Purchase Your Park Pass!

Whether walking, bicycling, driving, or riding the fare-free Island Explorer through the park, all must pay the entrance fee.

The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) and $40 annual pass are available at the following locations in Maine:

- HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER (off Rte. 3 in Hulls Cove)
- THOMPSON ISLAND INFORMATION STATION (Rte. 3 before crossing onto MDI)
- SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION (on the Park Loop Road)
- BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND (off Rte. 3 in Otter Creek)
- ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)
- SEAWALL CAMPGROUND (off Rte. 102A in Southwest Harbor)
- JORDAN POND AND CADILLAC MTN. GIFT SHOPS
- MOUNT DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- VILLAGE GREEN BUS CENTER (next to the Bar Harbor Village Green and Island Explorer transfer location)

Your park pass purchase makes possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.
President’s Column

**SEA CHANGE**

The news from Washington is full of promise for our national parks. In perhaps the most welcome sea change in decades, the Administration is making a strong commitment to increasing funding to our national parks. Late last summer, President Bush and Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the Centennial Initiative, a program designed to send an additional $3 billion over ten years to our parks and prepare them for the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service in 2016. A successful initiative will set them up to thrive through a second century of protection, education, and public enjoyment of all they offer.

The Centennial Initiative proposes to provide an increase of $100 million per year for National Park Service (NPS) operations—an increase of $1 billion across the national park system when all is said and done. And, recognizing the concern and ability of citizen stewards, the Initiative proposes to match, dollar for dollar, private donations from national park partners, up to $100 million per year—potentially bringing an additional $2 billion into our parks over the next decade.

This is a challenge America’s friends groups can meet. Over the past twenty years at Friends of Acadia alone, our members, donors, and volunteers have enabled the organization to establish eight endowments, totaling more than $15 million, to ensure the ongoing protection, upkeep, and enjoyment of Acadia’s trails and carriage roads.

Walking, biking, riding a bus through Acadia—the partnership is tangibly thriving. The Gorham Mountain Trail is a more enjoyable hike because of restoration work funded through Acadia Trails Forever. The $13 million partnership effort has also restored several abandoned trails; constructed village connector trails in local communities; and restored well-loved trails like the Jordan Pond Trail, Spring Trail, and Long Pond Trail, among many other projects.

Other partnership efforts have reconstructed the carriage roads and provided for their ongoing upkeep, supported the work of thousands of volunteers, and established the propane-powered Island Explorer shuttle bus system—a low emission, high-volume success. In their eight years of rolling through Acadia and MDI communities, the buses have carried more than two million passengers, reducing traffic and resulting emissions. Partners are now seeking to ensure a thriving future for the system by creating the Acadia Gateway Center, providing a convenient location for day visitors to visit and learn about the park and the region.

These are just a few examples of what public/private partnerships have already accomplished in Acadia. We can accomplish so much more with the incentive of additional funding to match our private contributions.

The Centennial Initiative is still in the planning phase. Congress must authorize legislation that will allow the NPS to commit to the challenge. Friends of Acadia and other national park partners are tracking the legislation to ensure that it will enable partners to make the most of this historic initiative. And the Initiative must have significant successes over the next few years to convince the next Administration and Congress to continue the commitment.

Right now, however, we see the promise of the centennial vision in the proposed funding for the NPS in the coming Fiscal Year 2008. At this writing, the House of Representatives is considering a budget increase of $222 million over FY2007—the largest increase proposed for the National Park Service in history. Although we don’t know what it will mean for Acadia, it seems likely that the park will receive an increase to help address its annual shortfall of $400,000. We continue to monitor and support passage of this budget in the House, and will follow the budget proposed in the Senate later this summer.

What Friends has accomplished, and what we have the potential to still accomplish through the Centennial Challenge, is a credit to our members and volunteers. If you are a Friends of Acadia member, thank you. You demonstrate the best of citizen stewardship. If you are not a member, please consider joining. Your contribution will strengthen the message that Americans care deeply about preserving our cherished national parks.

—Marla S. O’Byrne
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Congratulations to Friends of Acadia for creating the first annual “Acadia Adventures: Family Fun Day” held at Little Long Pond last summer. All those children having fun outside was a welcome sight. There is certainly life beyond television, the computer, and the cell phone, but you would hardly know it today. Kids need to learn to experience life, not just watch it…. It is time for kids to turn off the electronics and turn on the natural and cultural environment that is all around them.

One beautiful morning in a Rocky Mountain National Park campground, I saw a large motor home pull in with a family that included two young boys. Just as the father had completed backing into the campsite, the two boys began, “Turn on the generator, Dad. Turn the generator on; we want to play video games.” Instead of suggesting that they go explore the spectacular surroundings, the father complied, and the boys disappeared into the motor home to play. They could have had the same experience anywhere. I was saddened by the missed opportunity to enlist more life-long fans of national parks.

Kids aged 6-11 spend 30 hours a week using the computer or watching TV. Currently fewer than 25 percent of school-aged children participate in daily physical activity. Because of habits like this, an estimated 15 percent of adolescents aged 6-19 years are overweight. Adult outdoor activity patterns begin in youth; 90 percent of the people who engage in physical outdoor activities began that participation between the ages of 5 and 18. We need to reach out to children before their patterns are set.

California research shows that children who participated in outdoor education activities improved their aptitude for science and math and increased their social and personal skills, including motivation to learn and ability to solve problems, and they had an improved sense of stewardship of the environment. Richard Louv, author of the book *Last Child in the Woods, Nature Deficit Disorder*, contends that children who spend time in nature are better thinkers, are more creative, and can deal better with complex issues. Unfortunately, many parents today believe that the woods down the street is a place to fear, with “strangers,” Lyme disease, West Nile virus, wild animals, and even dirt (i.e., germs). Parents would rather their kids stay inside where they can keep an eye on them. Louv quotes a fourth-grader in San Diego as saying, “I like to play indoors, because that’s where all of the electrical outlets are.” Lacking direct experience with nature, children begin to associate it with fear and calamity rather than with joy and wonder. In nature, a child finds freedom, thoughtful stimulation, a sense of wonder, and privacy—a place distant from the adult world, a separate peace. Children need nature for the healthy development of their senses and, therefore, for learning and creativity.

“When children choose TVs over trees, they lose touch with the physical world outside and the fundamental connection of those places to our daily lives,” said Steve McCormick, president and CEO of The Nature Conservancy. No electronic world can replicate the wonder of nature, whether it is standing on a mountain summit after a good hike, looking over the great expanse below, riding along a whitewater river in a raft, or watching a bull moose grazing near a pond.

When asked if he would read a popular book, a friend of mine would typically respond that he would “wait for the movie,” presumably because it took less time and effort. He was always looking for short cuts. Much of society today is looking for short cuts—the easier and faster way. Some would rather see a picture of a distant lake rather than hike the three miles uphill to enjoy it in real life. Being in nature is about the direct experience, not about being a spectator. No electronic environment stimulates all of the senses.

I am a proponent of “no kid left inside.” We need to develop many new opportunities to establish connections between youth and nature and the outdoors. I hope the National Park Service and other land conservation organizations can take on this challenge with great zeal. The future of America’s natural heritage depends on it!

—Sheridan Steele

“No Kid Left Inside” Peter Travers

Superintendent’s View
A Dog’s Life

Thank you for spending your time with us when we recently visited your office. We were taken aback when Friends of Acadia staff recognized Stuart and that he had the moniker “The Backpack Dog.” This was his seventh year touring the carriage road system in his backpack. We are surprised by how many people remember him from year to year. Also, when we walk the streets of Bar Harbor in the evening, it is fun to hear someone exclaim “Hey, there is Stuart.” The people usually do not remember our names but they do remember his. We enjoy having him be able to ride with us when we cycle. We do point out to people that his pack was made for dogs and purchased at a pet store. He also uses his own paw power when we take to the hiking trails in the park. This year he hiked Acadia, Beech, and Champlain Mountains, pulling the whole way up and all the way back down…. Ah, the life of a roving Scottish Terrier.

— Joanne, Scott, and Stuart Hemenway via email

Private Funding Needs Limits

Editorial from Tribune Chronicle (Warren, OH), January 17, 2007

We see nothing wrong with soliciting private support for America’s national park system—providing the possibility of it is not used as an excuse for Congress to underfund the parks.

And, we would add, providing that the mission of the National Park Service remains conserving our country’s natural and historic heritage—not salesmanship.

Acadia’s Next Generation

I have been waiting to [become a member] for so long and I have been going to Acadia for 17 of my short 23 years! I love all that you do for my favorite place in the world!

—Michael Rockett
New York
Poem

FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD
2nd Prize

Misplaced Landscape with Sandhill Cranes

Out of place, like a cyclist on a winter road
at dusk, two cranes bend then straighten their bony legs
stepping over rows of thick brown stalks, frosted stubble:
a chopped corn field touched with snow. Beside them, a flooded
ditch, iced-over; so they eat gleaned corn, a deer mouse,
and a lost half-frozen woolly bear.

The farmlands stretch for miles, but the cattle have been called in.
Only the cranes, dusky in this light, graze. I’m used to Currier
And Ives landscapes with stocky turkeys emerging
from the woods to scratch and peck a living under
the old apple trees. In these parts, meandering turkey flocks
sometimes hold up traffic on the rural highways.

But these cranes are far from the road, easy
to miss, despite being tall as the surrounding fence posts.
Svelte and large-framed, they are graceful for all their angles and bones.
Yes, graceful, because when I stop pedaling to be part
of the spare brushstrokes of this oriental winter scene,
the cranes take off, taking the whole world away with them.

With ease, their legs bend then straighten; their wings gesture across
the landscape of fields, darkening woods and outbuildings.
They take off as the sun takes light at dusk, as a brush runs out of paint.

— Douglas Woody Woodsum

DOUGLAS WOODY WOODSUM teaches high school English in rural Maine.
He has published poetry, prose, and cartoons in many newspapers, magazines,
and anthologies. His first success as a writer came when he lived for a winter
in Corea Harbor, Maine.

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PEG LAWSON, AN ALL-AROUND FRIEND

Some people join Friends of Acadia by making a membership gift, other people become involved through volunteerism, and some individuals come to Friends of Acadia with a willingness to give their time, talents, and resources. Margaret “Peg” Lawson is one of those good friends.

Peg’s love affair with the coast of Maine began when she and her late husband Harry traveled up the coast as newlyweds. They lived in Poughkeepsie, New York, with a modest travel budget, but they loved the rocky coast and the beautiful outdoors. Over the years, Peg was a repeat visitor, making each trip different—longer and shorter stays, sleeping in a camper and living in a condo, visiting along with Harry, her daughters, and her dog, Heidi. The one constant is Peg’s love for Acadia National Park.

It was on one of her camping trips at Blackwoods Campground on Mount Desert Island that Peg learned about Friends of Acadia. She quickly became a member so that she could be a part of preserving and protecting Acadia. In recent years, she joined the monthly giving program. In the spring of 2006, Peg increased her dedication even further by including Friends of Acadia in her estate plans as a beneficiary of a retirement account. She attended her first George B. Dorr Society event last August, joining other Friends planning giving donors for a carriage ride and special luncheon at Jordan Pond House.

While on the phone discussing her recent gift, Peg mentioned that she would love to volunteer for outdoor stewardship of the park, but she had one condition—she must be able to bring her constant companion, Heidi. Peg had already investigated the Friends of Acadia-sponsored volunteer program at Acadia National Park, a drop-in volunteer program held seasonally each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday, but dogs are not allowed on work outings. The park and Friends of Acadia had many other volunteer opportunities available last summer and Peg graciously dedicated much time to three important activities: assisting the FOA staff with member mailings, staffing the Islesford Museum weekly, and working on the Bar Island sandbar monitoring project.

Friends of Acadia augments its nine full-time staff members with volunteers during the peak season. Peg’s help with a particularly large mailing allows Friends to leverage her time to help raise thousands of dollars in annual support that will be granted to the park and local communities for conservation projects. Friends’ dog-friendly office made it easy for Heidi to accompany Peg on these volunteer outings.

Last summer Peg made a weekly ferry trip from MDI to Little Cranberry to volunteer for Acadia National Park’s Islesford Historical Museum, dedicated to the history of the Cranberry Isles and the lives of their hardy inhabitants. The museum relies heavily on volunteer support to staff the exhibits and answer visitor questions. Peg enjoyed the work so much that she made an exception to her volunteer rule about including Heidi. On Wednesdays, Heidi stayed home while Peg volunteered at the museum.

Peg mentioned that she would love to volunteer for outdoor stewardship of the park, but she had one condition—she must be able to bring her constant companion, Heidi.

Last summer, Peg also had the unique experience of monitoring the usage of the sandbar to Bar Island. This project was coordinated by Stephanie Clement, FOA conservation director, to count the number of pedestrians, kayakers, automobiles, and other users of the sandbar. The statistical analysis of the usage will be used in planning for future management of the bar.

Conservation and love of the outdoors has been a common thread throughout Peg’s life. When living in Potomac, Maryland, Peg was active in the Friends of Historic Great Falls Tavern, a nonprofit established to preserve a historic tavern along the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. An avid hiker, Peg was also an active volunteer with trail maintenance along a local portion of the Appalachian Trail. During the early 1990s, Peg and her husband sold their house in Maryland and moved to Florida, where Peg served on the board of directors for Friends of Guana River State Park; she is still active with its fall training for school programs.

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park salute Peg and Heidi for all they do for the park and local communities.

—Lisa Horsch
Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala
Saturday, August 11, 2007

The 18th Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala & Auction will be held on Saturday, August 11, beginning at 6:15 p.m., under the big tent at the Asticou Inn.

Last year’s event was the most successful event to date, grossing just over $600,000, and attracting more guests than all of the previous galas. This signature fundraising event raises significant funds that provide critical grants to park projects and help underwrite FOA’s general needs.

Plans are well underway for the 2007 Benefit Gala. Organizing chair Dianna Brochendorff and her committee have been working hard all winter making plans for the event, including acquiring exciting auction items and strategizing to keep the event fresh and exciting.

We encourage our friends to join us for an exciting evening of spirited bidding, delicious food, and dancing in a tent decorated in the hues of an Acadian sunset. To purchase a ticket or request a formal invitation, contact Terry Begley at 800-625-0321 or terry@friendsofacadia.org, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org and click the Benefit Gala sidebar.
Acadia National Park is not only a recreational gem on Maine's coast; it is also a unique ecological resource—a mix of flora and fauna at the edge of two bioregions. Much of the scientific knowledge about Acadia’s natural and cultural resources comes from researchers who conduct field experiments or gather population data at Acadia. Outdoor retailer L.L.Bean has begun a new small grants program, the Acadia Research Fellowship program, designed to further invest in basic understanding of park resources and to help solve environmental questions at the park.

The L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship program is part of L.L.Bean’s historic $2.25 million grant and pledge to Friends of Acadia for the Island Explorer and other park research and education needs. In the spring of 2006, seven research proposals were selected from a field of twenty-three applications to be the first class of L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellows. L.L.Bean’s generous gift provided support for five of the proposals; Friends partner organization, Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, augmented L.L.Bean’s gift by funding an additional two proposals, with support from the Davis Conservation Foundation. These additional projects had a special component of involving citizens and high school students in field science. I was fortunate last summer and fall to join three of the fellows as they explored some of Acadia’s unique flora and fauna and examined environmental factors influencing these species.

Aimee Phillippi, an adjunct professor at Unity College, spent the summer with two students conducting shoreline censuses along transects at the Schoodic Peninsula. The objective of Dr. Phillippi’s study is to research the Asian shore crab, *Hemigrapsus sanguineus*, an invasive crab that was found for the first time at the Schoodic Peninsula in 2005. Schoodic appears to be the northern end of the range of this species and Dr. Phillippi’s study will help characterize the Schoodic shoreline prior to the invasion of the crab, and help determine the effects that this invasive crab might have on native crab and shellfish species.

Holly Ewing, an assistant professor in the environmental studies program at Bates College, is working with Dr. Kathleen Weathers, senior scientist at the Institute for Ecosystem Studies, on a model designed to predict the response of terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems to atmospheric deposition. Two Bates College seniors, Lois St. Brice and Sam Taylor, worked with Drs. Ewing and Weathers throughout the fall and winter to complete senior theses related to this model. Taylor examined metals in soils as indicators of deposition, and St. Brice tested the model’s sensitivity to the various assumptions made about the structure and function of the ecosystem. Together these projects will help us better understand the possible responses of Acadia’s forests, soils, and watersheds to air pollution.

Nat Cleavitt, a research associate with the department of natural resources at Cornell

**INVESTIGATING ACADIA’S FLORA AND FAUNA**

Stephanie Clement

Dr. Aimee Phillippi (center) and Unity College sophomores, Meg Anderson (right), and Alyssa Marvel, examine a transect line at the Schoodic Peninsula for crab species. All crab species were recorded, along with specimen size, weight, moult stage, sex and reproductive status, and any injuries. Thankfully, no Asian shore crabs were seen last summer.
University, has been working for at least two years examining lichens and bryophytes (mosses and liverworts) on tree bark in Acadia’s coniferous forests. The L.L.Bean funding enabled Dr. Cleavitt to expand this study to include four deciduous study sites and three rock cliff sites. Each of the tree study sites is a large 70-meter diameter circular plot, which is the area generally used by the U.S. Forest Service for forest health inventories for lichens. Within the deciduous plots, Dr. Cleavitt, Dr. Alison Dibble, and Howard Prescott recorded size class, canopy position, health, and species for all trees greater than 5-centimeter diameter at breast height (1.37 meters from tree base). The main data set was a full inventory of lichen and bryophyte species found on the trees (including those outside the range that is normally sampled during a Forest Service inventory). Bark samples were collected at one meter off the ground, one-third the height of the tree, and two-thirds the height of the tree to examine correlation between bark chemistry and lichen flora. The information from this study will help Acadia better understand which species grow in the park, and what factors have the greatest influence on where, and in what abundance, they are found. Furthermore, the findings from this study are challenging basic understanding of expected lichen and bryophyte populations, as well as the overall process for inventorying forest-level ecosystems.

L.L.Bean’s support of field research in Acadia has stimulated additional funding and received broad attention across national parks and other public land management agencies. Such investments in people and science will contribute to the long term health of Acadia’s resources. Congratulations to all the fellows, and our thanks to L.L. Bean and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning for augmenting the knowledge base at Acadia.

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.

The following is a complete list of the 2006 L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellows and their projects, which were completed in the past year.

Natalie L. Cleavitt, Cornell University
Bryophytes and lichens in select habitats of Acadia National Park: Does substratum chemistry explain distribution?

Holly A. Ewing and Kathleen C. Weathers, Bates College and the Institute for Ecosystem Studies
Soil as a mediator between atmospheric deposition and streamwater.

Amanda Little, University of Minnesota, Duluth
Sphagnum in Acadia National Park.

Katherine McPhee, University of Maine
The significance of relationships and invasive species: the European fire ant and Homopterans.

Sarah J. Nelson, University of Maine
How much is enough? Developing a citizen-based monitoring plan for mercury in gauged watershed streams at Acadia National Park.

Aimee Phillippi, Unity College
Monitoring the abundance and distribution of the invasive Asian shore crab, Hemigrapsus sanguineus, on the Schoodic Peninsula and its effects on intertidal crab and bivalve population.

Nishanta Rajakaruna, College of the Atlantic
Conservation biology of rare plants of Acadia National Park: A proposal to conduct ecological and physiological studies to better inform rare plant monitoring and management protocols.
The Salters of Stanley Brook

Catherine Schmitt

Stanley Brook begins as rain that flows down the slopes of The Triad, Redfield Hill, and Day Mountain, then tumbles unimpeded through a forest of fir, cedar, and birch before flattening out and running like a ribbon of freshwater across the sandy beach of Seal Harbor, where it then meets the tide. This natural phenomenon of rivers emptying into the sea is rarely observed in the East, as so often rivers are forced through culverts and straightened channels, under roads, or between rock jetties. And so, it has been easy to forget that the land was once connected to the ocean in many intricate ways, and that some species continue to move between fresh and salt water.

Even brook trout, commonly considered a fish of remote, cool mountain rivers, wander into the sea on occasion. These sea-run brook trout, also known as salters, historically ranged as far south as Cape Cod, coastal Connecticut, and Long Island, although many populations have disappeared. Mount Desert Island once was home to sea-run populations of brook trout, alewives, smelts, and eels, and yet little is known of the present day populations, or how current human activities and uses may be threatening them.

Three or four major areas in Acadia are known to host salters today, including Stanley Brook, where a team of scientists from federal and state agencies and the University of Maine are studying the movements of sea-run brook trout in an attempt to better manage the species and understand the overall health of small coastal ecosystems.

Maine contains the greatest extent of remaining wild brook trout habitat in the eastern United States, according to a recent assessment by the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture. Yet much remains unknown about the species in the state, especially sea-run populations. Salters are not a commercial species, so their numbers are not tracked as closely by the state Department of Marine Resources as other marine food fish. Nor have salters traditionally been of interest to Maine’s Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife (IFW), which focuses on freshwater fisheries. Perhaps the only individuals who notice are the handful of anglers who seek out salter streams. Participants in this “cult fishery” don’t like to share their secrets, though, presenting a challenge for those charged with managing the state’s fisheries. “Salter trout use these smaller streams and their estuaries to varying degrees, but these fish are not well-known,” said Merry Gallagher, a fishery biologist with IFW, who needs to determine if the recreational fishery should be managed on a stream-by-stream basis or with statewide regulations.

While Stanley Brook is not under an abundance of fishing pressure, it’s possible that anglers have already taken all the big fish; if so, the stream has lost a significant part of its life history, according to Ben Letcher, a fish population ecologist at the Conte Anadromous Fish Laboratory in Turners Falls, Massachusetts. “In order to answer this question, we have to know the mechanisms of migration,” says Letcher, who is leading the project.

Brook trout in clear, cool, clean coastal streams such as Stanley Brook occasionally venture into salt water, especially when they are young. Last July, Letcher and his crew caught 40 sea-run trout off the beach at Seal Cove. In October they didn’t catch any. His theory is that the fish are heading upriver to spawn in the fall. But it’s also possible that the fish are residents of the stream and simply like to wander into the sea once in a while—likely for food, as sea-run trout grow much faster than their freshwater counterparts. In salt water, trout take on a rainbow of hues that distinguish them from fish that stay in fresh water; Stanley Brook salters are purple, green, brown, and silver when they return to upstream reaches. By fall, their colors have faded as they put all their energy into spawning.

Letcher has tagged the fish with little wires that send out unique signals, which are detected by two receivers placed beneath the Route 3 bridge. By tracking fish movement, Letcher is hoping to gauge how much time they spend in Seal Cove and whether their migration is driven by genetics. “I’m really interested in life history; how early genes get expressed that make trout go to the ocean,” says Letcher, who has spent the last decade studying trout and salmon.

From the perspective of the National Park Service, part of its mission is to maintain and perpetuate natural populations and processes to their full integrity, which requires an initial understanding of what resources exist in the park, says Bruce Connery, wildlife biologist at Acadia National Park. “We think we have a problem and we’re trying to figure out how big it is, but we also hope to learn more about the biology of these animals. Even a small population of sea-run trout could play an important role in maintaining the larger fabric of coastal ecosystems, and so the results will apply to small coastal streams throughout the region,” says Connery.

Perhaps the best indicator of the study’s relevance are the diverse partners participating in the project, which include Maine Sea Grant, U.S. Geological Survey Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, University of Maine, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, and the National Park Service.

CATHERINE SCHMITT is a science writer for the Maine Sea Grant.
2007 BioBlitz: Arachnacadia!

Ginny Reams and Stephanie Sutton

If hairy, eight-legged creatures give you nightmares, you might want to stop reading. On the other hand, if you have an appreciation for animals that weave intricate webs of silk, live on every continent except Antarctica, and come in 40,000 varieties (species), keep reading for an invitation to learn more.

On July 20–23, the fifth annual BioBlitz will take place at the Schoodic Education and Research Center in Acadia National Park. A BioBlitz is an event in which dozens of scientists join in a race against time. Armed with sweep nets, pit traps, tweezers, and more, they fan out across a given habitat, collecting every specimen within an identified taxonomic group they can find in a 24-hour period. This year the intensive survey will focus on spiders.

Acadia’s BioBlitz Series aims to establish a baseline inventory of lesser-known taxonomic groups while generating personal encounters with the natural world. Although BioBlitzes cannot provide a complete inventory of park resources, they can provide important information on species occurrence and estimates of species richness, and identify rare and unique species. This type of information is invaluable as the national parks seek to fulfill their mandate to “preserve the natural resources of the National Park System unimpaired for future generations.” It is imperative that we identify and understand park resources before we can hope to preserve them, and the BioBlitzes have proven to be an effective tool in providing much-needed baseline information. Preliminary results from last year’s Diptera (Fly) Blitz counted 50 families and approximately 261 morphospecies.

Amateur and professional entomologists are welcome to participate in this year’s BioBlitz. For audiences interested in a shorter and more general introduction to spider ecology and collecting, a free, public Resource Acadia “Spiders for Beginners” workshop will be held from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 22. Led by Jonathan Mays from the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife Invertebrate Group, the workshop will include a classroom session discussing general spider ecology and natural history, followed by a field session where participants will collect spiders to contribute to the BioBlitz effort. Registration is required.

For more information about this year’s BioBlitz or the Resource Acadia session, visit the Schoodic Education and Research Center at www.nps.gov/acad/serc.htm. For additional information, contact Kelly Pontbriand at kelly_pontbriand@nps.gov or 207-288-1316. Registration deadlines are June 22 for the weekend blitz and July 18 for the Resource Acadia program. Whether you’re a beginner just discovering the fascinating world of spiders or an amateur entomologist wanting to search for spider species, we hope to see you in July!

GINNY REAMS is writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

STEPHANIE SUTTON is a park ranger-outreach interpreter at Acadia National Park.

Like these researchers during the 2006 Fly Blitz, participants of the 2007 Spider Blitz will search every nook and cranny of the park’s Schoodic District for representative specimens.
Familiar bridges marked my passage home this spring. The high span over the Piscataqua to Kittery returned me to my native state. The Route 3 hump over Mount Desert Narrows put me on island, home at last after living away for 48 years. At dawn the next morning, my first walk into Acadia under the Eagle Lake Bridge completed the sacrament of return—or so I believed at the time.

I was born in Bar Harbor in 1943. I grew up here but do not have deep island roots. My parents, both geneticists, came in 1937 to join The Jackson Laboratory. I was an island boy for my first 15 years. The tide of life drew me out to school, work, and life away, but I returned every summer for treasured reunions with family and the park.

For a half-century, whatever the zip code du jour, park memories were my path back to the one place I could call home. When you grow up in Acadia, personal passages are remembered ‘in place.’ Part of you remains forever an inholding claimed by the park.

My first park memories are of the burning time in 1947. Our divorcing parents gather us for a late night escape to the mainland as great waves of fire flow over the mountains. We return to a different house, burnt woods, the drone of chainsaws gnawing at the wound, and a timely lesson in renewal.

Crunching through snow in December twilight, carrying my papers and Weekly Reader Cold War worries, I feel the sheltering presence of the great gray mountain masses. High above, the last light from the west catches the contrails of SAC bombers homing down toward their bases in the north.

Amber August light slants through century evergreens above the Pretty Marsh shore as extended families gather for a last evening at the end of their island summers. I am bewitched by wood smoke and a golden aunt.

Hiking alone in spring up Sargent, flushed with bright morning air and the muses of a young man, I stay at the summit to watch the day roll on down the coast toward Portland, home at last after living away for 48 years.

Today, young women play soccer there. My field of dreams has become theirs.

I have discovered that the gift conserved in Acadia changes constantly. On carriage road walks and trail hikes, seaward vistas I knew half a century ago are now reshaped by rising trees or reopened by fallen great ones. Familiar sojourns surprise, made new by the time of day or turn of season. A well-known granite face or mossy slope can refresh in ways as intimate as a good marriage.

Life in the surrounding communities has also changed. Could John Gilley, memorialized by President Eliot a century ago, make a home today on any of these islands? Much of the change is welcome, though. One can see the brilliant art of Wabanaki children at the Abbe Museum in the very room of the old YMCA where I learned to shoot pool. When I go now to our fine new YMCA, I often pause on Park Street to survey the athletic field where my late brother and I played baseball until twilight or fog ended our game. Today, young women play soccer there. My field of dreams has become theirs.

Is my homecoming complete? As Enoch said to the magistrate, “Not yet!” I have returned from away to the island of my youth to live the last, best third of life. I know now that this homecoming will last as long as I do. I will be coming home until my dust is returned at last to lichen, moss, and ferns. In Acadian grace, I have found paths back to family and community, and a trail ahead to what may be beyond the next bend. “Only that day dawns to which we are awake,” he wrote at the close of his Walden year. “There is more day to dawn. The sun is but a morning star.”

— Jack Russell

JACK RUSSELL and his wife Sandy Wilcox live at the north end of Echo Lake. When not rediscovering Maine and his library, he flies away to advise regional economic development organizations on strategic planning and political communication.
Friends of Acadia Journal

TWO ISLANDS, TWO PARKS, ONE VISION
Carl Little

A t the southeastern tip of St. John lies Saltpond Bay, one of the natural treasures of the Virgin Islands National Park. After a rather wild ride across the top of the island on the public bus (the crossing can be equally dramatic in a cab or rental car), one hikes a short trail down to a somewhat scruffy and narrow expanse of beach framed by Kiddel Point and Ram Head.

The amenities are minimal: one sauna-like unisex restroom/changing room and a couple of picnic benches set in shady nooks in the greenery that grows quite close to the shore. Many visitors come for the undersea viewing, their backpacks filled with masks, fins, and snorkels (and lunch, as there is no eatery close by). The bay is one of the best spots in the Virgins for spying rays and sea turtles.

“...the only other outlooks on the sea to compare with this, in our humble opinion, are those astonishing views from Acadia that encompass the Gulf of Maine.”

My family discovered this special spot while staying at an eco-lodge overlooking the bay about ten years ago. Accustomed to the free-for-all of more frequented spots in the islands, this remote site captured our fancy. As on our home island of Mount Desert, we tend to favor the trails less traveled.

Since that first visit, Saltpond Bay has become a place of pilgrimage. On a visit this past November, our appreciation of the place expanded, thanks to our discovery of the Ram Head trail. Taking a break from snorkeling and swimming, in the heat of the day, we decided to hike it, never having ventured before.

Starting from the trailhead (with its familiar and comforting national park signage) at the far end of the beach, we clambered our way up ridges and down gullies, taking in a wonderful variety of prospects around each corner. At one point we came out onto a cobbled beach—shades of Maine!

Pushing on, we climbed to Ram Head, a 200-foot-high cliff looking out on Flanagan Passage and the Caribbean Sea. The broad vista left us breathless, the sea stretching to the edge of the world. The wonder expressed in the final lines of John Keats’ famous sonnet “On First Looking Into Chapman’s Homer” came to mind:

Or like stout Cortez when with eagle eyes
He star’d at the Pacific—and all his men
Look’d at each other with a wild surmise—
Silent, upon a peak in Darien.1

More than a memory of poetry, we made a long-distance visual connection. The only other outlooks on the sea to compare with this, in our humble opinion, are those astonishing views from Acadia that encompass the Gulf of Maine. Whether atop Champlain with its balcony prospect of the Porcupines and Frenchman Bay or looking out on the Cranberry Isles from the summit of Cadillac, the panorama demands you stop in your tracks and drink it in.

Late in the afternoon of our St. John visit, back in Cruz Bay, we noticed activity around the Virgin Islands National Park headquarters, an elegant yellow building that sits on the waterfront. As it turns out, the next day, December 1, 2006, the park would be celebrating its 50th anniversary with the unveiling of a new garden exhibit honoring the role of private philanthropy in the creation and ongoing support of the park.

Reading up on its history, we learned that the Virgin Islands National Park officially came into existence on the first of December 1956. That day, Laurance S. Rockefeller presented the deeds to 5,086 acres of St. John land to Fred Seaton, secretary of the Department of the Interior, in a ceremony held at Cruz Bay:2 We knew of the Rockefeller tie-in between “our” two islands, but this extra knowledge enhanced our appreciation of their foresight and public service.

Like Acadia, the Virgin Islands National Park has a Friends organization that adds substantial private support to preserving a public resource. The mission is parallel: to work with philanthropists, businesses, foundations, and dedicated volunteers, in concert with the park service, to protect the flora and fauna (from conifers in the north to coral in the south) of these remarkable places.

1 As historians often note, it was Balboa, not Cortez, who first saw the Pacific Ocean from the east coast of Panama.
2 The park on St. John will be expanding soon, thanks to a campaign by the Trust for Public Lands. For more than five years TPL has been working to acquire 415 acres on Maho Bay, one of the island’s most picturesque settings.

CARL LITTLE’s most recent book is Ocean Drinker: New & Selected Poems. He is director of communications and marketing at the Maine Community Foundation.
The fog has just lifted its eyelid off Bracy Cove as I walk along the carriage road by Little Long Pond. On my way to the boathouse that my grandfather John D. Rockefeller Jr. built, I join other early walkers. Most of them have at least one dog. Not owning a dog myself, I look appreciatively at those who carry little plastic bags to remove their dogs’ droppings. It may seem a small thing, but to me it stands for much more—the possibility that we are beginning to understand what it means to actually take responsibility for our effect on the environment. It is a sign that we are willingly taking steps in our daily lives to come to terms with waste, or more broadly, with the by-products our lifestyles generate.

The little plastic bags give me hope. Yet we are still so selective in our efforts. Some people may pick up soda cans and candy wrappers yet not clean up after their dogs. Even those who are vigilant about their dog’s waste may not have considered using compact fluorescent lights in their homes to conserve energy. And most Americans drive cars that by themselves emit more carbon dioxide than do whole villages in other parts of the world.

Many of us come to Acadia to leave urban lives behind. We seek to be restored by immersing ourselves in Acadia’s wild beauty. Yet we remain primary contributors to a global warming, which will flood Long Pond and drain our spirits. There is really no escape from thinking more broadly and deeply about what we are leaving behind—both as waste and as legacy.

What further steps can we each take to ensure Acadia’s pristine future for our future generations?

I think about what I can do. I resolve to ask the Seal Harbor Village Improvement Society to supply plastic bags and service a garbage can at the entrance to Little Long Pond. I drive a Prius and my husband and I have tried to model our values to our sons. I wonder what my grandfather would have done had he been alive today.

For the first eight years of my life I knew my grandfather as a serious but kind man who played Chinese checkers. His summer “cottage,” named “The Eyrie,” overlooked Sutton Island from the promontory above Long Pond. Its massive Tudor beams spread over the cliffs like giant eagle’s wings.

Each summer, as my family drove down the final hill towards Bracy Cove (opposite Long Pond) my five older siblings and I would crane our necks, wanting to be the first to yell, “I see Grandfather’s house.” In those days, some fifty years ago, his house was the closest thing to a billboard. It advertised without words that this was a place where people from the city came for a view of the sea. But to us squirming children among four dogs, a meowing orange cat, and a terrified canary, it was the sure sign that summer and freedom were just around the corner.

As soon as I unpacked my clothes I would race down the steps past the little Tudor house to Long Pond to look for minnows or pick water lilies for my mother. On the way...
back I would eat handfuls of blueberries growing beside the pond. One summer day I saw a deer frozen and unresponsive at the water’s edge. Terrified, I ran to tell our governess, who promptly called a park ranger. He told us there had been an outbreak of lockjaw and advised we take a walk down the road. Soon thereafter we heard a gun shot. Another time I found a snapping turtle’s nest with ten eggs on the lower road to the boathouse. Everyday in Maine was a discovery in nature.

On Sundays my grandfather often invited my family for lunch. We put on our best clothes and were driven up the hill by our parents to keep our dresses and pants free of blueberry stains. Grandfather would invite us to sit in his living room filled with Asian art and furniture. There he taught me to play Chinese checkers, a game of leapfrogging marbles into opposite triangular homes.

Today the Friends of Acadia have assumed the role of familial host and grandparent to this magnificent island of Mount Desert. My husband and I are grateful supporters of their role in protecting its beauty for all. Like the triangular home-bases on the Chinese checker board, the future of Acadia National Park rests on three sets of shoulders: the National Park Service and staff, Friends of Acadia, and everyone who enjoys its natural beauty.

Seventy-five years ago, three men—my grandfather and his friends Mr. Dorr and Mr. Eliot—had the foresight to preserve Acadia for generations of their descendants and others. Today we have a moral imperative to do all we can to minimize global warming. This means thinking carefully about what we leave behind, both on the trail and in our legacy. I invite you to join in our founder’s footsteps, leaving no trace but the fog behind. ♦

EILEEN ROCKEFELLER GROWALD is the granddaughter of John D. Rockefeller Jr. As a venture philanthropist and writer, Eileen and her family split their time between their farm in Vermont and their summer home in Seal Harbor, Maine.

ANNOUNCING
THE DAVID ROCKEFELLER “ODYSEA” FUND

Eileen Rockefeller Growald has enthusiastically contributed $10,000 to Friends of Acadia for the creation of the David Rockefeller “Odysea” Fund. This fund is given in gratitude for her father’s longtime generosity in sharing his private carriage trails with both his family and the public, for their mutual love of carriage driving, and as an expression of gratitude for his recent gift to Eileen of one of his Morgan horses, as a match to her mare. The horse’s name is Odysea, a fitting name for driving horses by the sea. Eileen welcomes other gifts to this fund from all who share her appreciation of the carriage trails and her father’s generosity.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.
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We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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July 1, 2006 – March 31, 2007
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Results of Bar Study Released

Last summer, 30 Friends of Acadia volunteers spent 15 days monitoring visitor use at the sandbar connecting Bar Harbor to Bar Island, which is wholly owned by Acadia National Park. The sandbar is exposed for two hours on either side of low tide and receives extensive use by pedestrians, kayakers, automobiles, dogs, and others. Friends of Acadia undertook the study to: gain a better understanding of visitor use at the bar, work with partners to mitigate potential conflicts among users, and plan for the future of this important recreational resource.

The days selected for study on the bar were randomly chosen according to the progression of the tides. Because Friends wanted information about bar usage during all tides, volunteers were stationed at the bar on good-weather days from 6:00 a.m. to sunset. By far, pedestrians were the largest users of the bar, averaging 428 people per day and totaling 6,423 during the 15 days of monitoring.

Automobiles were the second largest user group, with 653 total or an average of 44 per day. Of this total, 72 percent were vehicles that drove out onto the bar and parked while occupants got out and enjoyed another activity on site. Another 24 percent of the vehicles drove out and back on the bar without stopping, and 4 percent were administrative vehicles, such as park rangers or state or town vehicles. Eleven vehicles were judged by volunteers to have been driving on the bar in a fast or unsafe manner, such as skidding in the gravel or driving too fast around pedestrians. Additionally, 240 vehicles, or an average of 16 vehicles per day, were seen driving down Bridge Street and turning around before they reached the bar (due to high tide, being lost, etc.).

Kayakers were the next largest user group. One-hundred-fifty kayak groups launched at the bar during the summer, 59 percent of which were commercial kayak groups, and 41 percent of which were private. The total number of commercial kayaks launched was 522 and there were 105 private kayaks.

Of the 283 dogs that were seen at the bar, 54 percent were on leashes. Forty-seven instances of dogs defecating were recorded, but owners only cleaned up after their dogs 40 percent of the time. There were also at least two instances where off-leash dogs disturbed shorebirds resting on the bar.

The information gathered at the bar will be shared with the Town of Bar Harbor, Acadia National Park, area landowners, and other interested parties. A more formal report will be prepared this fall and posted to the Friends of Acadia website.

Bar Study Volunteers

Friends of Acadia would like to thank the following dedicated volunteers for assisting with data collection at the bar:

Barbara Arter
Tricia Blythe
Jennifer Booher
Dorian Britt
Bucky Brooks
Maureen Brooks
Chris Dougherty
Linda Eddings
Tim Fuller
Lin Gould
Liz Kase
Anne Krieg
Allie Landry
Peg Lawson
Jim Linnane
Marsha Lyons
Andy McCaffrey
Doug Michael
Paul Richardson
Mary Ann Siklosi
Jean Smith
Dee Solomon
Howard Solomon
Natalie Springuel
Sarah Richardson
Stanley
Grant Wentworth
Mark Wentworth
Harriet
Whittington
Andrew Young
Luis Zapata

We also thank Charlie Jacobi, Doug Michael, Jean Smith, and Natalie Springuel who provided expertise in developing the project.
Earthquake Rocks Acadia

Maine residents are hardened to many natural phenomena—like Nor’easter storms and the ocean’s tides—but few are accustomed to earthquakes, which are extremely rare occurrences in Maine. So Mount Desert Island residents were surprised this past fall by a series of earthquakes between the months of September and November.

The strongest of the quakes—4.2 on the Richter scale—occurred at approximately 8 o’clock on the evening of Monday, October 2. Tremors were felt throughout most of Maine and caused a number of rock falls in Acadia National Park. Eager to survey the earthquake damage, Acadia National Park trail crews hiked east side trails the next day to assess damage from the previous night’s seismic activity.

Two trails were closed because of the slides—the East Face Trail on Champlain and the Precipice Trail. A massive 50-yard wide landslide, and several smaller slides, obliterated whole sections of the East Face Trail. Many steps on the trail were destroyed or damaged and many trees were broken. The Precipice Trail was also damaged by several slides and tossed boulders with rungs bent and holes punched through the trail bridge. Both trails remain closed but park trail crews are working on the East Face Trail this summer, and will begin work on the Precipice when the Peregrine Falcons have fledged.

Other trails that were damaged by falling boulders but not closed include the Ladder Trail, Kurt Diederich’s Climb on the east face of Dorr, Beachcroft Trail, and Homans Path, where approximately 200 tons of rock came down.

While the earthquake damage is interesting to see, please respect trail closure warnings to ensure your safety as you enjoy the park this summer.

2007 Earth Day Roadside Cleanup

Friends of Acadia would like to thank the more than 300 volunteers who participated in its 8th annual Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up.

Trawling through wet ditches and soggy roadsides picking up trash, Earth Day volunteers collected 12,000 pounds of trash from 120 miles of road in the Mount Desert Island, Trenton and Schoodic areas. Participants reported that there was less trash this year, so the annual clean-up is making a difference for the better.

We express our gratitude to: the individuals who joined us, the many local businesses who recruited volunteers, the Maine Department of Transportation for picking up the bagged trash, and to Hannaford Supermarket for all the water and snacks that fueled the volunteers for this project. This event is successful because of the ongoing support of our local businesses and generous community members.

Remember to celebrate Earth Day year-round by keeping the roadsides trash-free. Please dump your trash appropriately. Recycle
what you can and put the rest in trash cans or dumpsters. We hope to see you “on the road” next year, on April 26, 2008, with friends and family!

An Afternoon in the Park

The 2nd Annual George B. Dorr Society celebration took place on Monday, August 7, 2006, in Seal Harbor, Maine. The celebration began at Wildwood Stables with a carriage ride around Jordan Pond. Two buckboards carried guests and featured interpretation from long-term park experts—Merle Cousins, road foreman for Acadia National Park, and Deb Wade, Acadia’s chief of interpretation. Their presentations included the history, engineering, and future of Acadia’s beautiful carriage road system. The carriage ride ended at the Jordan Pond House where guests enjoyed a lunch of lobster, salmon, curried chicken salad, and pasta. The lunch also featured a presentation by Chief Interpreter Wade about the carriage roads and the essential role John D. Rockefeller Jr. played in the planning, construction, and development of the nation’s premier crushed-stone pathways.

The afternoon was a small way for Friends to show its appreciation to George B. Dorr Society members and other special friends. The Dorr Society was established in 2005 to recognize those members and friends who have made future provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, a gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. To learn more about including Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or to share your existing estate provisions with FOA, contact Lisa Horsch, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

New at Friends

Erin Hitchcock recently joined the Friends of Acadia staff as communications coordinator, responsible for organization-wide outreach and communications efforts, as well as serving as editor of the Friends of Acadia Journal.

A native of Vermont, Erin previously served as director of events for the Vermont Chamber of Commerce, a position in which she was responsible for planning, executing and marketing all chamber events, including the Vermont Business & Industry EXPO, northern New England’s largest business-to-business tradeshow. She brings to Friends experience in creating strategic communication and marketing plans, website development, publication design and media relations, as well as writing and editing.

Erin moved to Bar Harbor in January and temporarily worked in the advancement and external affairs department at The Jackson Laboratory before landing at Friends. She serves on the Sea Coast Mission’s gala planning committee and enjoys exploring the island and Acadia National Park with her fiancé Chris and their dog, Frankie.

Erin holds a bachelor’s degree in communications and public relations from Elizabethtown College in Pennsylvania. While pursuing her education, she held communications internships at the Pennsylvania Dental Association and the Pennsylvania State Nurses Association, and she was a television news anchor for the college’s live evening newscast.

Erin can be reached at 207-288-3340 or erin@friendsofacadia.org.

Kansas and Nevada Are Missing … Can You Help?

Friends of Acadia has members from every state except Kansas and Nevada. Can you help us meet our goal of a member from every state?

If you have a friend or relative in Kansas or Nevada, please encourage them to join Friends of Acadia, or give them a gift membership. If you choose to give a gift of membership, we will send your friend a copy of The Rusticator’s Journal, a delightful book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park, along with new membership materials.

Please let us hear from you by August 31 so we can end the summer season with every state represented among Friends’ membership. Simply complete and return the form on page 5, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

Making Progress on Acadia Gateway Center

The Environmental Assessment (EA) of the Acadia Gateway Center project was published for public comment in September 2006. The environmental consequences of a “no-build” alternative and the preferred alternative were considered in the document. The preferred alternative identified was the construction of the Acadia Gateway Center, including visitor information facilities, a bus maintenance and office area, bus boarding areas, roads, parking lots, and potentially theaters and expanded information/display space. The EA proposed construction of the transit and welcome center in four phases to give the Maine
Department of Transportation and partners time to secure funding and the necessary environmental permits.

In December 2006 and January 2007, the Federal Transit Administration and the National Park Service respectively issued their decisions on the Acadia Gateway Center EA. Both agencies issued “Findings of No Significant Impact,” which gave project partners permission to move forward into the design phase. Friends of Acadia extended its option on the 369-acre Crippens Creek parcel, on which the center will be built, for one additional year. For more information about the proposed Acadia Gateway Center, contact Friends’ Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

Secretary of the Interior Visits Acadia
Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne visited Acadia National Park on Wednesday, September 20, 2006. Friends of Acadia staff and Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele accompanied Secretary Kempthorne on his tour. Later that afternoon, Secretary Kempthorne held a listening session in Brewer at which Friends’ Conservation Director Stephanie Clement testified about the park’s needs for operating funds and Land and Water Conservation money. Several members of the Acadia Advocacy Network also testified in favor of the park. Pictured here are Friends’ Director of Development and Donor Relations Lisa Horsch, National Parks Conservation Association Regional Director Alex Brash, Secretary Kempthorne, and Stephanie Clement.

Important Information Regarding Pensions
The Pension Protection Act of 2006, signed on August 17, 2006, contains a series of rules for reforming and funding pensions. Of particular interest to older taxpayers are the provisions that allow for tax-free distributions from individual retirement plans for charitable purposes. The Act provides that, in 2006 and 2007, a “qualified charitable distribution” that does not exceed $100,000 shall not be includible in the gross income of the taxpayer.

A “qualified charitable distribution” is a distribution (i) made directly by the trustee of a plan to a qualified charitable organization, and (ii) which is made on or after the date that the individual for whose benefit the plan is maintained has attained age 70 1/2. The distribution is “qualified” only to the extent that it would have been includible in gross income without the new provision, and that a charitable deduction would have been allowable. There is no charitable deduction for the amount that has not been included in income.

This provision can benefit two groups of individuals who are over 70 1/2 and who want to help Friends of Acadia. First, it allows those who are not able to itemize deductions to direct IRA assets to Friends of Acadia and avoid paying the taxes that would eventually be due on those IRA funds. Second, individuals who may have designated Friends of Acadia to be the beneficiary of their IRA after their deaths can, in 2006 and 2007, direct IRA funds to Friends of Acadia and see the tangible benefits of their gift during their lifetimes.

—Stephen P. Koster

STEPHEN KOSTER, a longtime Friends member, is an attorney with Vacovec, Mayotte, and Singer in Newton, Massachusetts.
Thank you for Renewing Your Membership

Thank you to all Friends of Acadia members who made our spring membership renewal drive a success. As of press time, we received nearly 825 new and renewed memberships since January, for a total of about $105,000 in membership gifts.

We especially appreciate your response to our new membership renewal schedule. To simplify the process and help members keep track of their dates, we are now asking for all renewals in March, and memberships are effective through December 31. The transition to the new schedule meant an early renewal for many members, and we thank you for your understanding.

In addition to making renewals more member-friendly, the new system will help Friends of Acadia plan for the year ahead and budget for the projects FOA needs to support in Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities.

If you have not yet renewed your membership, or would like to become a member, please use the enclosed gift envelope or visit our secure website at www.friendsofacadia.org. If you have any questions or suggestions about the new schedule, please contact Sharon Broom, development officer, at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org.

L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia

Acadia Ranger Pete Berquist, a former ridge runner for Friends of Acadia, displays examples of inter-tidal life for students from the Quimby School in Bingham, Maine. The students explored the shoreline as part of their multi-day field education experience at the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA). L.L.Bean has pledged $125,000 to Friends of Acadia over five years to grow SEA offerings through additional student internships, teacher training workshops, and a competitive scholarship and transportation assistance program for Maine middle schools (5th – 8th grades). The L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia program awarded funding to six schools in 2006, including the Quimby School.

New Benefits for Members

As a special way of thanking its members, Friends of Acadia is offering new benefits for each level of giving. Members will receive the following benefits during the calendar year of their membership:

- **Sand Beach Member ($35)**
  - Subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually
  - Friends of Acadia sticker
  - Invitations to events
  - E-mail alerts

- **Otter Cliffs Member ($65)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Summer issue of the Beaver Log (the Acadia National Park newsletter and programs calendar)

- **Flying Mountain Member ($100)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Executive Bulletins
  - Acknowledgment in the annual report

- **Beehive Society ($250)**
  All of the above, plus

- **Gorham Mountain Society ($500)**
  All of the above, plus
  - A $10 gift certificate for use at Jordan Pond House.

- **Acadia Mountain Society ($1,000)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Invitation to special educational program and luncheon or reception

- **Beech Mountain Society ($2,300)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Acadia National Park pass for one year

- **Parkman Mountain Society ($5,000)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Invitation to a private reception and other special events

- **Pemetic Mountain Society ($10,000)**
  All of the above, plus
  - Special naturalist-led excursion

Thank you again to all of our members. We hope you enjoy these benefits, as well as the most important benefit of all: the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping Acadia endure as one of the most beautiful places on Earth.
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

What will Acadia National Park look like one hundred years from now? Thanks to the passionate commitment of many people, Friends of Acadia helps to preserve and protect this magnificent landscape for today and for future generations.

As you plan your giving for 2007, please consider these options for providing essential financial support to Friends of Acadia:

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

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

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

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

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/join.
Book Review

An Artist's Acadia


As I leaf through Intimate Views by Phyllis Rees, exploring each painting and reading the line or two of poetry-like-prose next to it, I am struck by her ability to pull the viewer into her paintings. Rees has a unique ability to choose a section of Acadia National Park or Mount Desert Island and make us focus on a small slice of its beauty. She uses color and line, sunlight and shadow, composition and subject with dexterity. I look into lakes and see the rocks on the bottom; the sun and trees reflected on the surface. I see grasses and wind, water and trees, sky and sun. But don't make the mistake in thinking that these are small paintings because they only show a portion of a pond or lake. These are large canvases that speak eloquently. They fill you up with the peacefulness that we take for granted and leave you feeling like you have just gone for a long walk and thoroughly enjoyed it. Rees has truly captured the essence of Maine—its quiet beauty and tranquil places.

— Rose O. Sharon

Lobsterman Lore


For readers who keep a weather eye out for books about Mount Desert Island and its surrounding waters, Working the Sea is a very special find. I was born two years before the author and have since spent all or a part of every summer by and on the very waters of which he writes. As a boy, I was raised on the water by a Jonesport man, who was the Bear Island lighthouse keeper, and three local men—two Spurlings and a Bunker—whose island family roots were as deep and fascinating as those of Wendell Seavey. I learned the sea first-hand from being with these men as they went out for fin fish and lobsters, and as they built, sailed, and maintained the boats that were an integral part of their lives. But more importantly, the time spent with them and the unvarnished stories they told of their lives allowed a boy “from away” to feel a part of that which Seavey so eloquently writes.

Seavey helps me remember, as if it were yesterday, what it was like to bait and set trawl, to use the very landmarks he recites to find the best grounds to handline for 20-pound cod and haddock, and to go out just at daybreak to haul, bait, and set lines of lobster traps off the outer islands. Sadly, he also reminds me that lobstering is all that is left of that fishing, due to the destruction of habitat and breeding stock of fin fish wrought by the draggers. Indeed, as the author’s immediate world changed, so also was he motivated to leave it for a while. It is interesting to hear about his time in the military and travels across the United States from the viewpoint of a local Downeaster, but, frankly, I was glad to return with the author to his Mount Desert Island life.

— Andy Pew

Heart of the Matter

“Flowers were meant to be seen, not overlooked. Their bright colors imply eyes, spectators.”

— Henry David Thoreau
A couple of days ago Rosemary, Lucky, and I headed to the park for our Sunday walk. Like most visitors to Acadia’s Schoodic District, when we go we usually make the turn onto Moore Road, head up the hill, cross the bridge, and enter the park. We may stop at Frazer Point, but more commonly we drive to the gatehouse lot, the Point, or Blueberry Hill. Sometimes we hike up the Anvil to Schoodic Head or take the Alder trail up the Ranger Road. But normally we just walk along the shore road. We enjoy the play of the water on the rocks. We find comfort in the currents, breezes, and boats that animate the coast. We take pleasure in watching the gulls, eider, eagles, osprey, and other birds that bring life to the shore. We are inspired by the delicate wildflowers and the stolid pines that line the road.

This Sunday, however, as we headed to the park, we spontaneously decided to take the left at MC’s Marketplace in Birch Harbor. We drove to Wonsqueak Harbor, parked, and walked into Schoodic from there. We were amazed at how different our experience was entering the park from this—"opposite"—direction. The curve of the shore, the lay of the islands in the water, the line of Schoodic Head and the Anvil—they were all fresh coming from this perspective. It was surprisingly and pleasantly unexpected.

Noting the first appearance of the great blue heron in the spring. Spying a porcupine waddling across the road or an eagle soaring above the trees. Sighting the occasional moose. Encountering a scientist doing research or an artist creating pleine air. Running into a friend at the top of Schoodic Head. Unexpected occurrences make a visit to Schoodic memorable.

A prime example of the unexpected is the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium scheduled for this year. From July through September 2007, artists from Maine will work with other American and international sculptors at Schoodic. They will gather on the Schoodic Education and Research Center campus to engage individuals and communities in public art. The symposium will provide a collaborative forum and serve as an educational event that will result in the creation of public art. It will be an opportunity to learn about the process of making sculpture, showcase Maine granite and its rich tradition, and provide public art to Hancock and Washington County communities. It will be a positive, enthusiastic celebration of art, education, partnership, natural resources, and community.

Rosemary and I are eagerly await the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium. It is the kind of unexpected event that makes Schoodic special to us and the many other Schoodic Committee volunteers, all of whom have an extraordinary level of energy and commitment. The Schoodic Committee welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas, and suggestions. To find out more about our committee, visit us on the web at www.friendsofschoodic.org or contact us at P.O. Box 194, Prospect Harbor, Maine 04609. We invite you to join us—our only requirement is a love of Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic.

For further information about the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium visit www.schoodicsculpture.org.
To accomplish our mission,

1. **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.

2. **We 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.

3. **We nullify threats.** We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.

4. **We promote excellent management.** We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.

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

6. **We 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.

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

8. **We support volunteerism.** We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of footpaths and carriage roads.

9. **We produce tangible results.** We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.

10. **We 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.
VOLUNTEER THIS SUMMER…

It’s Work You Could Love!

Each year, volunteers contribute thousands of hours to Acadia National Park. Visitors, residents, families, and groups of all ages help care for the trails and carriage roads of Acadia. The park needs your help and volunteering is a tangible way to say “thank you” for the beauty of Acadia.

Volunteers meet at Park Headquarters on Route 233 each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, June through October, weather permitting.

Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, insect repellent, snack, and lunch.

For more information, call 207-288-3340
Mission

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.