, oblivious to the cold to come the colorless close, the blank.

I will eschew bright leaves and hang a naked vine upon the door.

— Margaret McBride

Margaret McBride has been a teacher, traveler, and writer most of her adult life, walking whenever and wherever possible.
Driving the unfamiliar curves of Route 1A, I watch a cotton fog reveal the day instead of sunrise. I can not see much beyond the road, but I follow the spruce-soaked air south and east, anxious for a glimpse of Acadia.

The parking lot at the Precipice trailhead is empty, and mist conceals the cliffs that stretch above. A short flight of wooden steps leads from the parking lot to the beginning of the path, where a large sign warns that this is not a hiking trail, but a technical climbing route not meant for children or the inexperienced. I begin walking the damp trail, which narrows as I near the mountainside, where the actual upward movement begins.

Between the fog and last night’s rain, the rocks and boulders that make up the first part of the climb are wet and slippery. I have to use my hands, my fingertips grow raw, long dormant muscles strain from my hips to my shoulders. My breath grows louder in my head, which is fuzzy from an uneaten breakfast and a sleepless night of long-distance phone calls. Seven states and seven hundred miles between this new home and the last, between where I stand and where I could have stayed, having found a reason. But reason comes too late, and early morning desperation has led me to these rocks. The fog in my head converges with the fog in the air, and I stumble, scraping my knee through my pants. I wonder how intelligent it is to continue, alone.

Despite the blatant cautions, perilous conditions, and clouded view, I can not resist the lure of the Precipice, this place I had come so far to know. I follow the fog upwards along the paths of glaciers.

After the boulders, the route becomes a series of narrow ledges, switchbacks, and vertical ascents. I am guided by metal rungs and bars that are bolted to the rocks, spaced an arm’s reach and a knee’s lift apart. At sudden moments there are no handles where it seems there should be, and I have to make my own way, and then the bars return. Metal ladder, narrow ledge, iron handle, another cliff face. I pause between ladders to rest and check the progress of the view. The sun is burning through the fog at last, promising a hot August day. I begin to sweat, grateful that the mist prevents the east-facing metal and rock from becoming too hot to touch. The fog conceals perspective in all directions, yet I can feel the echoing height between where I stand and the parking lot below, and I begin to think that I can accept not being able to see. What I can see is the fog itself—individual particles of water, suspended on a whispered current. The mist condenses on my skin, salt mingling with salt. I hear a metallic cry from behind the fog, and I remember the falcons.

Recovering from near obliteration due to pesticides and other chemicals, peregrine falcons have called the heights of the Precipice home for a decade. The trail is usually closed during the nesting season from April to August. I am lucky to have found it open. Peregrines dive for their airborne prey from high ledges, and do not like to have anything above them. Is it a similar instinct that leads us to pull towards a higher place, to sustain the illusion of rising from whatever we call ashes? Can we climb away from what we leave behind?

The final cliff juts upward, the giant forehead of Champlain Mountain, and the last of the iron ladders brings me to the top, where a short walk from cairn to cairn leads to the summit. The view has cleared to the west, where Cadillac Mountain is a naked pink wall streaked with conifers. To the north, tongues of fog roll off the ocean onto the rooftops of a yawning Bar Harbor, and filter the sun to the east. It is still early; I am alone, breathing the salt-stained air one thousand feet above the Atlantic. I turn north and leave the half-hidden view for those who are now making their way up the mountain, and the fog closes, polishing the granite ground behind me. I look down upon the sea that has followed me up the coast, up the Precipice, and know that this is no escape. This is affirmation: Acadia. — Catherine V. Schmitt

Catherine V. Schmitt is a graduate student at the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at the University of Maine in Orono. She studies and writes about water and the coastal environment.
Book Reviews

**ACADIA PRIMER**

_Acadia's Trails and Terrain_

Text and photographs by Steve Perrin.
[www.eparks.com](http://www.eparks.com). 104 pp. $11.95, softbound.

The bookstore offers an abundance of field guides to help the amateur naturalist identify birds and plants, mushrooms and insects. Writer, photographer, and environmental educator Steve Perrin’s goal is to help visitors better understand what Acadia has to offer. In this, his second fit-in-a-pocket guide, Perrin focuses on the rocks and cliffs; streams, ponds, and shores; roads and bridges; and trails of Acadia. He begins with brief essays about Acadia’s natural and cultural history—from the Ice Age to the Fire of 1947.

In his first guide, _Acadia's Native Flowers, Fruits, and Wildlife_, Perrin’s photographs and captions explain what (it is), where (it can be found), and when (you’ll find it). Photographs range from the essential — green frog waiting on lily pad — to the unique — a great blue heron landing in a tree-top, webbed feet clearly defined.

Perrin’s vision expands to encompass the park’s largest features in _Acadia's Trails and Terrain_. As in the first guide, photographs and captions tell the bulk of the story. It takes time and experience to detect subtle details, such as the very individual characteristics of six of Acadia’s starkest cliff sides. His two guides help visitors choose the experience that will develop their appreciation and understanding of Acadia.

“Every week—every day—Acadia is different,” writes Perrin. “What is out there waiting to be discovered? Today is a good day to find out.” Tuck one of these guides into a pocket or pack, and make your next walk an expedition of discovery. — *L. Phillips*

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**ALL THE NEWS**

_Mount Desert Islander_

Edited by Earl Brechlin.
Published every Thursday by Ellsworth American, Inc.
[www.mdislander.com](http://www.mdislander.com). $0.75/issue, $34/year; newspaper.

It’s not a book, but the fledgling Mount Desert Islander weekly newspaper offers a new chapter in Mount Desert Island history. In November 2001, _Ellsworth American_ publisher Alan Baker started the _Islander_, giving MDI the benefit of two weekly papers. Earl Brechlin, former editor of _The Bar Harbor Times_, said, “We want the _Islander_ to be a true community forum, and that means having the broadest public participation possible in its pages. It’s a great opportunity to be able to start a newspaper from scratch,” he said, adding that it wasn’t an easy task. Take a look at the _Islander_ next Thursday and you’ll discover inside the distinctive design familiar columnist and reporters, as well as plenty of new voices.

Now if we can’t find out what we need to know, we’ll just have to return to getting our information over the back fence. — _L. Phillips_
In March 2002, at Friends of Acadia’s request and thanks to leadership by Senator Jill Goldthwait, Representative Ted Koffman, and Representative Paul Volenik, the Maine Legislature passed a resolution supporting full Congressional funding for Acadia National Park. Maine became the first state to express such support for its national park(s). The resolution was forwarded to President Bush and Congressional leaders.

If your business or organization would like to join the Acadia Full Funding Coalition, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340, or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.
IN MEMORIAM
Gifts have been received by Friends of Acadia in memory of:

Jon Curlutu
Marie Fairman
Len Garland
Talbot Halbach-Merz
Lester Hart
Clarence LaCount
Kathryn D. Leidy
David Rabasca
Marcia Savage
Barbara Stone
Phoebe Wentworth

IN NOMINE
Gifts have been received by Friends of Acadia in the name of:

Julia & Brian Andrews
Ethel Beaulieu
Geraldine Benner
Helene & Charles Bolstridge
P.J. & Charles Bolstridge
Emily Campbell
Nitza Damianou
Dave & Tina Downey
Eric Dubin & Jill Glazer
Carl & Jessica Faust
Peter Hathaway
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Esta Kass
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Peter, Lourdes, Kristen, Christopher & Pete, Jr. Lucas
Kevin, Jen & Sarah Lynch
Stephen & Leslie Lynch
Ann & Arnold Palmer
Maria Reyes
Nancy Trhlik
Susan & Peter Vincent
Jeffrey & Sally Weaver
Blair & Deborah Wentworth
Christine Wentworth & Antony Lucas
Pierce Williams & Veronica Markol
Marc Wolf
Laurie York & Jean Gosselin

Updates

The 2002 Ridge Runners and Recreation Intern join Acadia National Park Natural Resource Specialist, Charlie Jacobi, at Acadia’s Great Meadow. From left are: Charlie Jacobi, Kate Tanski, Scott Pierce, Mike Daubenspeck, Patty Reidman, and Brian Malone (Recreation Intern – 2nd Year).

The 2002 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members are (listed alphabetically): Nathan Ball, Eliot Beals, Chris Bohorquez, Geordie Coffin, Nicholas Dawes, Ian Day, Martha Elk, Avi Gabel-Richards, Jada Holloway, Alison Hudson, Ross Jolliffe, Anthony Madley, Benjamin Muir, Randy Walls, and Andrew Wheeler. AYCC crew leaders are: Tara Jeffers, Mike Phemister, Brad Pierce, Adam Vincent, Ken Wescott, and Dan Wheeler. The AYCC is working with park staff on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads this summer June 24 through August 16.
ACCESSING ACADIA

Given the overwhelming success of the Acadia Trails Forever campaign, Friends of Acadia’s Board of Directors revived some important goals that had been stripped from the original campaign.

One of the reestablished goals is raising $500,000 for wheelchair paths and other accessibility improvements in Acadia National Park. To date, $118,200 has been contributed.

A long proponent of these improvements is the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, which awarded Friends of Acadia grants in 1996-1998 for wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn carriages in the park. The Foundation continued this support in 1999-2001, directing it toward our supplementary goal to make Acadia more accessible to people with limited mobility. This support allowed Friends of Acadia to partner with the National Park Service to plan wheelchair paths in the Jordan Pond area. The work at Jordan Pond—which will take several years—also received support from the Island Foundation in 2001.

Other accessibility projects in Acadia include: upgrading 1,600 feet of the Ship Harbor Nature Trail near Wonderland, making it accessible to wheelchairs. Work began in 2001, and continues this summer.

The paths at Jordan Pond House, Ship Harbor and other front-country areas of the park will allow visitors in wheelchairs to experience the best Acadia has to offer, and alleviate erosion in these frequently visited areas.

Friends of Acadia is grateful for the support of the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation and the Island Foundation. They have played a crucial role in bettering Acadia National Park for this and future generations of visitors with limited mobility.

If you are interested in supporting Friends of Acadia’s accessibility project, please call Director of Development Kelly Dickson at 207-288-3340.

On July 1, 2002 the U.S. Navy Base at Schoodic in Winter Harbor formally transferred to the National Park Service. A Transition Ceremony was held on May 17, recognizing the completion of the Navy’s mission at the Schoodic base. Citing the U.S. Navy’s “outstanding contributions to the quality of the natural environment and to the betterment of community life in and around Schoodic Point,” Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson presented the Conservation Colleague award to Commander James Guest. Governor Angus S. King, Jr. and Acadia National Park Superintendent Paul Haertel joined in recognizing the many contributions of the Schoodic Naval Base.

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

Donors of Goods and Services

Acadia Corporation  program and event services & certificates
Berry, Dunn, McNeil & Parker  accounting services
Coastal Exposure  photographic services
Dorothy Kerper Monnelly  photographs
Ed Monnelly  photographs
Outside the Lines  website design services
Nicole Taliaferro  photographs
Ed Twilley  photographs

Volunteer Crew Leaders

Individuals planning and leading volunteer work groups in Acadia:

Bucky & Maureen Brooks
George & Anna Buck
Betsy Champlin
Charlie Edwards
Rod Fox
Vesta Kowalski
Bob Sanderson
Julia Schloss
Dee & Howard Solomon

THANK YOU!
Roll up your sleeves, put on your walking shoes, fill up your water bottle, and join in the fun of exploring your national park with a ranger! Here is a sampling of ranger programs to tempt you:

We all have to start somewhere... the Beginner's Bird Walk takes beginning birders into the park via caravan to learn how to use field guides, binoculars, and to find out where to look for Acadia's fine-feathered friends. Transportation and reservations needed. (easy)

Acadia's hiking trail system is incredibly beautiful, diverse, and historic. On Trails Through Time, you can discover their history while enjoying a hike. (strenuous)

Don't forget the kids — Mountain Mysteries is for children ages 7-14 (must be accompanied by at least one adult). Hike one of Acadia's mountains and discover its secrets. Reservations needed. (easy)

Parlez-vous Francais? Acadia offers two interpretive programs in French — check Acadia National Park's Beaver Log for more information.

Here is an offering that is completely new this year: the Carroll Homestead Open House. Drop in and learn about life on a Maine coastal farm in the 1800s. The historic home will be open for tours. Hands-on demonstrations for children begin outdoors on the hour and half-hour, weather permitting. (for all ages)

During the summer months, Acadia's landscape is fully cloaked in its green finery. On Green Kingdom, walk into the intricate and beautiful world of Acadia's flora along a historic carriage road. (easy)

There are all kinds of unusual creatures and plants that thrive in pockets of seawater along Acadia's shores. Join Life Between the Tides to investigate the place where ocean meets land and sea urchins live next door to white spruces. Reservations needed. (moderate)

This is but a small sampling of programs available. Pick up the Beaver Log, or view it online at www.nps.gov/acad/, for descriptions and schedules — which include boat cruises, hikes, talks, walks — and a full roster of evening campground programs at Seawall and Blackwoods.

We hope to see you out there, and remember: you can make a difference by riding the fare-free Island Explorer to ranger programs.

Park Information: 207-288-3338 voice/TTY
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.
OPERATING PHILOSOPHY
To accomplish our mission, we...

 Advocate. We advance park interests before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service and other federal, state or local bodies, and among the general public.

 Make grants. We raise private funds for select capital projects in Acadia and for its enlightened stewardship, creating sustainable revenues through endowments where appropriate. We strive to supplement federal funds and services, not replace them.

 Nullify threats. We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.

 Promote excellent management. We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.

 Operate independently. We function as a free-standing nonprofit, supportive of the park but independent from it. We reserve the right to differ respectfully.

 Seek a broad membership. We seek to maximize the number of park defenders, stewards and donors. We encourage every visitor to join Friends of Acadia as a means of giving something back to the park for the privilege of experiencing it.

 Enhance communities. We promote conservation in border communities through programs and grants that enhance their natural character and complement park values.

 Support volunteerism. We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of foot paths and carriage roads.

 Produce tangible results. We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.

 Leverage donated funds. We operate on a sound financial basis, leveraging member dues and other gifts to bring the highest conservation return per donated dollar.

 VISION
Friends of Acadia seeks an Acadia National Park that is the best funded, best managed, and best maintained national park for its size and volume of use. Mount Desert Island is distinguished by its intact natural character and the quality of village life. The air is clean, the water pure. Low-emissions public transit, funded primarily by park entry fees, contributes to conserving Acadia’s special qualities. Park visitation conforms to sensible carrying capacities.

 People feel a powerful reverence for their great national park and its host island.

 They want to keep this place beautiful for all generations. They help protect its outstanding natural, cultural, and economic attributes by supporting Friends of Acadia.
Plan ahead and prepare
It can be a wilderness out there. Take a map, compass, and water. Wear or take layers, and pack a first-aid kit.
Take care of yourself — wear appropriate footwear for your activity. Boots are best for hiking.

Travel on durable surfaces
You can make a difference. Stay on the trail or carriage road and preserve Acadia’s vegetation from the damaging effects of millions of footsteps, and decrease soil erosion.

Dispose of waste properly
Pack it in, pack it out. And, if nature calls while you’re far from amenities, dig a 6-inch cathole to deposit solid human waste.
Make sure you’re at least 200 feet away from any water source.

Respect wildlife
Observe wildlife from a distance. Never feed animals. Feeding endangers their health, alters natural behaviors, and exposes them to predators and other dangers.

Leave what you find
Preserve the past . . . and the present. Leave rocks, plants, and other natural objects as you find them.
Do not build or destroy structures, such as cairns.

Minimize the effects of campfires
Use established fire rings or fireplaces. Keep fires small, and burn all wood and coals to ash. Put out campfires completely.

Consider other visitors
Let nature’s sounds prevail. Enjoy Acadia quietly. Hike or bike in small groups.
Friends of Acadia

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