THE ACADIA PERSPECTIVE

In the midst of summer, national parks are a favored destination of millions of families, students, first-time campers, and explorers. Parks give us a place to stretch our minds, our spirits, and our bodies. We think of soaring mountains, roaming buffalo, deserted pueblo villages, the Atlantic Ocean crashing against obdurate granite, defining moments from our American history— an abundance of experiences for all imaginations.

The legacy protected by our national parks shapes our understanding, our experience as Americans. Last October I was fortunate to join National Park Service professionals and several park partners to watch a rough cut of the new Ken Burns documentary: The National Parks: America’s Best Idea. (Read more about this series on page 12.) The documentary reminded me that Acadia is bigger than its 35,000 acres. It is not just one park, in one state, created by and for one community of people. Acadia is much bigger than that. It is a gorgeous piece of our 85-million-acre national park system heritage, “a continent wide and more than a century old.”

And that means that what Friends of Acadia does— what our members do— is much bigger too.

When Friends of Acadia makes grants to the park— more than $13 million since 1995— we show others what can be done to protect and enhance our national park legacy.

When Friends and its members advocate for full funding and sound management policies for our national parks, we toss a stone into a magnificent pond creating ripples that spread out to affect all 85 million acres.

When Friends volunteers mobilize to get work done in the park and communities— more than 100,000 volunteer hours donated since 1995 with a paid-labor value well over $1 million— they set an example of good stewardship, taking their ownership responsibilities seriously.

And we need to do more. We will always need to do more to safeguard our heritage.

For instance, in Acadia:

- Over the past year, two federal agencies— separately— proposed erecting an 80-foot pole and 100-foot pole on the summit of Cadillac for communications. One agency has found an alternate location outside national park boundaries, the other proposal is still under research, with Friends of Acadia and others encouraging location also outside Acadia’s border.
- Despite a small increase in base funding, the park remains underfunded and understaffed— by 20 people at least. In 2003, a business plan for Acadia showed that the park was underfunded by 53%, and the spending base has been eroding ever since.
- More than 130 parcels within Acadia’s boundaries remain in private ownership, unprotected and vulnerable to development.
- This past year, a landowner proposed a large-scale eco-resort development on 3,200 acres abutting the park on the Schoodic Peninsula, threatening ecological isolation and a permanent change to the character of the communities, the region, and the discovery experience of visiting Acadia at Schoodic.

Right now, we have once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to affect the betterment of our parks:

- In 2016 the National Park Service, and Acadia, will celebrate their centennial anniversary. Plans for celebrating this milestone include informed, creative thinking today to prepare for a sound second century of inspiration.
- Our national parks were recognized as economic generators and received economic stimulus funding through the Americans Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Acadia is in line to receive more than $8 million, which will be put to work repairing roads and facilities at the Schoodic Education and Research Center and on MDI park roads.
- The Ken Burns documentary has the capacity to reinvigorate Americans’ involvement in the care of their heritage protected by our national parks.

We have inherited a tremendous legacy in our national parks, a gift which comes with a responsibility. We must ensure that the next generation has opportunities to hear the story of their heritage and to experience their national parks— as they were preserved.

The contributions of Friends members provide a model of inspired, committed stewardship. The ripples are moving out...

If you are not a member of Friends of Acadia, you are welcome to join this inspired corps of park stewards.

— Marla O’Byrne
FEATURE ARTICLES

7 New Name, Same Great Trail  
Ian Marquis
Historic trail names and what they mean for you this summer

8 Acadia’s Island Rangers  
Stuart West and Chris Wiebusch
The story behind the wardens of Acadia’s wild islands

10 Loon Lessons: Working Together to Learn More  
Ginny Reams
A look at the life and times of Loon 983-153-53

12 The National Parks: America’s Best Idea  
Marla S. O’Byrne
Information about the upcoming documentary by filmmaker Ken Burns

14 Reaching Out to My Generation  
Keith Miller
Reflections on the importance of national parks and our connection to them

16 The Cairns Society: A Guiding Force for the Next Generation of Friends  
Lili Pew
The importance of the work being done by one special group of “friends”

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS

5 Memorial—Harriette Mitchell

17 Updates

25 Advocacy Corner

26 Book Reviews

DEPARTMENTS

1 President’s Column  
The Acadia Perspective  
Marla S. O’Byrne

3 Superintendent’s View  
Shaping Stewards: Education at Acadia  
Sheridan Steele

6 Poem  
The Stone Canoe  
Christina Steele

13 Special Person  
Mike Blaney  
Marla S. O’Byrne

27 Schoodic Committee  
The Future of the Rockefeller Building  
Garry Levin

28 Chairman’s Letter  
Celebrating All Our Friends  
Lili Pew
SHAPING STEWARDS: EDUCATION AT ACADIA

When a senior at Mount Desert Island (MDI) High School asked our chief of interpretation to mentor her senior project in May, she had no idea she was fulfilling a goal established when she was only three years old. Back in 1992, park staff set the goal to provide every student in the local community with a park experience—before they graduated from high school—that could lead to future engagement in parks. This student, who used park hiking trails to study the history of the island, had taken trips to the park in middle school. We met our goal, thanks to a solid foundation of education and interpretation at Acadia.

From the early days, when Superintendent George B. Dorr himself showed off the new national monument to its first visitors, Acadia has offered enthusiastic, knowledgeable park guides. Ranger-guided trips here have taken many forms—from naturalist-led car caravans and bicycle tours along rough island roads, to 1930s sailboat trips from Bar Harbor to the Schoodic Peninsula (complete with a lobster dinner), to tidepool talks near Otter Point as early as 1932.

Following in the footsteps of the early ranger naturalists, today’s park interpreters provide high-quality information services, walks, talks, school visits, teacher and community workshops, exhibits, emerging technology media, and publications to the park’s varied audiences. Interpreters now, as ever, are the storytellers. They help people connect to park features with the aim of eliciting appreciation and stewardship. The hiker inspired by the view from mountain tops who learns about fragile alpine plants will step more carefully on summits. The student who understands the intricacies of tidepools can see the connections between conserved lands, their own coastal communities, and the Gulf of Maine.

As they work to inspire visitors, park interpreters constantly adapt to the changing needs of their audiences. Twenty-one years ago this fall, at the request of local teachers, park staff added curriculum-linked school programs to the already rich program slate for visitors. The goal, with one part-time ranger, was to invite all fourth- and sixth-grade classes on MDI to visit the park for a ranger-guided program. Within two years, with outstanding community response, the MDI goal was met; an additional program for third graders was added; and schools on offshore islands began attending.

In 1992, with the advice, encouragement, and funding of the National Park Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, the next ambitious target was set: to provide at least one park experience to every student in surrounding communities by the time the student graduated from high school. In just three years, park staff developed a sixth-grade science program for Echo Lake Camp, created a park science video for all Maine secondary schools, and updated curriculum goals and created new teacher guides and student materials for every park program. Seven years later, the science camp moved to the Schoodic Education Research Center, where, as the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), it provides opportunities for students from neighboring towns to experience Acadia firsthand. With the help of Friends of Acadia and L.L. Bean Kids in Acadia grants, SEA attendance has doubled, extending to students who otherwise could not afford a national park experience.

Looking ahead to 2016—the centennial for both Acadia National Park and the National Park Service (NPS)—we will set the bar even higher. To remain relevant to all Americans, the NPS must work harder than ever to engage families and young people directly in the national parks. Along with high quality, family-oriented programming, we must use emerging media and relevant techniques to engage 21st-century visitors. To date, we have established internships and youth intake programs for students and created blogs for young employees to post their experiences. Summer residencies for teachers help them take the park back to their classrooms. Virtual tours, bus and carriage ride funding, and the first statewide Junior Ranger program are all part of Interpretation 2009. And there’s more to come in the future.

Partners are helping park interpreters to steadily advance on an ambitious 100th anniversary goal: by 2016, to reach every student in Maine with a park experience before they complete high school. For Acadia—and all of our national parks—to thrive, we must ensure that the next generation of advocates and stewards will be in place to protect our parks and green spaces. Our ongoing efforts in education and interpretation at Acadia will help us get there.

—Sheridan Steele

Heart of the Matter

“The influence of such work travels far; and many, beholding it, will go hence as missionaries to extend it.”

—George Bucknam Dorr
Kind Words from Friends

Dear Friends,

We admire all you do and try to visit Acadia as often as possible. Thank you for being there for so many of us.

Sincerely,
Julie Goetze

The Thrill of the Quest

Dear Friends,

My family travels to Acadia a couple of times each summer. I was doing a search of events in the area for our first trip of the season at the end of June. The idea of a “challenge” or quest has absolutely delighted my 7 year old!

Thank you for organizing such a neat event.

Stacie Pepperd
Charlestown, RI

Another Season of Good Grooming

Dear Friends of Acadia Winter Trail Grooming Volunteers,

In lieu of the cookies and hot toddies you deserve, I am writing this letter to thank you for your work on the trails over the course of this fabulous winter!

I have thanked you in my mind every time I snapped on my skis and headed out into my favorite hills on smooth, even tracks.

I was amazed by how much you accomplished within a couple days after every snowfall. Not only did you take time out of your lives to do this work, but you did it according to the random timing of the storms: showing up at late, early, cold, dark, and crazy hours to climb on those machines.

Years ago, when there were only a few groomers, I sometimes prided myself on being the first person to break trail around the Mountain, or around Witch Hole. But now I’m more into skiing than slogging, and it’s a blast to fly around all the trails at top speed.

I know I speak for many people (and for most, if not all, of you) when I say that these winter outings are not just my recreation. They are my therapy, healthcare, and spiritual renewal.

Thank you for sharing your passion, your energy, and your time.

And thanks for making winter so much fun! Happy spring!

Rebecca Hunter
Bar Harbor and Sullivan
IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

John E. Ainsworth
Samuel David Amitin
The Bakalians
Matthew Baxter
Daniel Bazinet
Lucie Blasen
Wilmer Bradbury
Benjamin Breeze
Virginia Ann Brown
George H. Buck
Charles E. Bybee
Carol S. Campbell
Dow L. Case
Chakra
Gregory Michael Colonis
Marilyn Coombs
Marion G. Decker
Ray O. Dehl
Francis W. Dinsmore
Tucker Elliott
Perefor Frazer
Richard Frost
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Brenton S. Halsey, Jr.
Irma Jantz
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Robert Smith
Charles A. Soderlund
David Stanton
Judith Steves
Richard G. Talpey
Eileen M. Tatoo-Beebe
Robert Kinsey Taylor

February 1, 2009 – May 31, 2009

A VOLUNTEER LEGACY

Harriette Mabel (Buzynski) Mitchell
1920 – 2009

Harriette Mitchell, a friend and volunteer, died on June 6, 2009. She was born Harriette Mabel Tillson on Sept. 17, 1920, in Thomaston, Maine, and moved to Bar Harbor in the early 1960s. Harriette worked for many years at the Mount Desert Island Hospital—she was the first registered ostomy nurse in Maine—and raised her three boys, Neil, John, and David Buzynski, next to and in Acadia National Park. Harriette loved to hike and, when pressed, thought Canon Brook may have been her favorite trail. But she also enjoyed the long hike from Bar Harbor to the Jordan Pond House for popovers.

In addition to hiking, raising a family, and work, Harriette was a dedicated volunteer. Over the years, she volunteered with the Reach to Recovery program, Senior Companion program, Eastern Agency on Aging, the Abbe Museum, the Maine American Cancer Society, and Friends of Acadia. She traveled to Ecuador and the Dominican Republic with the Hancock County Medical Mission.

Harriette was an intrepid volunteer for the park, as well. In the 1960s, she and a friend hiked all over MDI in search of native plants, with landowner permission, to divide and plant in a large blackberry patch at Sieur de Monts that was to become the Wild Gardens of Acadia. With buckets slung from a pole on their shoulders, the friends collected hundreds of plants for the gardens.

Many will remember Harriette at Take Pride in Acadia Day, where for nearly 20 years she served lunch and dessert to cold and hungry Friends volunteers. And over the years, Harriette shared her knowledge of Acadia history, dropping in with an article and memories of places and people in the park. Her son Neil recalls, “Mom was not only a friend of Acadia, but a lover of Acadia. She knew of many places to go and see a special flower or tree that were on the trails and roads, but perhaps where others did not take the time to look. Although she is out of sight, she will never be out of mind. She has left her footprint in one form or another in Acadia National Park.”

Harriette Mitchell left a rich legacy of active stewardship in Acadia, at the Wild Gardens, and with Friends.
At Pemaquid
it lay, resting
on its side, tossed
up by an epic storm.
Skipped across the wide
sea by some giant. Skiffed
upon a wave so great that stone
might float, come to rest, wrecked
and wedged between the earth-bound boulders strewn below the salt-greened bell of the signal house. Formation or freak, or an accident of native granite laid over in the sun to dry. Curved beam, pointed prow, stone-solid and unmovable. What memory made me wish to push it to the brink of cliff, climb in with you, plummet to the rocks below: the dark and savage surf?

— Christina Lovin
When hiking Acadia's many trails, a map is a necessity. Starting this summer, however, you may find that the trail names on your map do not match the posted signs. Whatever is a hiker to do?

The simple answer: keep on hiking. The trails themselves have not changed, and in time, the maps will reflect the new names. But of course, that raises another question: why do some of the trails have new names? What was wrong with the old ones?

Historically, the trails in Acadia National Park were named for many reasons. Some, such as the Emery Path, honored people; others, like the Gorge Path and Great Notch Trail, reflected a particular landmark or nearby feature; many bore the names of the mountains they ascended. But these names have never been static; over the years, a considerable number of trails have been renamed, often to something entirely different than the original. Most visitors to the park, for example, are unaware that a section of the South Bubble Trail was originally known as Bubbles Divide, or that the portion of Penobscot Mountain Trail running from the ridge eastward, down the steep cliffs, was once called the Spring Trail. Many of these changes occurred decades ago - long enough that visitors might feel a sense of loss when they find that a familiar trail now has an unfamiliar name. But in fact, these “new” names are not new at all.

The historic names of the park’s trails are of great value—they provide perspective, and pay tribute to those who helped shape this land into one of our nation’s most beloved national parks. Because of this significance, park staff are working to restore many of Acadia’s trails to their original names. This work began on the west side of Mount Desert Island in the fall of 2008, and will continue to the east side during the summer of 2009. The project is part of the Acadia Trails Forever program, established by Friends of Acadia and the park, and funded by money from both park user fees and Friends of Acadia’s trails endowment.

Of course, the changes will not always be obvious. Many of the revisions are, in a way, purely cosmetic: the Jordan Pond Carry Trail will become simply Jordan Pond Carry; the Sargent Mountain South Ridge Trail will become the Sargent South Ridge Trail. To the otherwise-occupied hiker, captivated by Acadia’s woods, the difference will likely be unnoticed. But others are more radical, and might make you pause to pull out your map and confirm that, yes in fact, you are on the correct trail. The system’s present Tarn Trail, along the west side of the Tarn, will return to its historical name of Kane Path. The Flying Mountain Trail will now terminate at Valley Cove, where it will extend northward to Man O’War Brook as Valley Cove Trail. The East Face trail on Champlain Mountain is now the Orange and Black Path.

Another thing to note is the use of the word “path.” Formerly, on the east side of MDI, highly-constructed trails were often known as paths. Over the years, this naming convention has changed, and we are now accustomed to referring to “trails,” rather than “paths.” But now, this change is being undone, and trails that were originally paths will return once again to that designation. Some examples include Asticou & Jordan Pond Path, Bubble & Jordan Ponds Path, Emery Path, and Schiff Path.

Restoring historic names to Acadia’s trails is only a small part of the park’s Hiking Trails Management Plan – but it is not an effort undertaken lightly. In deciding which trail names to modify and which to retain, park staff carefully examined and evaluated the historic origin of each trail. Some of the changes are minor, while others are major revisions – but they were all enacted in order to improve the sense of character and history of the island’s trail system.

So, this summer, when you come across a trail name you don’t recognize, don’t fret – just make note of the new name on your map, and then, when you’re ready, continue your hike. The name may be different, but the trail is still the same. –

IAN MARQUIS is communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
When most park visitors think of Acadia, the popular Mount Desert Island section of the park is usually what comes to mind. The more distant Schoodic and Isle au Haut, though featured within the park’s color brochure, are less advertised and far less visited. Even less frequented are the islands that dot the horizon as you look out from the summit of Cadillac Mountain. They, too, are woven within the fabric of Acadia National Park.

This is a story of the rangers that tend to those islands. Only 12 of the islands you see from the park’s peaks are owned and managed in the manner of park property on MDI. Most of the other islands are privately owned, but preserved through hundreds of conservation easements held by the State of Maine, non-profit conservation organizations, and Acadia National Park. The fact is, without these important easements in place, the wild, untouched appearance of these distant islands could be quite different. A total of 78 islands in the archipelago are currently protected under conservation easements maintained by the park.

For the uninitiated, these remote islands will forever remain nothing more than a beautiful backdrop to Acadia’s stunning scenery—and for many, that is enough. But those willing to expend the time and effort to venture out to the islands will gain an experience...
unmatched by anything on MDI. Acadia’s less frequented islands provide visitors the greatest opportunity for solitude and contemplation—a chance to explore Acadia’s unmanicured wild side.

Visitors are welcome on the islands owned by the park, and on some of the conservation easement properties (however, access on islands under easement is determined by each private landowner). Many of these areas have restrictions in place to protect the habitat and wildness of these lands. For instance, visitation may be limited at certain times of the year, to allow nesting birds to rear their young, or seals to raise their pups.

Acadia’s remote islands are patrolled and monitored by a specialized group of rangers who are self-taught in the area of conservation easements, and who have, over the years, learned the coastal waters. One full-time ranger and two seasonal rangers spend May through October visiting each easement and patrolling the islands. On park-owned islands, they enforce the rules and regulations as if they were on MDI. Working with the Lands Office in Acadia’s Resource Management Division, and with private landowners, these rangers also patrol and regulate use on the islands with conservation easements. When visiting the easement islands, rangers ensure that easement covenants have not been breached, and that visitors are in compliance with applicable regulations.

By necessity, Acadia’s remote island rangers are jacks-of-all-trades. In addition to acting as law-enforcement, they are trained in emergency medical, search and rescue, and wildland fire response— as are most of the ranger force. In addition, they must also be able to safely operate boats within the 100-square-mile area encompassing the remote island operation.

Rangers operate two boats: an 18-foot Alaskan Lund, ideal for shallow waters and beach landings, and a 23-foot Parker, better suited to rough seas, inclement weather, and overnight trips. As many a boater can testify, the waters along coastal Maine are unforgiving if you do not pay close attention and heed the weather, buoy markers, seas, and granite-lined approaches. Boat-operation qualifications require that each ranger attend a motorboat operators course, and then accompany another ranger with experience in order to learn the area. They also must log 15 hours operating the boat, and then complete a skills checklist before they are allowed to go out on their own.

Of course, even jacks-of-all-trades cannot work entirely alone. Rangers also cooperate with other divisions in the park to provide boat transportation to the islands. The small staff brings volunteers out for shoreline clean-ups, assists maintenance crews with projects and transportation of materials, and transports researchers and dignitaries to areas seldom experienced by the average park visitor.

Island rangers are also responsible for island-specific projects, including cleaning up unauthorized campsites, collecting debris, posting signs for bald eagle and sea bird nesting closures, locating and recording historical and cultural sites, and monitoring areas of archeological significance. They work closely with other agencies—such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Maine Warden Service, and with non-profit organizations, such as Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and the Maine Island Trail Association—to monitor islands, perform work projects, and provide information on what is happening on these distant park lands. The island rangers are the caretakers of Acadia’s most remote and secluded holdings.

The next time you admire the view from one of Acadia’s many peaks, remember: the islands you see are more than simply a beautiful backdrop. They are a vibrant, vital part of Acadia, watched over by a group of highly trained professionals.

RANGER CHRIS WIEBUSCH leads the boat patrol operation, and STUART WEST is Acadia’s chief ranger.
Loon 983-153-53 is either lucky or a very good father. For seven years, he has returned to the same tree-lined pond on Mount Desert Island. Like clockwork, he and his mate (or mates, as the lack of bands on the female has prevented observers from determining if she is one bird or several over the years) land on the pond each spring. They build a nest of muddy reeds and grasses along the lakeshore. The eggs are laid in May, and hatch in late June. Downy brown chicks emerge, heading into the water with mom and dad within a day. At least one of loon 983-153-53’s chicks has survived each year since 2002—twice the reproductive success rate for loons in Maine. We know a lot about loon 983-153-53, and we have the Mount Desert Island Loon Monitoring Project to thank for it.

In the late 1990s, the BioDiversity Research Institute (BRI) began a loon pilot project with Acadia National Park and other organizations. They knew the statewide success rate was approximately .5 (one fledged chick for every two pairs of loons), but what they didn’t know was how loons were doing on the island. It seemed like they would flourish here—MDI’s lakes and ponds provide ample suitable habitat. But where were they breeding? And more importantly: were the chicks surviving? If not, why?

The project resulted in a few banded birds, discovery of some problems facing nesting loons, and an awareness that increased conservation efforts were needed to better protect loons and understand the issues they faced. In 2002, with the support of the park and grants from Friends of Acadia, the BRI joined forces with the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary (SMWS) to begin the Mount Desert Island Loon Monitoring Project, with a goal to explore the reproductive population success of common loons (Gavia immer) on Mount Desert Island.

For five years, BRI and SMWS gathered data about each loon pair attempting to nest on the island, trained volunteers, and communicated with researchers and landowners. When the initial project ended, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia stepped forward to work with SMWS in a three-year trial partnership (2007–2009). Since that time, staff and volunteers have monitored 14 lakes, with seven to nine nesting territories, over a four-month period each spring and summer.

David Lamon, executive director of SMWS, and Bruce Connery, wildlife biologist at Acadia National Park, administer the project. A loon monitoring intern leads the field activities and public outreach each summer, ensuring that the monitoring schedule and design are being followed. The intern collects data from staff, volunteers, and lakeshore residents, and maintains a database of loon nesting territory and population information that is shared between SMWS and the park, as well as BRI. Julie Rumrill, who holds a Master of Science degree from the University of Vermont, is the 2009 intern.

Volunteers are essential to the loon monitoring project—and more volunteers join the effort every year. Over the past two years, more than 50 volunteers have participated in loon stewardship activities. After an introductory training, they spend hours watching nesting loons and filling out observation forms with questions about behavior, disturbance, and more. “Loon observation is the type of work that really lends itself to citizen scientist involvement,” says Lamon. “The work volunteers do is important; their observations make the picture that much clearer.”

The contributions of volunteers and lakeshore residents make loon monitoring an excellent public education tool—which is one reason the project is so notable. Lamon says there are other reasons, too. “It’s a great example of a collaboration where the pieces—two nonprofits and one government agency—come together to accomplish much more collectively than they could on their own,” says Lamon. “For example, in the
2007–2008 season, the program saw more than 1,000 hours of monitoring and education.” Of equal importance, the information collected over the eight-year duration of the study provides baseline data that can serve as a launching pad for further studies.

The data collected on Mount Desert Island also provides context for other studies. A 2007 BRI study tested environmental contaminants in 23 bird species in Maine, including one unviable loon egg from Long Pond. Researchers found that mercury levels in the loon egg exceeded the level where adverse effects have been detected in other birds.

Many of us think Acadia is pristine, but that is not always not the case. Prevailing winds carry airborne contaminants—including emissions from power plants and vehicles, as well as waste combustion—from the south and west toward Maine, where they are deposited in the environment. As mercury and other contaminants are deposited into lakes and ponds and across terrestrial habitats, they are converted by algae and bacteria into forms that are more easily digested or absorbed. Ingested by fish, these contaminants work their way through the food chain, reaching the top, where traces of these contaminants accumulate in fish-eating species.

The loon population is fairly stable in Maine, but their susceptibility to contaminants is cause for concern. Changes in water levels that flood nests, death of parents, and unviable eggs. During the course of the project, two loons died on Long Pond from lead poisoning, caused by the ingestion of lead fishing tackle. (Although it is illegal to sell lead fishing tackle of ½ ounce or less in Maine, many anglers still use it.)

PROTECTING LOONS
Many of us are fascinated with loons and their haunting calls. Unfortunately, nesting loons are highly sensitive to disturbance; if we approach too closely, they may leave the nest, putting the lives of their chicks at risk. If a loon exhibits signs of stress (the “penguin dance” across the water, a quavering laugh, or a flattened body and neck next to the water), you are too close.

Practice good stewardship behavior:
- In canoes and kayaks, never approach resting, nesting, or diving loons.
- In motorboats, use slow speeds near shorelines.
- Keep pets leashed and away from loons in water.
- Avoid using lead fishing gear in lakes.

When discarded and left in the environment, lead tackle poses serious problems for loons.

What’s in store for the future of the loon monitoring project? 2009 is the last scheduled year of the three-way partnership, but both Lamon and Connery stress the need to continue collecting information. “By continuing the study, we can keep a minimum baseline going for future studies,” says Lamon. And unanswered questions remain: Why are some territories on the island more productive than others? Do other loons on the island have high concentrations of mercury? What are the long-term effects of mercury on the population? Can management tools—such as signs, trail closures, and placement of nesting rafts—help increase nesting and fledging success?

Only through continued monitoring of loons on Mount Desert Island can we answer these questions—and more.Æ•

GINNY REAMS is the writer-editor at Acadia National Park.
I have favorite stories I recall whenever anyone will listen about the best of my national park experiences. Few people enter a national park without being inspired by the experience, creating indelible memories. After a day spent riding a carriage through Acadia last year, a visitor said to me, “I will want to come back again and again, but if I don’t, it will be a day I will remember forever.”

Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan have explored our American identity in other documentaries, through such diverse topics as The Civil War, Lewis & Clark, The War, Baseball, and Jazz. “I think we’ve always been curious about who we are as a people and what it means to be American,” said Burns. “I think what’s amazing about the parks story is that it’s so intimate.”

At the heart of the documentary is the idea of the uniquely American legacy of our parks. “I like to think that the park idea is basically the Declaration of Independence overlaid onto this land that we inhabit,” said Duncan. “In other places they set those special places aside for the very richest in their society or for people who were of the nobility. But as Americans, we rejected that, determining that this land belongs to everyone. Created by the people, for the people to enjoy forever, the national parks embody the essence of democracy.”

The National Parks includes interviews discussing aspects of national park history, journal entries, photographs, paintings, and stories from a range of experiences and inspirations in the growing National Park System. “What is life but to dream and do,” wrote Elizabeth Gerkey in her journal more than 80 years ago while planning her next national park visit.

The series tells the history of the newly created National Park Service in 1916, and the evolving understanding of the opportunities and responsibilities incumbent on the stewards of our national parks and the heritage they protect. “But our national heritage is richer than just scenic features; the realization is coming that perhaps our greatest national heritage is nature itself, with all its complexity and its abundance of life, which, when combined with great scenic beauty as it is in the national parks, becomes of unlimited value. This is what we would attain in the national parks,” as George Melendez Wright wrote in 1933.

The National Parks is filmed in America’s most breathtaking landscapes — from Hawai’i volcanoes to the Atlantic crashing on Maine’s rocky coast, a sweep over Bridal Falls in Yosemite to grizzly bears fishing in a wild Alaskan river. This summer, on August 5 and 6 in Bar Harbor and Portland, respectively, you have an opportunity to preview The National Parks, with Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan on hand to discuss the series, the making of the documentary, and their rich cache of stories about national parks and the individuals who have created and cared for their legacy. For more information about the August events, visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

The series will air on PBS stations September 27 through October 2, and will be available for streaming through October 11.

Until then, we hope to see you out in the park.

— Marla O’Byrne
April 29 marked the close of an era in Acadia National Park’s land protection history when Mike Blaney, lands specialist extraordinaire, retired. Mike became Acadia’s first lands specialist in 1989, after more than 25 years working in various seasonal and permanent positions in the National Park Service. Taking on this new effort at Acadia, Mike guided the development of the park’s conservation easement program. Under his leadership, the park accepted—and now monitors—212 conservation easements protecting more than 12,000 acres of privately-owned land. The easement program has expanded Acadia’s extensive conservation legacy of protected natural, cultural, and scenic resources.

When a landowner grants a conservation easement on his or her property, rights are donated—the right to develop a portion or all of the property, for example. Whatever agreement is developed through the easement, the protected property must be monitored annually to assure compliance, particularly as ownership changes. The legal understanding developed through an easement may be forgotten, or the commitment diluted as second- and third-generation landowners take ownership. Each year, Mike visited the eased properties—captaining a park boat to reach the many protected properties located on offshore islands—and developed relationships with landowners to ensure ongoing protection of the natural, cultural, and scenic resources under Acadia’s stewardship.

Mike also shepherded easements through the process of legal review, negotiation, and presentation to the town in which the lands resided and to the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. Once an easement was granted to the park, Mike developed the baseline data—the snapshot of the lands’ character at the time of protection, to be monitored annually. His responsibilities were immense, and for many years he was the sole staff person working on the park’s conservation easement program.

In 2000, Friends of Acadia embarked on a multi-year commitment to contract additional professional support to assist Mike with baseline management of the park’s conservation easement program. Friends also gave the first annual grant to hire a lands protection assistant—the factotum as Mike called her. Over the past few years, Mike expanded the easement monitoring effort to include the assistance of off-shore rangers. “I asked the rangers to monitor from offshore as they were out on other trips that took them past protected lands,” said Mike. “It was a natural fit.” [Read more about this effort on page 8]

Mike is a walking database of information and history about the properties protected, the landowners’ original conservation intents, and the role of different partners in the protection of lands and islands surrounding Acadia. Ongoing protection may become more challenging with change of ownership, but as Mike says, “the conservation easement concept is a valid tool. It benefits the town, the people, and the property owner.” Planning ahead for his retirement, two years ago Mike encouraged Acadia to hire his replacement, Emily Seger, to work closely with him. Emily has taken the reins as lands specialist with a strong understanding of Acadia’s commitment to land protection and its many responsibilities as the holder of more than 200 conservation easements.

During his years with the park, Mike created a legacy of land protection that will benefit millions for ages to come. The conservation easements negotiated under his tenure protect coastal habitats, unimpaired views, and the experience of natural wildness along Acadia’s coast.

—Marla O’Byrne
This speech was given at the 2009 Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting

It is an honor for me to be here today, and to have the opportunity to speak at this annual meeting of an organization which has done so much for both the cause of conservation and Acadia National Park.

As many of you are aware, I am the grandson of another Keith Miller—superintendent of Acadia from 1971 to 1978—a man who spent most of his life crisscrossing the United States, first as a ranger, and later as a superintendent in the national park service.

My grandfather has taught me so many things over the course of my life that I doubt it would be possible to accurately convey with words the positive influence he has had on me. It was he that taught me the importance of fulfilling commitments, seeing projects through the end, and making sure I did my best no matter what the task. He taught me never to be late. He taught me never to follow, but instead to lead. And, as any true child of the Great Depression, he taught me that above all else, I was to clean my plate.

But perhaps most importantly, when I was very young, he took me one of the beaches in Acadia. There, I found a special stone—a beautiful stone, one I wanted to take home with me and keep as my own. My grandfather stopped me, and spoke to me a phrase quite simple, but one which has stuck with me to this day. “Imagine if everyone took one. Then there would be none left for anybody else.” This was truly the first time that the meaning of conservation, albeit in its most simple definition, dawned upon me. That if we all took and never bothered to preserve, we would rob not only ourselves, but all those who came after us of the same beauty we were so fortunate to enjoy at that very moment.

Still very young, but with this most basic understanding of conservation, I went on to volunteer for Friends of Acadia. I joined the Youth Conservation Corps, and later landed a job with the Acadia National Park trail crew, where I now work with a group of men I could not be more proud to call my coworkers. Here, I learned that pouring rain was no excuse to avoid work; that being covered in mud was something to be proud of no matter how much your family fretted about the damage you were doing to the washing machine; and that there were far more intricacies to digging a ditch than I had ever thought possible. But more importantly, I began to gain an understanding of both the remarkable amount of work required to maintain a park like Acadia, and the value of an organization that preserves it.
like Friends and its volunteers, who were willing to donate their time, money, and muscle to help protect this park they had come to love so much.

It was slowly becoming clearer to me what the practical applications of conservation entailed: thousands of hours back-breaking labor; hundreds of thousands of dollars; and a commitment to continuously work to maintain that which never seemed to stop trying its best to fall apart. It became all too obvious that the work of conservation was never done. But at the same time, I began to see how these obstacles could be overcome: through the sheer determination of individuals who did not see the task as a daunting, never-ending difficulty, but rather a labor of love, whose infinite nature was only a testament to the need for continued vigilance and dedication. I was now going from understanding why it was important to conserve, to seeing how it could be done in the real world, by real people.

However, at the end of every summer I would return home to school—now to college—and to the ever faster-paced life of my generation. Our days seem so full to us that we often barely find the time to sleep. But when we do find that rare time off, it seems to me, my generation has largely forgotten about national parks. It is not that we harbor any ill will towards them, or that we were born without an appreciation for natural beauty—but simply that they do not come to mind. We have become too wrapped up in the world we have constructed around ourselves. We simply cannot see the forest past the skyscrapers. I would say that the major-
Leadership

THE CAIRNS SOCIETY: A GUIDING FORCE FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF FRIENDS

Lili Pew

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead

One of the greatest joys of my role as chairman of Friends of Acadia is publicly celebrating the work of the incredible members and volunteers who support us. The Cairns Society is an example of how effectively the next generation is developing as stewards on behalf of Acadia National Park. In order for this precious resource to endure as a wellspring of wild serenity, there must always be people who are willing to protect it: stewards and stakeholders. That is precisely what the Cairns are.

I asked Leandra Fremont-Smith, a Cairns Society founder, to share how the name came about, and also to explain the purpose and role of the Cairns. This is what she had to say:

“If you hike Acadia’s mountain trails you will see them. Piles of rock marching up the mountain with you. As trail markers, cairns keep hikers on a single route, protecting fragile soil and vegetation. In foggy or stormy weather, they can be life-savers, helping to keep you safely on the trail. The role of the cairns is crucial in protecting the mountain landscape—and you.”

Friends of Acadia is a starting point for many generations of members to become actively engaged in an effort to support a place of great value: Acadia National Park. “I originally came up with the idea to form a young group in order to support FOA,” says Fremont-Smith. “I have gone to many of your events—the Annual Benefit, Family Fun Day, and friend-raising activities like Reverend Peter Gomes’ Charles Eliot & Acadia.”

Despite the fact that Friends currently sponsors many events and activities that encourage volunteerism, Leandra and several of her friends felt that a key group of individuals was missing: next generation leaders in the 25-45 year-old range. This particular age group is unique because they frequently use the park, but are so occupied with jobs and young families that participating in FOA activities is often difficult or next-to-impossible. However, if a group were to hold one or two events a year at the right time, with a well thought-out guest list, these individuals could still be engaged despite scheduling difficulties.


“Once someone is a Cairn, they will be able to look forward to reoccurring events each year that fit into their busy schedule,” Fremont-Smith says. “It is our hope that five years from now, Cairns members will become more active in Friends of Acadia in general—volunteering in the park, helping out with annual events, and even making financial contributions.”

Last summer, the Cairns Society held their first event in Northeast Harbor. By all accounts, it was a complete success, welcoming a new wave of Friends for Acadia supporters. Part of the reason for this success, Fremont-Smith believes, is the group’s focus: island-wide representation.

“When I first organized the Cairns Society, I wanted to have four women who could represent the island well,” she says. “Laura Zukerman is from Little Cranberry, Jenny Petschek from Seal Harbor, Elizabeth Merck and Heather Toogood from Northeast Harbor, and I am from Bar Harbor. Between the four of us, we were able to devise a dynamic guest list, as well as including guests from Somesville, Southwest Harbor, and Bass Harbor. We put on an amazing event, and in 2009 we added Kate Pickett and Courtney Urfer to our committee.”

This year, the Cairns Society is gearing up for several gatherings. In addition to meetings on Mount Desert Island, the group is planning a film event in New York City, focused on Acadia National Park. But why New York?

“So many of the Cairns work in New York or close by, and all of us miss Acadia during the busy times of the year when getting to Maine is simply not possible,” Fremont-Smith says. “Having an event locally gives all of us the chance to celebrate our passionate commitment to Friends, be informed of current work in Acadia, and synthesize our energy into action as next generation leaders.”

Working with a group like the Cairns—a collection of dedicated, inspired next-generation leaders—makes my role as Chairman of the Board a true joy. Thank you, Cairns Society. We are all here to help you grow and continue your successful legacy for the next generation of leadership of Friends and Acadia.

LILI PEW is chairman of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors.
Looking for the perfect gift idea for a birthday or anniversary?

Introduce someone you care about to Acadia with a gift membership in Friends of Acadia.

Please send a special $40 gift package* to:

Name  ____________________________________________

Address  ____________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

City, State, Zip Code, & Telephone Number

Message you would like on the card:  ________________________________________

_____________________________________________________

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* Gift package includes:

• Greetings from the Heart of Acadia, a packet of seven lovely note cards designed especially for Friends of Acadia, featuring photographs of Acadia National Park.

• A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually

• A Friends of Acadia window decal

• The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park

To give a gift membership, simply mail the above form, along with a check made payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

All contributions to Friends of Acadia are used to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.

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

Give the Gift of Acadia

Acadia Gateway Center Passes Zoning Hurdle

On Saturday, May 30th, Trenton residents approved the contract between the Maine Department of Transportation and the Town of Trenton to change the zoning for the property on the west side of Route 3 where the Acadia Gateway Center will be located. This was a critical step in the process to build the Center that will house Downeast Transportation's offices and maintenance facilities and provide a location for visitors to purchase park passes, get local and park information, and ride the Island Explorer if they choose.

Presently, the Island Explorer bus service works well for residents and visitors to Acadia who have parking spaces at their lodging establishments or homes on Mount Desert Island (MDI). Buses pick up and drop off passengers anywhere along their routes where it is safe. An underserved population, however, is day visitors and those coming from off-island lodging establishments. Adequate public parking was not available at the airport, Thompson Island, or other locations on the approach to MDI to enable visitors to leave their cars for the entire day and ride the Island Explorer for hiking or other activities.

For more than ten years, the partners in the Island Explorer had been planning a transit and welcome center as Phase 3 of the bus system. Multiple sites in Trenton and Bar Harbor were studied as possible locations for the center. Friends of Acadia purchased on option on 369 acres in Trenton, which eventually was selected as the preferred location. The Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) completed an environmental assessment of the project, projecting no significant impacts. Friends then purchased the land and immediately sold approximately 152 acres bordering Route 3 to MDOT.

The Acadia Gateway Center will be built in four phases. The first phase is the maintenance center and office space for Downeast Transportation, which runs the Island Explorer and other transit services in Hancock County. The entrance road and utility systems for all phases of the Gateway Center will also be constructed in the first phase. The design of the maintenance center is nearly complete, and MDOT will secure building permits from the Trenton Planning Board before going to bid on the contract to build this summer. MDOT is also pursuing the federal and state funding needed to begin design work for the second phase of the Center, the welcome center buildings and parking areas.

Acadia Night Sky Festival Planned

If you have ever been awed by Acadia National Park's starlit skies, plan a visit to Mt. Desert Island for the inaugural Acadia Night Sky Festival, September 17-21, 2009. Amateur astronomers, park visitors, and residents will be treated to a series of arts events, lectures, and family activities associated with Acadia's relatively pristine dark night skies. The festival follows on a part-
Estate Planning— Supporting the Mission of Friends of Acadia

Preserving and protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities is a wise investment.

And, it’s simple.

Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

I hereby give ______% of my residuary estate to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

I hereby bequeath $______ to Friends of Acadia, Inc., a Maine charitable corporation, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, for its charitable purposes.

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

For more information, call the office at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
nership among Friends of Acadia, the Island Astronomy Institute, and Acadia National Park to measure, promote, and protect the quality of Acadia's night skies. Local chambers of commerce, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and others have joined the effort, planning daytime, nighttime, indoor, and outdoor activities during the festival. The festival dates were selected because there will be a new moon, and the evenings will still be relatively warm. Highlights include a night sky-themed concert by the Bangor Symphony Orchestra, ranger-led night walks in Acadia, and a night cruise on Frenchman Bay. The festival schedule, accessible at www.nightskyfestival.org, changes regularly as new events are added—so check often for updates. Join us in this community celebration to promote the protection and enjoyment of Downeast/Acadia's stellar night sky as a valuable natural resource through education, science, and the arts.

Acadia Quest
So far, over 75 teams have signed up for the 2009 Acadia Quest program. The Quest, in its second year, is a program organized by

L.L. Bean Research Fellowships Awarded
What do rock climbers, arboreal insects, barnacles, and bats have in common? They are all the focus of research projects funded through the 2009 L.L. Bean Acadia Research Fellowship program. Thanks once again to L.L. Bean's gift of $25,000 to Friends of Acadia, six research projects will receive financial support this year. This funding was matched by $10,000 from Acadia Partners for Science and Learning to support two additional research projects specific to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park.

The L.L. Bean Acadia Research Fellowship program is designed to encourage field research at Acadia in the physical, biological, ecological, social, and cultural sciences. The grant prospectus lists important park issues to be addressed, such as air pollution, habitat fragmentation, non-native invasive species, and recreation impacts on park resources and the visitor experience. College and graduate students, faculty, agency scientists, private-sector researchers, and other qualified individuals are all welcome to apply.

In 2009, twenty-three applications, requesting over $94,000, were received for the L.L. Bean Acadia Research Fellowships. The following projects received grants:

2. Timothy Divoll, University of Southern Maine and Biodiversity Research Institute. Coastal and island use by bats in relation to potential windpower.
3. Kevin Dougherty and Dr. John Daigle, University of Maine. Rock climbers' experience and their attitudes toward management of climbing in Acadia.
5. Dr. Jeremy Long, Northeastern University...
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

“One of the greatest satisfactions in doing any sound work for an institution, a town, or a city, or for the nation, is that good work done for the public lasts, endures through the generations; and the little bit of work that any individual of the passing generation is enabled to do gains the association with such collective activities an immortality of its own.”

— Charles W. Eliot, Sieur de Monts Celebration, 1916

Please consider these options for providing essential financial support to Friends of Acadia:

Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.
Mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, to PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/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 Friends of Acadia and you may avoid capital gains in addition to providing much needed funds for the park.

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

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/join.
Marine Science Center. Causes of spatial variation in barnacle recruitment in Acadia National Park.

Robin Verble, University of Arkansas Little Rock. Do invasive European fire ants influence arboreal insect diversity?

The Schoodic fellowships, supported by Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, were awarded to:

Dr. Abraham Miller-Rushing, USA National Phenology Network and The Wildlife Society. Monitoring phenology at Acadia National Park: Setting an example for the National Park Service and beyond.

Dr. Benjamin R. Tanner, Western Carolina University. Determination of carbon sequestration rates in salt and freshwater marshes in the Schoodic Section of Acadia National Park.

A Winning Design
Every year, Acadia National Park holds a competition among local students to create a design for Acadia’s annual park pass. This year’s winner is Carolyn Liu, a soon-to-be eighth-grader at Connors Emerson School in Bar Harbor. For her efforts, she was awarded a check for $50 by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park; Acadia National Park presented her with a certificate and additional gifts provided by Eastern National. Carolyn’s design (pictured) will be reproduced on all of this year’s annual passes.

Schoodic Press Packet Available
In response to multiple inquiries by members of the press, Friends of Acadia has assembled a press packet with information about the proposed development on the 3,200-acre Winter Harbor Properties lands adjacent to Acadia National Park at Schoodic. The press packet can be found online at www.friends-ofacadia.org/advocacy/schoodic. A hard copy can also be sent to any groups or journalists who might be interested. Included in the press packet are newspaper articles about the proposed development, a Power Point presentation on the resource values of the Schoodic section of the park, information about Friends of Acadia, the concept plan for the proposed “eco-resort,” and maps depicting natural resource information. Friends continues to work with partners to assess and respond to plans by Winter Harbor Properties to develop the land.

Keeping our Roadsides Clean
More than 300 volunteers participated in our 10th annual Earth Day Roadside Clean-up. The event has become, for many people, an annual right of spring. This year, excellent weather added to the enthusiasm of the volunteers, many whom were thrilled to be outside, soaking up the sunshine—even if they were picking up trash. Participants collected over 1000 bags of trash, plus an assortment of large items, including automobile parts, cell phones, and hundreds of Styrofoam cups and plastic bags, from over 150 miles of roadside in the MDI, Trenton, and Schoodic areas. We collected less trash than last year—evidence that the clean-up is, indeed, improving the condition of our roadsides.

Carolyn Liu (center) with Kevin Langley of Acadia National Park (left) and Stephanie Clement of Friends of Acadia (right).
2009 Annual Meeting
More than 200 people gathered on July 9 for the 2009 Annual Meeting at the Bar Harbor Club. Speakers included Keith Miller, whose speech is printed on page 12. This year, the President’s Award for Damn Good Work was presented to Georgia Munsell for her outstanding efforts as a volunteer, including her work at the membership table. The Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award was given to the National Parks Conservation Association, represented by Vanessa Morell, director of ally development, for their unceasing advocacy on behalf of our nation’s national parks.

In Acadia, The Work Goes On
Every year, Friends funds programs that offer meaningful employment in Acadia. This year, we hired seasonal employees to assist with trails, at the Wild Gardens of Acadia, and in the lands protection office at the park.

The recreation intern and three ridge runners train and work with park rangers, spending the summer on Acadia’s trails. This year’s ridge runners are Cecily Swinburne, a graduate of the College of the Atlantic; Nicole Lavertu, a graduate of the University of Maine; and Jeremy Cline, an incoming junior at Middlebury College. This year’s recreation intern is Kevin Dougherty, currently a graduate student in the University of Maine’s Parks, Recreation, and Tourism program.

New Members
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Thomas Hageman and Nancy Holtje
Cynthia Hill
Mr. and Mrs. William Hodgkins
Bob Hogan
Edna Hoover
Charles Janeway
Harvey Klugman and Lynne Shulman
Norman and Susan Ladov
Kathy Lawson
Ian Libhart
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Lilley
Paul and Sandra Loether
Allen and Barbara Loveland
Suzanne Luescher
Judith MacInnes
Kathleen MacNaughton
Katie Martin
Gail Merriam
Cynthia Mervis
Douglas Michlovitz

Dan Miller
Andrew Monk
Lee and Siobhan Nesbitt
Joyce Puglio
Ed and Phyllis Raider
Mitchell Rales
Robert Robbins
Craig and Amy Roebuck
Stella Ross
Richard and Leslie Saltsman
James A. Saltsman
Phyllis Sears and Ivan Kennedy
Elizabeth Smith
Lauren Strobeck
John Suchanec
Fred Trask
Tom and Beth Walsh
David Wilson

February 1–April 30, 2009
National Trails Day in Acadia
Saturday, June 6, was National Trails Day. Organized by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park, the event was attended by more than 100 people, including 11 Acadia Quest teams. Many of the teams took part in the new First Time Hikers program, exploring trails on Great Head and South Bubble with guidance from park interpretive staff.

Fourth of July Victory
Every year, Friends of Acadia’s volunteer “Imprecision Drill Team” marches in Bar Harbor’s Independence Day parade on July 4th. This year, in keeping with the theme of “stewardship: past, present, and future,” they were joined by several Acadia Quest teams, members of the Student Conservation Association, and—of course—George Dorr. Our group was awarded first place for Most Creative—our first ever trophy!
Geneva Langley is the supervising gardener at the Wild Gardens of Acadia. A College of the Atlantic graduate with a Masters degree in Ecology and Environmental Sciences from the University of Maine, Geneva has worked with Acadia National Park since 1998—first as a biological technician, and later as a botanist.

Jodi Sargent has returned in 2009 as the lands GIS technician for the park. Working with other Acadia employees, Jodi helps to oversee the status of the conservation easements held by the park, maintaining open lines of communication with landowners and ensuring that the terms of the easements are upheld.

Cliff Olson and Mike Alley have returned as field crew leaders, managing volunteer projects in the field. Every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, June through October, anyone can go to Park Headquarters where Mike, Cliff and Friends of Acadia's volunteer crew leaders will match volunteers to projects ranging from cutting back vegetation along the trails and carriage roads, rebuilding rock retaining walls and drainages, maintaining historic vistas, closing “social” paths that can degrade natural resources, and cleaning up picnic and scenic areas.

These seasonal positions, funded and managed in partnership by FOA and Acadia National Park, provide exciting opportunities to work in one of America's most beautiful national parks while accomplishing important stewardship and outreach efforts.

Fun and Sun in Acadia

Even the sun was in attendance at the fourth annual Family Fun Day, hosted by Friends and the park on Sunday, July 12. Hundreds of children and families spent the afternoon at Sieur de Monts learning how to fly fish, exploring an interactive campsite, navigating a living room of hay, and—of course—waiting for a turn at the ever-popular climbing wall. Other activities included fly-tying, story time, a trash scavenger hunt, demonstrations of trail-building techniques by Acadia's trail crew, and more.

Attendees at this year's Family Fun day say hello to Max the horse (and his ranger rider, Arthur Shettle).

IN NOMINE

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

Brett, Alex, Drew, and Landon
Anna Buck
Lisa Jacobs
Jessica Y. Lee
Suzanne Schrag
Nancy Sheldon

February 1, 2009 - May 31, 2009
The issue of firearms in national parks once again rose to the forefront this spring. Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) submitted an amendment to the Credit Cardholders Bill of Rights (H.R. 627) that would allow firearms into national parks and national wildlife refuges, subject to the provisions of state laws and regulations. The amendment and bill passed in the Senate, whereupon they were sent back to the House for consideration.

Senators Collins and Snowe and Representative Michaud voted in favor of the firearms amendment. Representative Pingree opposed the amendment. All four members of the delegation supported the final bill, which was destined to pass due to its importance to credit card consumers. President Obama signed the legislation into law before Memorial Day weekend. Acadia Advocacy Network members contacted their members of the House of Representatives to encourage them to oppose the amendment, but the votes occurred quickly, without much time for concerted influence.

With passage of the bill, Congress halted the commitment the Department of the Interior made in April 2009 to assess the environmental effects of allowing loaded, concealed weapons into the national parks and wildlife refuges. The Bush Administration had implemented these regulations in January, but a federal judge issued an injunction, and the Department of the Interior agreed to the study. Regrettably, due to the passage of the Coburn amendment, we may never understand the extent of the anticipated effects on wildlife, rangers, and visitors associated with allowing firearms into parks and refuges.

The new firearms regulations will not take effect until February 2010. Until then, Acadia National Park visitors must still carry their weapons unloaded and broken down, or otherwise not easily accessible. No hunting is allowed in the park, and the regulations regarding discharge of weapons will remain in place. For more information, consult Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, section 2.4, and the Superintendent’s compendium for Acadia, which is available online at http://www.nps.gov/acad/park-mgmt/upload/compendium.pdf.
**Book Review**

**Portrait of a Maine Island**  
Photographs by Sarah C. Butler  
Arcadia Publishing, 2009  
128 pp., Softcover

Look at enough books of Maine photography, and you start to recognize familiar elements in all of them. There are more landmarks, more vantage points, than can possibly be counted; yet time and time again, we return to the familiar, the well-known. When I came across Portrait of a Maine Island, I was prepared for this. The island, as you might have guessed, is Mount Desert Island, and there is certainly no shortage of photographs of it.

But that is where Sarah Butler surprised me. You see, Portrait of a Maine Island is about people, and that I didn’t expect. Though there are scenic shots included for context, the bulk of this photo book consists of intimate, personal photographs of MDI residents—in their homes, working in their gardens, and exploring the island. The comfortable clutter, the reality we are shown, is so far removed from the familiar manicured and sculpted publicity shots that it feels like a breath of fresh air. Many of the photographs are straightforward—the people are the focus, and they are presented without embellishment.

I challenge you to flip through Portrait of a Maine Island without finding at least one (and likely many more) photograph that makes you pause, if only for a moment, to wonder about the story behind the subject. Butler has given us a glimpse of these stories, and the result is truly captivating.

— Ian Marquis

**The Creation and Growth of Acadia National Park**  
by Paul S. Richardson  
RebPaul Publishing, 2009  
137 pp., Softcover

It isn’t often that a book makes me want to drop everything and go out exploring—but Paul Richardson’s new book, The Creation and Growth of Acadia National Park, did just that. The book provides a history of the park, its construction, and the controversies associated with its establishment. I have researched the founding and founders of Acadia in depth as a part of my position at Friends of Acadia, but the details in Mr. Richardson’s book were often far beyond what I have found in other sources.

The access Mr. Richardson had to the Simpson files proved to be a rich resource that provided special insight into the relationship between John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his chief engineers, Charles and Paul Simpson. All withstood great criticism for the work they did to provide public access to the interiors of the park while maintaining and highlighting its beauty. The obstacles they overcame to build the carriage roads alone would have stopped many investors and creators.

The detailed inventory of the carriage road bridges, paired with the bridge sketches by Richardson’s granddaughter, Abby Gee, are the real treasures of this book. After reading The Creation and Growth of Acadia National Park you will never look at Acadia’s bridges the same way again.

— Lisa Horsch Clark

**Lighthouses of Bar Harbor and the Acadia Region**  
by Timothy E. Harrison  
Arcadia Publishing, 2009  
128 pp., Softcover

If you’ve ever been to a bookstore with a local section—and that would be almost any bookstore—you’ve likely seen the Images of America series. Equal parts scrapbook and historical archive, the series presents snapshots of years past alongside detailed captions that are themselves miniature stories. Lighthouses of Bar Harbor and the Acadia Region is no exception.

The book begins with a brief introduction, explaining the historical significance of lighthouses, the advances that led to their decline, and the eventual automation of the remainder of them by the U.S. Coast Guard. Then, we delve into the story proper: narratives detailing familiar such as the lighthouses on Baker Island, Great Duck Island, and Bass Harbor Head. For each, we are treated to photographs of the keepers and their families, the surrounding land, and of course, the lighthouses themselves, along with relevant anecdotes. Some of these are tragic: the wife of a Mr. Cutler, while visiting the lighthouse at Burnt Coat Harbor in 1876, drowned when the dory she was riding in capsized. Others are humorous: Joseph Pulitzer, occupying a large estate on Mount Desert Island, was so annoyed by the fog horn on Egg Rock Light that he requested the government turn it off—which they would not do. The bottom line: if you have any interest whatsoever in the history of Maine’s lighthouses, or maritime history in general, there will be something in this book that catches your attention.

You probably won’t read Lighthouses of Bar Harbor and the Acadia Region in a single sitting. But if you pick it up, I can guarantee you’ll eventually finish it—and when it’s done, you’ll wish there were a few more pages left to come back to.

— Ian Marquis
**THE FUTURE OF THE ROCKEFELLER BUILDING**

As I write this on a beautiful, late April day, Rosemary is designing her fifth Acadia National Park carriage road bridge rug. In 2004, she embarked on an effort to hook all nineteen of the bridges in the order they were built. Then, she came up with the idea of donating the finished rugs to Friends of Acadia for the Annual Benefit auction. In 2005, she created The Cobblestone Bridge, followed by the Little Harbor Brook Bridge in 2006, the Jordan Pond Dam Bridge in 2007 and, last year, the Hemlock Bridge. This year, she is hooking the Waterfall Bridge. Located on the Hadlock Pond Loop, the Waterfall Bridge was built in 1925, and features a skewed arch with buttress-like towers that allow for spectacular views of the forty-foot waterfall on the bridge’s north side.

Rosemary’s rugs, which honor the bridges and carriage roads commissioned by John D. Rockefeller Jr., led me to thoughts about the Rockefeller Building on the Schoodic and Education Research Center (SERC) campus. This building, which is on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in the early 1930s as part of the U.S. Navy Radio and Direction Finding Station in Winter Harbor, which itself was designed as a replacement for the Otter Cliffs Radio Station on Mount Desert Island.

The Otter Cliffs Radio Station was commissioned on August 28, 1917, after the declaration of war against Germany. Because of the lack of man-made noise and the unobstructed span of ocean water, the station was among the best radio sites on the East Coast, and could receive signals from Europe when no other station in the United States could. It was invaluable in World War I, and after the war, the station handled weather reports from Iceland and Newfoundland, as well as emergency traffic from Europe. By 1933, however, the wooden buildings had become dilapidated and the station had become an eyesore to the many people who summered on MDI.

John D. Rockefeller Jr. led the effort to have the radio station removed. After much negotiation, he—and other influential individuals—worked out an arrangement with the Navy. In exchange for a receiving station at the tip of the Schoodic Peninsula, the Navy agreed to turn the Otter Cliffs Station over to Rockefeller’s group.

The plan for the new station at Schoodic included a building designed by Grosvenor Atterbury, the architect responsible for the design of Acadia’s famous gatehouses. This building, which was also similar to Mr. Rockefeller’s residence at Seal Harbor, was used by the Navy until 2002, when the 97-acre campus was turned over to the National Park Service. Originally conceived as the focal point of the Schoodic campus, the Rockefeller Building was expected to house a visitor welcome center, program offices, and second floor apartments.

Writing about the Rockefeller building brings to mind the recent news coverage of the plans for the $8.3 million in federal stimulus funding that Acadia National Park is slated to receive. According to the article, the largest project, accounting for about $5 million, will be the removal of unnecessary pavement and the repair of the remaining roads and parking lots, as well as the improvement of pedestrian trails, signs and lighting, at SERC. It may also involve the demolition of some buildings.

While I am sure this planned project will benefit the research center, to truly enhance the campus and Schoodic District, the future of the Rockefeller building must be addressed. This building should be a magnificent backdrop for National Park programs, SERC events, and other significant activities, such as the biennial Schoodic Sculpture Symposium, the second session of which will take place this summer. It could promote education and science, showcasing the natural, cultural and historic resources of the region, as well as the many efforts to study and learn from them. It might even be a stunning museum, highlighting the National Park Artists In Residence program, featuring exhibits, lectures, classes, and workshops of nature, natural art, and crafts.

Regardless of the ultimate use of the Rockefeller building—whether it becomes offices, classrooms, exhibition space, studios, apartments, or a visitor center—the bottom line is that its restoration must be a priority for Schoodic. The recent donation by Edith Dixon to help with the restoration is a sign we are already moving in the right direction.

GARRY LEVIN is a volunteer and member of the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia.
As we fast approach the high season of summer in Acadia National Park, I wanted to take a moment to celebrate the hard work, dedication, and passionate public engagement of all our friends, supporting our programs throughout this challenging year. Each of us has faced the fear and burden of drastic changes in the economic downturn. Yet still, Friends of Acadia has been both a beacon of hope and an avenue for channeling optimism and creative resources into direct and successful outcomes. I offer my sincerest gratitude and thanks to every friend of Acadia—as well as the staff of Friends and Acadia National Park—for staying the course, keeping the momentum steady and strong for our future. Well done, friends!

Each year in the Journal, I take great pride in sharing a few of the experiences that have highlighted our successes as an organization. Most recently, I joined Sheridan and Marla at the National Leadership Summit on Philanthropy and the Parks in Washington D.C. We met with park superintendents, National Park Service leaders, friends groups, and the newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, Ken Salazar. Central to these meetings was the idea that there is a critical need for public and private partnerships to bridge the funding gap and allow our national parks the chance to grow. Throughout the course of the event, Friends of Acadia was referenced as a model of success—including our outstanding staff and volunteers. Truly, we are a unique example of how partners and national parks can work together as a team.

Despite our successes, there is still more to be done. If there is one thing I could ask of each of you, it would be to broaden your public engagement with Friends. Advocacy is a unique—and vital—feature of our organization that many do not fully understand. Of the hundreds of friends groups that partner with our nation’s national parks, only a handful are truly independent. Friends of Acadia is one of these few. Because we are an independent organization, we are able to advocate and speak with a strong voice regarding issues related to national park legislation. Other friends groups—many of whom are involved in business relationships with their parks—cannot do so. All of us, as citizens, have the opportunity to be engaged in the democratic process, sharing our voices with government representatives, holding them accountable for their decisions. As the future of our nation’s parks hangs in the balance, our voices as advocates will be called on far and wide. To this end, I would ask each of you to contact Friends and join the Advocacy Network—not only for the future of Acadia, but for all national parks.

This summer, on August 8th, we will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the FOA Benefit Auction. From the early days when it was held at The Neighborhood House, to the grand gatherings at the Asticou, the Benefit has been a highlight of the summer season as well as a tremendous source of support for Friends. Through hard work and dedication, a core group of volunteers, staff leaders, the Benefit Committee, and the FOA Board of Directors have fully embraced our strategic plan objective to be green in as many ways as possible. This year, we will be incorporating generators running on bio-diesel fuel, LED lighting systems, local vendors and produce supporting the delicious menu crafted by the Asticou, the donation of park-centric and eco-friendly items, and a new digital Benefit Guide that not only takes advantage of the latest technology, but is also more cost-saving (and resource-sensitive) than our traditional printed guide. Twenty years of progress, support, and many memories will be shared this summer, as multiple generations of friends and families attend the Benefit. Join us, and be a part of history in the making.

Have a great summer, and thank you for being friends of Acadia!

—Lili Pew

Chairman’s Letter

CELEBRATING ALL OUR FRIENDS

“There is nothing so American as our National Parks... The fundamental idea behind the parks is that the country belongs to the People.”

— Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Heart of the Matter

“I think the environment should be put in the category of our national security. Defense of our resources is just as important as defense abroad. Otherwise what is there to defend?”

— Robert Redford, Yosemite National Park dedication, 1985

— Lili Pew