FRIENDS OF ACADEIA PRESENTS LEE STETSON IN:
“AN EVENING WITH JOHN MUIR”

Sunday, September 26
4:00 p.m.
THE GRAND THEATRE, ELLSWORTH

“The man who knows more about John Muir than anyone else on earth.”
– Ken Burns, Documentary Filmmaker

Actor Lee Stetson brings America’s foremost conservationist back to life to delight and inspire you. Mr. Stetson has portrayed John Muir in Yosemite Valley for 27 years. Don’t miss his humorous, spirited, and unforgettable performance as the man who is considered the father of the national park system.

Proceeds benefit Friends of Acadia and The Grand Theatre
Tickets: Adults $15; $12 for ages 62 and over, $8 for children under 12
Tickets available at The Grand Box Office: 667-9500

Sponsored by
The Bar Harbor Inn & Spa

Partners
Friends of Acadia, Island Explorer and L.L.Bean have formed a partnership to preserve and protect Acadia National Park for future generations.

Many species of birds live in the Mount Desert Island area

Protect
Acadia National Park with approximately 35,000 acres, includes 41 miles of coastline, 16 islands, more than 200 species of birds, and numerous historic buildings and trails.

Join us in protecting our national parks.

Preserve
Island Explorer is propane powered for cleaner air and a healthier environment.

Fragrant water lily, found in fresh water ponds throughout Acadia National Park

Participate
Buy a park pass
Your contribution helps:
• rebuild trails and carriage roads
• protect natural and cultural resources
• support the fare-free Island Explorer

Acadia’s coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking, and kayaking
THE BOUNTY OF ACADIA

“And when we see America’s land, we understand what an incredible bounty that we have been given. And it’s our obligation to make sure that the next generation enjoys that same bounty.”

—President Barack Obama
at the White House Conference on America’s Great Outdoors

As I write, the President and First Family have just completed a trip to experience the incredible bounty of Acadia. There is an odd sort of pride in knowing that, after this visit, our nation’s leader now shares the sense of wonder so many of us have felt in this magnificent place. From the subtle beauty of Witch Hole Pond’s natural wetlands to the stunning panoramic views from Cadillac—we who know and love Acadia can feel connected to the Obama family, understanding how it is to be moved by this precious landscape.

And that is the nature of our national parks—magnificent bounty to be shared by all today and far into the future. They are a gift to us from a former generation, and with that gift comes the ongoing obligation to care for it and pass it along whole for the future.

In the midst of summer I am reminded again about the beauty of this obligation. From many stories and recollections it is apparent that Friends of Acadia members feel this obligation as a privilege to participate in the care of this inspirational place. The spirit it is as it should be.

Individuals and communities also recognize other types of benefit to their way of life. Acadia generates more than $161 million each year in the Maine economy from tourism, and it supports nearly 3,500 jobs with an added value to the state of $87 million.

The obligation of care rests first and foremost with the federal government. Adequate funding is required to keep up with maintenance, to hire sufficient staff to conserve and monitor the park’s resources, and to educate. Recently the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, undertaken in response to the economic crash in early 2009, has brought much-needed maintenance funding to our national parks, enabling them to address long-standing maintenance needs. Acadia was one of the parks to qualify for ARRA funding, and you can read more about work underway at the park on page 3.

But ARRA is only a partial answer for Acadia’s needs. Given a growing commitment to freeze domestic spending, the next proposed federal budget holds little promise of covering mandated cost increases in our national parks. A flat operating budget will erode Acadia’s ability to preserve and protect its resources and provide opportunities for visitors to explore and understand the park. This is a step backward, away from enabling our national parks to start a strong second century of protection and inspiration.

It is increasingly important to find creative ways to protect Acadia’s bounty. Friends of Acadia is working with local land conservation partners to acquire and protect the available privately-owned parcels within the park’s boundary, holding the lands until funding becomes available for the park to purchase them.

With an eye toward inspiring future stewards, each summer FOA employs more than two dozen young people who work in the park, and lead volunteer groups throughout the summer. With partners like Camp Beech Cliff, the Abbe Museum, College of the Atlantic, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, and Acadia, FOA holds events throughout the year that bring families and individuals out into Acadia to explore and protect our outdoors.

These efforts and others are an example of what the Administration wants to accomplish in America’s Great Outdoors, a collaborative initiative announced in April intended to rally American citizens, communities, and organizations to join in the conservation of our outdoor spaces and natural resources. Throughout the summer, Americans are invited to join in listening sessions across the country, and to submit their comments and stories about conservation and some of the creative ways in which they and their communities are conserving outdoor spaces. And national parks. You can submit your stories about Acadia by visiting ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf.

If you are a member of Friends of Acadia, thank you. Your membership enables us to do much good work that goes far to protect Acadia. If you love Acadia, and other national parks, please let the Administration know that they are an important part of America’s Great Outdoors, and worthy of the funding necessary to keep them unimpaired to inspire generations to come.

If you are not a member, we invite you to join. Your membership will strengthen the message that Americans care deeply about preserving the bounty of our national parks.

—Marla O’Byrne
FEATURE ARTICLES

8 Acadia Trails Forever
   Marla O’Byrne
   Acadia’s endowed trail system is a national model for conservation

10 The Plants of Acadia National Park
   Glen Mittelhauser, Celeste Mittelhauser, and Jill Weber
   A new plant guide was 25 years in the making

12 Natural Resources Management in the Middle East
   Stephanie Clement
   An international exchange brings new ideas for Schoodic

13 A Park in My Backyard
   Dick Cough
   Reflections on a life shaped by Acadia

14 Stewarding the Tarn
   Aimee Beal
   Where nature and history intertwine

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS

5 Memorial: Thomas James Witt

7 Ten Years of Roadside Clean-ups

18 Updates

26 Advocacy Corner

27 Book Reviews

DEPARTMENTS

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

3 Superintendent’s View
   Schoodic’s Very Bright Future
   Sheridan Steele

6 Poem
   Combing Out
   Elaine Zimmerman

28 Chairman’s Letter
   Community Spirit and Giving Back as a Way of Life
   Lili Pew

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
   Lili Pew, Chair
   Edward L. Samek, Vice Chair
   Joseph Murphy, Treasurer
   Michael Siklosi, Secretary

   Emily Beck
   Gail Clark
   Andrew Davis
   John Fassak
   Nathaniel Fenton
   Cookie Hornor
   Jack Kelley
   Debby Lash
   Ed Lipkin
   Barbara McLeod
   Meredith Moriarty
   Marla S. O’Byrne
   Andrea Perry
   Donna Reis
   Jack Russell
   Howard Solomon
   Nomi Sullivan
   Christaan van Heerden
   Sandy Walter
   Dick Wolf
   Bill Zoelllick

HONORARY TRUSTEES
   Eleanor Ames
   Robert and Anne Bass
   Edward McCormick Blair
   Curtis and Patricia Blake
   Robert and Sylvia Blake
   Frederic A. Bourke Jr.
   Tristram and Ruth Colket
   Shelby and Gale Davis
   Dianna Emory
   Frances Fitzgerald
   Sheldon Goldthwaist
   Neva Goodwin
   Paul and Eileen Growald
   John and Polly Guth
   Paul Haertel
   Lee Judd
   Julia Merck
   Gerrish and Phoebe Milikken
   George J. and Heather Mitchell
   Janneke Neilson
   Nancy Nimick
   Jack Perkins
   Nancy Pyne
   Louis Rabineau
   Nathaniel P. Reed
   Ann R. Roberts
   David Rockefeller
   Patricia Scull
   Erwin Soule
   Diana Davis Spencer
   Beth Straus

EMERITUS TRUSTEES
   W. Kent Olson
   Charles R. Tyson Jr.

FRIENDS OF ACADIA STAFF
   Aimee Beal, Outreach & Communications Coordinator
   Theresa Begley, Projects & Events Coordinator
   Mary Boechar, Development Assistant
   Sharon Broom, Development Officer
   Sheree Castonguay, Accounting & Administrative Associate
   Stephanie Clement, Conservation Director
   Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development
   Diana R. McDowell, Director of Finance & Administration
   Marla S. O’Byrne, President
   Mike Staggs, Office Manager

Summer 2010
Volume 15 No. 2
Schoodic’s Very Bright Future

A messy but exciting transformation is underway on the Schoodic Peninsula as the National Park Service continues to convert the former navy base into an environmentally-friendly campus for science and learning. This eight-million-dollar “Economic Recovery” project is one of the last major steps toward renovating the buildings and restoring the landscape to support the NPS mission and goals at the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC).

Since the NPS acquired the facility eight years ago, we have removed 16 noncompliant or unneeded buildings and associated parking, and restored the land to more natural conditions. This summer, we will reconfigure parking lots, roads, and walkways to make the campus more pedestrian friendly, install pollution management structures to improve water quality, and replant surrounding woodlands. Three buildings will be converted into modern classrooms and laboratories. The exterior of the historically significant Rockefeller Hall will be stabilized and protected, and the interior will be adapted as a Welcome Center. And new native plant landscaping, signs, and dark-sky-friendly lighting will make the campus attractive and provide learning opportunities. By the time the NPS and our partner, the SERC Institute (formerly Acadia Partners for Science and Learning), cut the ribbon next year, we will have spent some $18M of federal and private money to build a beautiful, safe, and sustainable campus.

Already we are working with our partners on the next step—reviewing the parks interpretive and research programs to plan how the new campus can improve visitor services and resource protection. How can SERC engage preschoolers who need to experience the park hands on? How can the acclaimed Schoodic Education Adventures (SEA) overnight program be expanded to accommodate even more 5th–8th graders? What programs can involve families in really meaningful learning experiences? What about the potential for teacher and student internships, and activities designed by youth, for youth? What programs can blend science, art, and nature? There are many questions that need to be answered as we move toward the grand opening next summer.

In the last week of May, over 30 people interested in educational opportunities at SERC met to begin program planning and to create a commitment to working together. This group included representatives from the SERC Institute, Friends of Acadia, Abbe Museum, College of the Atlantic, local universities, and other agencies. Here are some of the highlights of our roadmap for the next 10 years:

RESIDENTIAL PLACE-BASED EXPERIENCES: Place-based education immerses students in local heritage, culture, landscapes, and opportunities as a foundation for the study of language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, and other subjects. This approach fosters students’ connection to place and creates vibrant partnerships between schools and communities.

LIFELONG LEARNING: The NPS and the SERC Institute will partner to develop a full range of multidisciplinary and “content-focused” programs to highlight the research and science being done through SERC.

RESEARCH TRANSLATION & CLEARINGHOUSE: SERC will develop ways to facilitate sharing of research findings between agencies and organizations and translate important research to target audiences. SERC will function as a clearinghouse for scientists and land managers to compile research needs, opportunities, and priorities.

EVALUATION: How will SERC demonstrate that it makes a difference? The SERC Institute and the NPS will jointly design, fund, and implement evaluation strategies and research that determine program effectiveness.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: The SERC campus offers the opportunity to provide professional development for NPS staff, teachers, scientists, artists, and youth, especially during non-peak seasons.

PROGRAM SUSTAINABILITY: Funding is critical for sustaining the programs at SERC. The NPS and the SERC Institute will together develop fee and free programs targeted to begin in the fall of 2011. They will continue to seek grants and foundation funding to support SERC programming.

PUBLIC AWARENESS: To build support for SERC, we must improve the visibility of SERC’s purpose and educational opportunities by implementing a communication strategy.

I look forward to the next phase of growth for SERC and the partnership opportunities it will create. SERC has a very bright future as a dynamic center for national-park-related science, education, and art, and now is the perfect time to involve the many interested groups and individuals as we seek to entice people of all ages to experience Acadia National Park in ways that both interest and inspire them.

—Sheridan Steele
An Inspiration

Acadia is dear to our family and our extended family...we have been visiting for over 80 years. When our son, Jonathon, wrote this poem for his 7th grade English class, we knew he got his inspiration from countless hours peering into tide pools and watching other wildlife on the ocean around Acadia. We live near Pittsburgh PA, quite far from any ocean, so we cherish the opportunities our children have had to explore, appreciate, and stand in awe of the mighty force that is the ocean.

—Anne Bradbury Schubert
Pennsylvania

The Ocean

Large, green and blue
You cover the earth
with your watery presence
Providing homes for animals
big and small
Giving creatures a safe sanctuary
in which to rest
My love for you is true

Cold, frigid and wet
You give the earth a giant pool
On coastlines children romp
in your shallows
Letting them play in your gentle waves
Your brilliance cannot be met

Shiny, sparkling and pure
You are a giant mirror to the earth
Reflecting your shores and the sky above
Creating a perfect replica
of all around you
Your presence shall endure

A vault, safe and sound
Hiding untold amounts of oil and fuel
Allowing people to tap
into this dangerous store
Not preventing their foolish actions
Amazing is your sound

—Jonathon Schubert

Many Fond Memories

My wife and I would like to renew our membership in memory of Boyd and Albertine Maxwell.

Boyd and Albertine camped out in a small Airstream in Blackwoods Campground in the late 40s and early 50s. My first trip to Maine was in the back seat of a Buick with their son, a German shepherd, and four cats in 1953. I was 12 years old. Albertine was the founder, teacher, and sustaining impetus behind “Albertine's Dance Workshop” in Hulls Cove. It was located in the old schoolhouse. Throughout the 50s, 60s, and 70s, she ran this small school and housed 20–30 students in various private residences in and around Hulls Cove. In the late 60s they purchased the Skilson house on Schooner Head Road, and for many years housed the students in this grand old home.

Through the many years when she ran the School, she always organized trips for the students to the Park. Once a summer, we enjoyed tea and popovers at Jordan Pond, and the Museum [at] Sieur de Monts was a treat. Of course, we always went a couple of times to Cadillac Mountain, and I can remember climbing Mt. Champlain when I was about 13 years old.

—J. Ronald Scott
Tennessee

Northeast Creek in Summer
Cover photograph by Tom Blagden

Looking across Frenchman Bay to Schoodic.

This Journal is printed on chlorine-process free, recycled, and recyclable stock using soy-based ink.
Memorial

THOMAS JAMES WITT
(1961–2010)

Thomas James Witt of Hamden, Connecticut and Bar Harbor, Maine died peacefully at home in Hamden on April 6, 2010 after a courageous battle with cancer. Tom is survived by his wife Carolyn Breen Witt. Also grieving are his parents, two sisters, and five nieces and nephews. A graduate of Manhattan College and Pace Law School, Tom had a solo law practice in New Haven. He was an avid reader, hiker, and bicyclist, and he loved Acadia National Park.

Before he passed away, Tom asked that donations in his memory be given to Friends of Acadia. The news of his death and his request was sent to fellow members of the New Haven County Bar Association. Family, friends, and colleagues have responded with a deluge of generosity. As of June 30, 166 gifts have been given in Tom’s memory.

CARRIE WITT WRITES:

Tom and I fell in love with Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park when we first visited while on our honeymoon in October 1995. We subsequently returned every year, and purchased our home in Bar Harbor in 2004 to put down roots. Our hope had been to move to part-time work and start to summer (and “fall”) on the island when we both turned 50. Tom loved the outdoors and was an avid hiker and bicyclist. We rode our tandem mountain bike throughout the park, packing picnic lunches. Our favorite time of year was fall, followed by winter: the beauty and solitude of the park when blanketed with snow is stunning. We got involved with FOA when we started attending the Gala, and have made special friends through that event. During the last year, Tom’s only thought was to be well enough to travel to Maine and stay in our house there. We spent several weeks in Bar Harbor during the fall and winter, including throwing a big family party at New Year’s. His last time to Acadia was six weeks before he passed away.

IN MEMORIAM
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

William Albert
Dow Case
Joan Ferrell
Richard Frost
Charles Glass
Milton Hodgens
Anne Kuckro
Morris Lambdin
Douglas Leland
Jennifer Liss
Sally Magyar
Mark and Michael Marroy
Boyd and Albertine Maxwell

Elizabeth Meiklejohn
Richard Muellerleile
Kevin Potter
David Rabasca
Dale Redmond
Roy
Kit Spahr
Christie Stephenson
Frances Tucker
Edith Vignos
Derek Watson
Thomas Witt
Francis Zelz

IN NOMINE
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

All VBT Leaders
Lynn Azzam
Thomas Hageman
Edward Lahikainen
Shelby Lawrence
Devney Autumn Mieczkowski
Lili Pew
Barbara Presswood

March 1–May 31, 2010

Tom Witt at Schooner Head in Acadia National Park.
Combing Out

Someone is raking outside in the moonlight.
Combing out one season, before the next.

It is probably too late though.
The snow coming in fast.

The sound rhythmic and haunting.
A familiar sensation. Missing

the plot. The third act opens
while she’s in the first scene.

Brushing her hair on the calico pillow.
Tea by the bedside. He is gone.

Winter just around the corner.
The geese have flown away.

Replaced so easily by another.
Hush now. Someone’s outside

clearing the leaves and flower beds
before frost claims the harvest.

—Elaine Zimmerman

ELAINE ZIMMERMAN is a policy leader for children
and a poet. Her poetry appears in numerous journals
and anthologies including Everybody Says Hello and
Worlds in Our Words: Contemporary American Women
Writers. She lives in Connecticut.
TEN YEARS OF ROADSIDE CLEAN-UPS

This year over 350 volunteers participated in FOA’s 10th annual Earth Day Roadside Clean-up on Saturday, April 24th. Volunteers picked up over 750 bags of trash from over 150 miles of roadside in the Mount Desert Island, Trenton, and Schoodic areas. They collected less trash than last year, which may be evidence that the clean-up is, indeed, improving the condition of our roadsides. The Schoodic Committee conducted a shoreline and roadside clean-up, and this year FOA worked with three area schools—George Stevens Academy, Pemetic Elementary School, and Tremont Consolidated School—to help them coordinate their own roadside clean-ups. Other area organizations and businesses that fielded volunteer crews included: MDI Hospital, the Coast Guard, MDI High School National Honors Society, and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust.

Students from MDI High School were dressed in the fashion of the day: orange vests and blue gloves.

Volunteers collected items from the ordinary to the uncommon.

Students at Pemetic Elementary School in Southwest Harbor gathered before heading out to pick up their local roadsides.

The Coast Guard got into the spirit.

Volunteers from MDI Hospital paused to pose.

Schoodic’s clean-up featured plenty of old lobster buoys.

George Stevens Academy in Blue Hill organized their own area clean-up with supplies and coordination from FOA.

FOA Board Chairman Lili Pew rode from Blue Hill to MDI, thanking volunteers all along the way.
In 1999, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park established Acadia Trails Forever to restore and maintain the park’s 120-mile trail system. At the time, Acadia was the first national park in the country to have an endowed trail system, and today serves as a model for other national parks and their partners. The initiative inspired more than 1,100 donors of $35 and up, including the then-largest donation to a Maine environmental organization of $5 million from Ruth and Tris Colket.

The Acadia Trails Forever campaign raised $9 million in private donations, leveraging a $4 million commitment from the National Park Service. The partnership’s goals are to rehabilitate Acadia’s historic hiking trail system, reconstruct 11 miles of abandoned or unmaintained trails, build five village connector trails to restore the once-abundant walking connections to the park, and endow the ongoing maintenance of the trails into the future.

Since 2000, miles of trail have been reconstructed and drainages cleared and rebuilt for long-term conservation. Several historic trails have been reintroduced into Acadia’s trail system. New village connector trails have been built. See the panel for a summary of work accomplished over the past decade.

This summer hikers will see Acadia Trails Forever at work on the Canada Cliffs Connector, which will restore a historic trail link at Echo Lake to create a loop for hikers: up the Beech Cliff Trail to Canada Cliffs and down to Lurvey Spring Road. Two new village connector trails also are in the planning stages.

The Acadia Trails Forever partnership has provided jobs for up to 20 seasonal trail crew members since 2000. It has funded the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, a crew of 16 teenagers working 8 weeks every summer in the park; and four Ridge Runners, mostly college-age kids, who work 10 weeks in summer hiking and doing field work with park staff.

The benefits have been many and some perhaps unforeseen. With the reconstruction of the Jesup Path, for instance, Sieur de Monts has a new life of pedestrian exploration and connection to trails.

“... Sieur de Monts has a new life of pedestrian exploration and connection to trails.”

The benefits have been many and some perhaps unforeseen. With the reconstruction of the Jesup Path, for instance, Sieur de Monts has a new life of pedestrian exploration and connection to trails. For the past four years, FOA and the park have held its Family Fun Day at Sieur de Monts, and the newly rehabilitated Jesup Path has been an integral part of the field day. The best news is that, with the Acadia Trails Forever endowment, the benefits will continue far into the future.

Acadia Trails Forever is a successful national model because of the strong partnership between Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia, and the generosity and vision of our members and donors.

We hope to see you on the trails soon.

MARLA O’BYRNE is the President and CEO of Friends of Acadia

The Jesup Path before restoration.

The new Jesup Path boardwalk, high and dry in early spring.
The Schooner Head Path before restoration.

A retaining wall on the restored Schooner Head Path.

**Acadia Trails Forever Accomplishments 1999–2010**

**BLAZING:** 107 miles—almost the entire system

**BOGWALKS AND BOARDWALKS:** 3,000 linear feet

**BRIDGES:** 30 of 15 feet or longer plus many smaller footbridges

**ABANDONED TRAILS REOPENED:** 1.8 miles

**VILLAGE CONNECTOR TRAILS:** 4 trails, totaling 5.6 miles

**CULVERTS:** 259 culverts rebuilt or replaced, following new or historic styles as appropriate

**DRAINAGE AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE:** 91 miles of general clearing of drains parkwide, and nearly 500 new checks installed

**STEPS:** over 3,000 new or rehabilitated
- Though mostly rock, this figure includes a small percentage of wooden steps, and step stones and pavers tallied as steps.

**WALLS:** 16,760 square feet repaired or constructed new
- Though mostly rock walls, this figure includes a small percentage of coping walls and wooden crib walls.

**WORKFORCE:** Highly skilled
- ATF has allowed us to train, develop, and retain a skilled and professional team.
- Leadership staff averages over 16 years of park and trails experience.
- In 2010, only 10% of the trail crew workforce had no prior trail experience.

**ASSORTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**
- Reconstruction of a historic dam!
- Providing expertise and exchanging experiences with other national parks
- Literally thousands of hours of labor through the volunteer program
- Providing fire, rescue, and other assistance
Attention, Downeast plant lovers! A new field guide was released in July: The Plants of Acadia National Park by Glen Mittelhauser, Linda Gregory, Sally Rooney, and Jill Weber (with additional photographs by Marilee Lovit and Donna Kausen). It is the most comprehensive photographic reference ever published for the wild plants of the Acadia National Park region, including the national park lands on the Schoodic Peninsula, Mount Desert Island, and Isle au Haut. Flowers, trees, shrubs, ferns, and even the grass-like plants of the region are included. The Plants of Acadia National Park is designed to bridge the gap between simple wildflower guides and technical floras; its aim is to be equally valuable to novice and experienced botanists. Even children might start by using the book to identify a common, showy plant, and progress to plant identifications that require an understanding of more subtle features. Sized to fit in a backpack and with a durable stitched binding, this guide is an essential reference for all, from amateur wildflower lovers and conservation volunteers to professional botanists and ecologists.

The Plants of Acadia National Park is the latest in a series of significant botanical works for the area. The first book to document the plants from the Acadia National Park region was the 1894 work Flora of Mount Desert Island, Maine by Edward Rand and John Redfield. Over the years that followed, additions to this catalog were reported in various manuscripts and publications, the most significant by Edgar Wherry, who published Wild Flowers of Mount Desert Island in 1928. David Wise published The Flora of Isle au Haut, Maine in 1970, building on the botanical efforts of Albert Hill and Nathaniel Kidder.

“**The Plants of Acadia National Park is is the most comprehensive photographic reference ever published for the wild plants of the Acadia National Park region.**”

Dr. Craig Greene, former professor of biology at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, studied pollination biology, completed inventories of rare plants and freshwater aquatic vegetation, and compiled a bibliography of historic natural resource studies in Acadia National Park before his untimely death in October 2003. However, one of Craig’s true passions was searching out and observing the plants of the Mount Desert Island region. His enthusiasm for sharing his passion and knowledge inspired many an hour of “botanizing”—exploring and enjoying the wonders of our unique flora—with students, colleagues, friends, and family. Among those with whom he shared botanical expeditions were the authors of this guide; it was Craig Greene who suggested that a comprehensive flora of the Acadia National Park region be compiled, and it was he who inspired and began The Plants of Acadia National Park.

The Plants of Acadia National Park reflects 25 years of field work documenting the plants of the Acadia National Park region by Greene and the book’s authors, with an additional five years to compile and prepare the data (a much bigger project than anyone imagined). The project involved numerous individuals...
and organizations beyond the authors. The vision started to become reality when The Garden Club of Mount Desert, a member of the Garden Club of North America; Friends of Acadia; and the Maine Natural History Observatory committed their time and resources to bring about publication of this book. Ann Kinney of the Garden Club and Marla O’Byrne of Friends of Acadia were extremely dedicated to the project and always kept it moving according to schedule. They should be credited with bringing this guide to publication. It has been a tremendous privilege to work with them.

The Plants of Acadia National Park is designed to be accessible to all users. Introductory material provides a context for study of the current flora by describing the area’s ecology, geology, and cultural history. The identification process begins with a key that uses flower and leaf characteristics to suggest plant families (and even possible species) to which an unknown plant might belong. Thumbnail photo summaries of the plant families help make the key easier to use. Then follow the individual entries, separated into four categories: Wildflowers; Ferns and allies; Conifers and allies; and Sedges, rushes, and grasses. The book presents a half page of descriptive information for each plant, including scientific and common names, botanical family, several photos, a description of the species, its abundance and distribution in the Acadia National Park region, and other names used for the species. Many of the photographs are beautiful, but an effort was made to provide photos of the no-so-photogenic vegetative structures necessary for positive identification. A glossary of botanical terms is included at the end of the book.

Although this guide contains all of the plants of the Acadia National Park region that have been documented, amateur and professional botanists have an opportunity to make a significant contribution to the flora of the region by documenting additional species. These may be plants that have been historically reported in the area but not observed for more than 20 years, or they may be species new to the flora. We hope that this book will help to kindle increased interest in the flora of the Acadia National Park region and an appreciation of the landscape in general.

GLEN H. MITTELHAUSER is the executive director of the Maine Natural History Observatory, a nonprofit research organization that focuses on inventory and monitoring of the flora and fauna of the Downeast coast of Maine.

CELESTE MITTELHAUSER is a homeschooled singer, creative artist, ex goat herder, gardener, and writer who lives in Gouldsboro.

JILL WEBER is a consulting botanist and ecologist specializing in natural resource inventory projects for Maine’s conservation organizations.
NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Stephanie Clement

In April, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park hosted a group of eight conservationists from Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, and the West Bank as part of an exchange program focused on community-based natural resource management. In May, I traveled to the Middle East with seven New England colleagues to learn from our Middle Eastern counterparts.

The exchange was organized by the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF) and funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. State Department and private donors. QLF’s mission is to support the rural communities and environment of eastern Canada and New England and create models for stewardship and cultural heritage that can be applied worldwide. I have been fortunate to participate in two QLF Middle Eastern fellowships and have looked forward to each opportunity to greet QLF’s international fellows at Acadia.

Since the focus of this year’s exchange was community-based natural resources management, I selected one of the most important gateway community issues at Acadia as the topic of my case study—the proposed “eco-resort” on the 3,276-acre Winter Harbor Holding Company lands adjacent to the Schoodic District of the park. The eco-resort’s concept plan includes a golf course, an unspecified number of housing units, a conference center, two hotels, four educational centers, and a “green corridor” through the center of the property. FOA is concerned about the proposal because of potential ecological isolation of Acadia National Park, loss of large undeveloped habitat blocks, lack of long-term legal protection of the proposed “green corridor,” duplication of initiatives at the Schoodic Education and Research Center, stress on community infrastructure and resources, and harm to park viewsheds, dark night skies, and natural quiet. The development proposal has been in a quiet phase recently, but the lead consultants on the project assure Friends of Acadia that work is ongoing to refine development plans.

Several case studies we visited in the Middle East offered lessons applicable to Schoodic. The Shouf Cedar Reserve in Lebanon was created in 1996 and declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 2005. The reserve is bordered by 24 villages and includes parts of Lebanon’s first long-distance hiking trail. Rather than developing lodging and restaurant facilities inside the reserve, managers chose to work with community members to convert private homes to guest houses, train local guides, and develop food products for sale. This tourism model has protected a significant natural area, educated visitors about its resources, developed the surrounding economy, and connected local residents to the conserved lands. The Schoodic Peninsula could benefit from this style of development, focusing lodging and restaurant development in the villages of Winter Harbor, Birch Harbor, and Prospect Harbor and retaining the undeveloped Winter Harbor Holding Company’s lands for biodiversity protection, educational initiatives, and guided recreation.

Another case study relevant to Schoodic was the Samar Sand Dunes in the Arava Valley in southern Israel, an example of citizen advocacy to protect a rare natural resource. In the Arava Valley, citizens have been working with the Sababa Initiative (part of the Arava Institute for Environmental Studies) to protect the remaining 2.3 square kilometers of sand dunes on the Israeli side of the valley. When the dunes were authorized to be mined, Sababa worked with citizens to hold demonstrations, petition the government, solicit press coverage, and propose alternative plans that allow mining on disturbed areas but protect the remaining natural dunes for the desert wildlife that depends on them.

Undoubtedly, citizen advocacy will have a significant role in the future of Schoodic. If the Winter Harbor Holding Company never agrees to sell its land or development rights, perhaps citizens working in partnership with Friends of Acadia and others can suggest alternative development ideas that will protect the land’s important conservation values. The case studies from the 2010 QLF Middle East Exchange show that it is possible.

As I return to normal life in Maine and reflect on my experience in the Middle East, I am thankful for the world’s great natural and cultural assets, such as Acadia, that create joy in our lives. I am thankful to QLF and its funders for granting me the opportunity to be inspired by global conservation stories. And most importantly, I am thankful for all the citizens who engage in resource protection. Whether picking up trash, serving as guides, or advocating on behalf of plants and wildlife, everyone can make a difference.

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is the conservation director at Friends of Acadia.
Living Next Door to Acadia

Dick Cough

Every year in early June, I take the entire Bar Harbor first grade on a sightseeing bus tour of the local area, and have done so for the last 37 years. Reflecting upon this and other aspects of my life makes me realize what a huge impact Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park have had over the years on the lives of my family and me. It has molded who I am, what I do, where I go on vacation, and many other decisions I make on a daily basis.

My family’s roots go deep with the Island and the park. My great-great-grandfather on my dad’s side was a stowaway on a ship from China that sailed into Bass Harbor around 1850. My grandfather on my mom’s side, Dana Young, worked for Acadia for 43 years before retiring as head of maintenance. He also worked as Mr. Dorr’s chauffer, and was privy to many interesting and important conversations that helped shape Acadia’s future. My uncle, Dick Young, worked for the park service for 27 years and also retired as head of maintenance at Acadia. My mom, Sylvia, was secretary to Superintendent Hadley for eight years.

My father, Sonny Cough, served on the first Acadia National Park Advisory Commission. He realized at an early age that a national park was good for the local economy, and started the first sightseeing company to offer bus tours into Acadia, in 1955. I remember selling tickets for the tour for 50 cents an hour in 1964. I started driving in 1968 when I was only 18, and operated the business for the next 38 years. Today my nephew and third-generation business owner Andy Cough is in charge, and this marks our 56th season of service. My dad got into the hotel business in the 1960s, and we still operate two hotels today.

When I joined the service in 1969, I wanted to remain near the water and so spent the next four years in the Coast Guard. My studies were also affected by the park, as my degree from the University of Maine is in Parks and Recreation Management and Administration. When I worked away winters I always made sure I was near a national park. The house I have lived in for 15 years borders Acadia National Park on two sides, and I can go out the back door and be on top of Cadillac in less than two hours. The grounds around the house are like an extension of the trails of Acadia. No lawn, just lots of pink granite steps, stone walls, ferns, blueberry bushes, and trees.

Of course, Acadia is unique among national parks for several reasons. It was the first park established east of the Mississippi River, it’s the park furthest east, and most of it is on an island. Perhaps most importantly though, it is the only national park originally formed entirely by private land donations, as each piece was given by individuals who lived here and cared enough to preserve the land. Usually gateway communities spring up around national parks, but the communities on MDI existed long before the park was established.

While on the first-grade tour, I try to impress upon my young riders just how important Acadia is to our lives and the jobs our parents have. I tell the first graders how the park makes the Island communities even more desirable to live and work in. Having a national park in your backyard isn’t typical, but does bring in tourists and summer people who spend a lot of money in the shops and businesses, which makes even more places for their parents to work. Usually two or three kids have a parent who works for the park, and several have parents who work for the Acadia Corporation, Friends of Acadia, or a business that has the name “Acadia” in it. The kids all love to raise their hands to let me know and tell me personal stories about their father or mother and what they do. You’d be amazed how much of what I tell them they’re able to remember and pass onto their parents when they get home that day.

I know how lucky I am to live here. The committees I serve on, the decisions I make, the land I buy, and the things I build have always been impacted by my experience of having a national park in my backyard. The Island communities and Acadia need to continue to work together to preserve the communities, the park, and our way of life. And, back to the tour: If I can get just one child every year to see what I see, perhaps Acadia National Park will change their life forever, too.

Dick Cough with the Bar Harbor first grade class.

Dick Cough

Dick Cough lives and works in Bar Harbor.
Otters seem to like the Tarn. In fact, Judy Hazen Connery, a natural resources management specialist with Acadia National Park, has seen them there more often than any other place in the park. Tucked into the valley between Dorr Mountain and Huguenot Head, the Tarn feeds Cromwell Harbor Brook, which winds through Bar Harbor to the sea. Native fish like pumpkinseed sunfish and ninespine stickleback thrive there, along with spotted salamanders and several species of frogs, bivalves, and dragonflies. It’s a feeding area for threatened bats like the small-footed myotis, as well as a host of tree swallows, warblers, herons, and other birds. In its nutrient-rich waters grow a profusion of lilies, bayonet rushes, and arrowheads in summer.

Geologically speaking, a tarn is a small, steep-banked mountain lake or pool, especially one fed by a glacier, but Acadia’s “tarn” is a depression in a glacier-carved valley. It may have started as a pond or a wetland associated with a glacial river. Over time, sediments from the steep adjacent hillsides along with wetland plants contributed organic soils, filling it in. Around the time George B. Dorr was planting the seed of Acadia National Park at adjoining Sieur de Monts Spring, the area was identified on maps as “Little Meadow.” It may or may not have been Dorr who first built a dam at the northern end of Little Meadow, but it was Dorr who called it “the Tarn.” The dam created a pond that for many years indeed resembled a true tarn.

Ask local residents about it, and many will recall a seemingly bottomless pool capturing a mirror-like reflection of Dorr Mountain in its surface. Says Otter Creek resident Karen Zimmerman, “I’ve always felt how special it was to see the mountain named for Dorr, reflected in the pond that was his work.” Some remember the Tarn stocked with trout for youth-only fishing, and have fond memories of annual fishing derbies and, in winter, ice-skating parties. Ten or so years ago, some of those residents began to express concern that the Tarn was filling in with grasses and reeds, and that the park was losing a view truly worth saving. A group called Save the Tarn approached Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia, wondering if the park would take action to bring back the reflecting pool they grew up with.

To do so, says Rebecca Cole-Will, the park’s cultural resources program manager, would be “to treat the Tarn as a cultural landscape and maintain it in a specific condition—like a snapshot in time. But before we can decide how to manage what we have, we need to know what we have.” The rules for how a park must—or must not—intervene in any situation differ greatly depending on what kind of resource will be impacted. And what defines a cultural landscape or a natural resource is spelled out by law, to ensure consistency among different places and different periods of time.

In the early 1990s, the Park Service, together with the University of Maine Department of Wildlife Ecology, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Maine Agricultural and Forest Experiment Station, prepared a comprehensive survey of the wetlands of Acadia based on aerial photography taken...
A Resource Management Success Story: The Jesup Path

Dedicated in 1918 to Morris K. and Maria De Witt Jesup, the Jesup Path is a much-loved amble through the heart of Great Meadow, passing through purple lambkill (sheep laurel) hedges and an iconic birch grove. But by 2005 it was in great disrepair, always muddy and often completely under water. Unsafe bog walks had been removed. In addition, the earth berm that raised sections of the trail was interfering with natural drainage patterns in Great Meadow.

The park identifies Great Meadow as an important freshwater wetland, so it had a clear responsibility to protect the Meadow from the hydrologic interference of the path. In 2006, a park trails planning group discussed multiple options for the Jesup Path, including the possibility of abandoning the trail entirely. But, says ANP Cultural Resources Program Manager Rebecca Cole-Will, resource management is a balancing act, involving a delicate weighing of competing priorities. The Jesup Path is itself part of the Sieur de Monts memorial path system, which appears on path maps from the 1890s.

So the planning group’s consensus was to reconstruct, striving to maintain water flow through effective trail design. Also on the group’s mind was the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA); Acadia’s Hiking Trails Management Plan requires that a trail needing repair be evaluated to determine whether it can be made accessible for visitors with disabilities.

The new Jesup Path boardwalk on the south end of the trail now stands as a lovely embodiment of a management decision that balances multiple and sometimes opposing mandates. Built by ANP trail crews and FOA volunteers, it is fully wheelchair accessible, and together with the first section of the Hemlock Road creates an ADA-compliant loop that can be reached from the Sieur de Monts Nature Center. Set well above the ground on unanchored wooden piers, the boardwalk will allow water to flow naturally below while keeping feet dry above— all while maintaining that magical quality that the Jesup Path has offered visitors for over a century.

The Jesup Path's new boardwalk.

Friends of Acadia Journal
Summer 2010

in the 1980s. Even then, the Tarn was identified as a eutrophic (meaning nutrient-rich), palustrine (from the Latin for marsh) wetland. As we (as a society) have come to recognize the value of wetlands for wildlife habitat, flood control, sediment removal, and many other functions, federal and state laws have been written to protect these values. The park’s responsibility to the Tarn, as a wetland, is to prevent its degradation, preserve its natural value, and minimize human-caused disturbances to its natural hydrologic processes.

This would be the end of the story, except that national parks are also charged with protecting cultural and historic resources within their boundaries. And in Acadia, perhaps more than in any other national park, the natural and the cultural intertwine so closely that park managers must always have an eye toward both. When restoring carriage roads, for example, the park must consider how cutting trees to maintain a historic view may affect endangered plants, wildlife habitat, or erosion. The National Historic Preservation Act directs parks to document landscapes that have been invested with meaning by human activity and intention; accordingly, Cultural Landscape Inventories (CLIs) have been prepared for many sites in Acadia and nationwide, including Baker Island, Jordan Pond, and the Schoodic Peninsula. In 2008, the park asked the NPS’s Olmstead Center for Landscape Preservation to prepare a CLI of the Sieur de Monts area. The Olmstead Center’s research emphasized Dorr’s plans and constructions, but also observed human activities before and since.

One primary task of the Inventory is to define the boundary of the cultural landscape. To the surprise of some at the park, the CLI determined that there simply isn’t any documentation linking the Tarn to Dorr’s intentional landscaping activities at Sieur de Monts. Other than commenting that it should be used for irrigation, the generally prolix Dorr was silent about the Tarn. Without explicit explanation, his actions (renaming the inundated meadow, placing stepping stones over the dam, maybe building the dam itself, and maybe ordering the thousand water lilies that Mt. Desert Nurseries planted in 1939) don’t paint a coherent picture of his intentions there. Within the context of Sieur de Monts, then, the Tarn cannot be classified as a cultural resource. And unless new evidence turns up that the Tarn is a significant feature of the cultural landscape at Sieur de Monts, NPS management policies direct that park managers let the natural processes there continue.

But Dorr is not the only person to have loved this landscape. If the Tarn continues its reversion to meadow, its more recent history—the perfect reflection of Dorr’s golden cliffs in the morning, the fishing derbies, even the grade-school tales of Loch Ness monsters lurking in its depths—will be lost. Recognizing this, the park has solicited a study by cultural anthropologist Shirley J. Fiske of the University of Maryland, who has conducted research in Maine fishing communities using ethnographic interviews to document the traditional uses, values, connections, and attitudes associated with natural resources. She will use this “ground
“truthing” approach to examine the ongoing relationship of the people of Bar Harbor and Otter Creek to the Tarn. Fiske will conduct interviews with community members in July, and a final draft of her report is expected in November.

Meanwhile, life in the Tarn marches on. Otters chase minnows in the shallows, and beavers sometimes take up residence. Though an abandoned lodge on the western shore says nobody’s home this year, their influence can be seen in water marks on boulders along the shore, indicating a higher water level in the past. Every year, plant debris builds up against the upstream side of the stepping stones that traverse the dam, raising the water by several inches. Park trail crews regularly remove the buildup to keep water from flowing up around the stones and eroding the trail.

In spring of 2009, a series of floods unset the stepping stones across the dam, which had itself been deteriorating for several years prior. Park Trail Foreman Gary Stellpflug was sent with his crew to rebuild the trail. In the process, he discovered a substantial wooden cribwork under the stones—which appeared to his eye to be the remains of a dam from an earlier era. Of course, such a dam might have controlled water flow from Little Meadow without filling it up; cranberries had been cultivated downstream in Great Meadow prior to Dorr’s purchase of the property, and an upstream dam might have helped irrigate those crops.

But Stellpflug wasn’t speculating as he worked on the dam. Whether the Tarn is a natural resource or a cultural landscape, he had another resource to maintain: the historic trail system that Dorr helped establish, and which depends on the Tarn dam to connect the Beachcroft Path up Huguenot Head, the trails of Dorr Mountain, and Sieur de Monts. Acadia’s trail system has been identified as a significant cultural resource and listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and the park works actively to maintain it—observe the extensive trail building and rehabilitation that has occurred through the Acadia Trails Forever program over the last decade (see page 8).

And sedimentation continues. Judy Hazen Connery recognizes that nobody knows exactly why the Tarn is filling in—probably the same forces that have been working on it for eons, with the addition of gravel and sediment from the shoulders of Route 3. Scientists also have found that warmer average temperatures are creating more frequent high-precipitation storms, which could be accelerating the process. Like the invasive plants the park will work to remove this summer, these are human impacts, which the park will do its best to mitigate. However, she observes, “Lakes and ponds naturally fill in and become wet meadows over time.” That’s what they’ve always done, and without human intervention, that’s what they’ll continue to do.

AIMEE BEAL is the outreach and communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

ABC Printing
Laura Albright
Jim and Jan Allen
Nina Amendola
Patricia Ames
Ellen Augusta
Moneer and Sara Azzam
Greg and Judith Barringer
Lillian Baumann
Dr. Abby Bergman
Stuart and Michelle Berner
Daniel Bigelow and Suzanne Cole
Frank Blair
Bill and Lynn Blake
David Blane
Keith Bobolia
Howard Braithwaite
Travis Brassard
Sharon Brassard
Rich Brey
Diane and Chris Brooke
Karen and Bruce Brothers
Gernon and Linda Brown
Carolyn Brunke
Carol Canfield
Caplan, Hecht & Mendel, LLC
Maria Carofano
Gretchen Caulfield
Christine Cendagotta
Shari Chaney
Pattie Charles
Margaret Kezer Church
Sally Clifford
Sam Clinch
Linda Coffee
Clair and Bill Cohen
Mary Cohen
George Cohen and Linda Dickson
Craig Combs
Connecticut Bar Association
Josephine and Dominic Costello
James Coughlin
Mr. and Mrs. Peter Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Dalgar
Bill Dauster
Jennifer DelMonico
Lawrence DeNoia
Elizabeth Detrício
Greg Derwart
Gerald and Anne Desmond
Maureen DiBello
Richard and Barbara Dickson
Christine Dietze
Gene and Carol Du Bay
Eugene and Paula Dubay
Michael Effron
Dorothea Eiben
Charles and Joanne Eible
Mary Etter
John Fehlauer
Katherine and Brian Fischer
Maxwell Fletcher and Lynnie Bruce
Jill Riley and Stephen Fotis
Michael Foulks
Karen France
Richard Freeman
Gary and Jodi Freeman
Dr. Michael and Eleanor Frey
Friends of Boscobel
Rebecca Galat
The Gallagher Law Firm
Jon Gautier
Sandra Ghosh
Alison Glass
Neva and Howard Goldstein
Cal Gorevic
Jill and Joel Greenstein
Jennifer Groves
Margaret and Christopher Gruenke
Arthur Hadden
Gerald Harmon
David and Luella Haskins
Edward Hazen
Ross Heckert
Becky Heden
David Heiner
Helena Henderson
Heron Financial Group, LLC
Elizabeth Hildebrandt
Rhoda and Lloyd Hirsch
Dr. Gilbert and Carol Hogan
Don and Elaine Holevoet
Steven Holley
Nancy Irish
Lorraine Isler
Jacobs, Grudberg, Belt, Dow & Katz PC
Pamela Johnson
Leah Johnson
D. Terence Jones
Michael and Dorothy Jones
Patsy Jordan
Rachel Kindseth
Ronald and Helga Kittredge
Joan Klemeisrs
Knight, Conway & Cerretti, LLC
Knott & Knott, LLC
Barry Kolar
Susan and Robert Kowew
Judith Lachat
The Honorable Linda Lager
Kelyn Laney
Shelley and Robert Langer
The Law Offices of Betty G. Levy, LLC
Robin and Kathie Ledwith
Ann and David Leigh
Anne Leland
Richard Lemoine
Kenneth Lenz
Licart, Walsh & Sklaver, LLC
Hugh and Alberta Lockhart
Jack and Nancy Lockridge
Long Lots School
Lloyd and Janet Loop
Ingi-Mai Loorand and Thomas Price
Charles and Karen Lorenzetti
Michelle Loveland
Andrew Lubin
Peggy and Bob Macina
Monica Mackie
Nada MacKinney
Carol Madeja
Maher Group, LLC
Jean and Claudio Marzollo
Dave Matthews
Yvonne and Larry McGhee
Mrs. John F McGrath
Carlos McInnes and Ellen McInnes
James McKay
Judith and John Meyer
Kacey Morabito
Trudy Muhlauer
Murphy, Murphy & Nugent, LLC
Bob Myers and Donna Parker
Janet Myers
Concetta Najda
Claudette Narcisco
Noureen Nardi
Max Nibert
John Norwine
Joe and Linda Olgischlaeger
Roland O’Neal
James O’Neill
Molly and Don Parrish
Doris Parsons
Gary and Hope Pease
Peekskill Rotary Club
John Pellegrino
Steven and Cathy Perrone
Emily and David Pfaff
Bill Pombhino and Laurie Swanson
Joe and Kathy Plummer
Laurie Quinn
Allan and Jimmie Lynn Ramsaur
F. M. Riddell
Mrs. Jim Rod
Paul and Clare Rosen
Richard Rosu-Myles
Michael Rotindo and Cynthia Teeple
Julie Rowe and Jeffrey Deacon
William Sadek
Catherine Saltis Kennedy
Elizabeth Samek-OMalley
and Terrance O’Malley
Candace and Daniel Sanchez
Thomas Sandson
and Ruth Beardsley
David and Denise Satterhwtaite
Jeffrey and Lisa Scott
Tony and Robbie Fay Scott
Patricia Kaplan and Ian Scott
Anita and Jerry Seligson
SES Sunshine Fund
Nancy and Milford Shaw
Shelld and Hoberman, LLC
Silverstein & Osach, PC
Robert Simons
and Jeanette Archer-Simons
Gary and Laura Sklaver
Orin and Dr. Stephanie Smith
Dana Jo Collier Smith
Marion Smithberger
and Carol Sheehan
Richard and Kerala Snyder
Leticia Spencer
Sharon Sperduto
Karen Stable and John Earley
Sheldon M. Stone
Martha Sullivan
Edward Sumber
Ernest and Germaine Swanberg
Dr. David Taft
Susan Taylor
Jennifer and Robert Thomas
Thompson & Peck, Inc.
Thomas and Rebecca Tindel
Neal and Nancy Townsend
Bob and Cora Tucker
Michael J. Tully
VBT Bicycling Vacations
Carolyn and Alfred Veilleux
Tracy Ventresca
Stacy Votto
Emil and Marlene Vyskocil
Julie Warner
Rodney Wegener
Jill Werner
Carolyn Westerfield
Westport Music Staff
Clement and Mary Louise Wilson
John Schertler and Ruth Yamamoto
Patricia Yevics
Carmela and Steve Zehalla
Zone Corporation

March 1, 2010 – May 31, 2010
FOA in the Community

Every year, Friends of Acadia is involved with numerous programs and events that benefit the communities surrounding Acadia National Park. Here is some of what we’ve been up to this year!

Acadia Quest

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are partnering on the third annual Acadia Quest, a free program designed to get kids outdoors and into the park. Teams kicked off the 2010 season on Saturday, April 24th, by participating at FOA’s Earth Day Roadside Clean-up and/or the park’s National Junior Ranger Day. There are dozens of events and activities available to teams through the summer and fall. Take Pride in Acadia Day on Saturday, November 6th, is the final 2010 Quest team event.

FOA staff is working with the area’s school systems, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and many community youth centers to encourage participation in the program. Not only is the program a lot of fun, but teams completing the Quest qualify for a chance to win one of three outdoor-themed grand prizes. To date, 56 teams have registered for Acadia Quest, with more expected—it’s not too late to join them!

Hike the Book Club

Friends of Acadia has been helping a local resident and FOA member develop a new hiking group on MDI, based on Tom St. Germain’s A Walk in the Park. The group reaches out to hikers on Facebook, bringing them together to explore Acadia by hiking all the trails featured in Tom’s book. Although not sponsoring this hiking group, FOA is pleased to help the hiking group leader plan how to gather small groups to hike. Hikes are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings. To learn more, check out the Hike the Book page on Facebook.

The Greening of the Quietside

On May 5th, businesses from across Mount Desert Island’s Quietside gathered at the American Legion Hall in Southwest Harbor to share tips for environmentally friendly business practices. Representatives from restaurants, cottages, and other sectors of the economy described everything from home cleaning product recipes to fun contests encouraging guests to recycle. The group also heard from three College of the Atlantic students, who worked with willing business owners to conduct audits of their environmental practices, identify areas of growth, and improve marketing to highlight their green practices.

The event was part of a larger initiative spearheaded by the Southwest Harbor/Tremont Chamber of Commerce to “green” the Quietside. FOA Conservation Director Stephanie Clement serves on the steering committee for this effort. In 2007, Clement co-authored with Maine Sea Grant and the Vacationland Resources Committee of Down East RC&D A Resource Guide for Sustainable Tourism in Down East Maine and Southwest New Brunswick. The guide was adapted and simplified with pertinent information for Quietside businesses (www.seagrant.umaine.edu/files/pdf-global/07RG.pdf). Clement also chairs the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce’s Sustainable Tourism Committee, which is working with member businesses on projects such as public recycling bins to make Bar Harbor a more sustainable destination.
**Isle au Haut**

Recently, Friends of Acadia field crew leaders, volunteer crew leaders, and volunteers boarded a ferry for an island excursion to Isle au Haut. Each spring, volunteers help clip, brush, rake, and prepare the 18-mile trail network and Duck Harbor Campground for the hikers, campers, photographers, summer residents, and day users that recreate on the island each summer.

**Mount Desert Island High School Outing Club**

This spring, FOA worked with MDI High School staff to raise funding for an Outing Club. Funding was provided by Teens to Trails (T3), an organization whose mission is to increase opportunities for teens to connect with nature. The grant funding will enable MDI High School to offer students new and exciting opportunities for positive outdoor experiences with their peers. In addition to providing equipment, the cash grant will help make nature-themed trips more affordable.

**National Trails Day**

Thunder, lightning, and pouring rain dampened the numbers but not spirits of trail enthusiasts who celebrated National Trails Day on Saturday, June 5th. Among those attending were two Acadia Quest teams working toward completion of this year’s Quest. The lightning prompted park interpretive staff to lead these groups on a virtual hike at ANP Headquarters instead of the planned outing to Compass Harbor. Braving the rain, however, a dozen other hikers joined ANP trail crew members to hike the connector trail now under construction between Echo Lake and Beech Mountain’s Canada Cliffs. Work on the trail is well under way, and is scheduled for completion by late fall.

**Night Sky Festival**

The stars shine on above Acadia. September 9th–13th, amateur astronomers, artists, park visitors, and stargazers will gather to celebrate the Second Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival. Events planned include ranger-led activities, night sky viewing, a boat cruise, lectures, and an art auction featuring the photographs of Tyler Nordgren, whose book *Stars Above, Earth Below: A Guide to Astronomy in the National Parks* was published this year. Friends of Acadia is a partner in the festival planning committee. The festival will have indoor and outdoor activities geared for all ages. For information and event updates, keep checking [www.nightskyfestival.org](http://www.nightskyfestival.org).

**Clean Waters, Clean Shores**

On September 18th, Friends of Acadia will partner with area organizations for the first Clean Waters, Clean Shores event. The CWCS project is designed to create awareness of pollution and its effects on the shorelines of Mount Desert Island and neighboring islands and communities. Pre-registered volunteers will be assigned to

![Volunteers disembark on Isle au Haut.](image)
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

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

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

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

**Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.**
Mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, to P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/support to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call 800-625-0321 or visit our website for instructions on giving appreciated securities, which can offer income tax benefits, as well as savings on capital gains.

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

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

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

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Updates

A one-of-a-kind Clean Waters Clean Shores poster, drawn by local student Chelsea Thomas.

To clean up designated shorelines, and a kayak tour will be organized as one way to reach island locations. Currently there are plans for about 10 clean-up sites; in its initial year, the extent of the project will be purposefully limited to MDI, Lamoine, Trenton, Cranberry Islands, Gott Islands, Swans Island, Frenchboro, Gouldsboro, and the Blue Hill area.

This volunteer-driven clean-up effort is being organized by Friends of Acadia, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratories, MDI Paddlers, The Nature Conservancy, and Sea Grant. Some area schools have invited students to draw an image that describes this unique volunteer event on posters. Posters will be displayed throughout the target area.

“John Muir Live!” at The Grand
Lee Stetson, the actor who wowed audiences with his portrayal of naturalist and conservationist John Muir in the Ken Burns documentary National Parks: America’s Best Idea, will give a benefit performance on Sunday, September 26th at 4 p.m. at The Grand Theatre in Ellsworth. The man who, according to filmmaker Ken Burns, “knows more about John Muir than anyone else on earth” will present “An Evening with John Muir,” a stirring depiction of Muir’s battle to preserve the beautiful Hetch Hetchy Valley in Yosemite National Park. Muir’s righteous anger at the “temple destroyers” is tempered by his hearty good humor and his relating of a number of extraordinary wilderness adventures. A fine introduction to both Muir the man and his profound love of wilderness.

Proceeds of the performance will benefit Friends of Acadia and The Grand. Tickets to the event are $15, $12 for ages 62 and over, $8 for children under 12, and are available at The Grand Box Office, 667-9500.

Park Pass Art Competition Winner

Lydia Reifsnyder (center) with Kevin Langley of Acadia National Park (left) and Lisa Horsch Clark of Friends of Acadia (right).

Lydia Reifsnyder, a student at Mount Desert Elementary School, won the 2010 Acadia National Park Pass Competition. Her winning artwork will appear on the ANP annual pass window decals for the coming year (see the following page). FOA Director of Development Lisa Horsch Clark and ANP Ranger Kevin Langley announced the award at the MDES Awards Assembly on June 19th, presenting a check for $50.00 and a park-themed gift bag to Miss Reifsnyder. Every year, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia co-sponsor the competition, selecting a winner from among hundreds of designs by local elementary school students.
Updates

An Independence Day Tradition
Friends of Acadia’s volunteer “Imprecision Drill Team” marched in the Bar Harbor Independence Day parade on Saturday, July 3rd. Joined by members of the Student Conservation Association and a miniature pony, the group pushed wheelbarrows, wielded rakes and other tools, and brought home the first-place trophy for best depiction of this year’s theme, “America the Beautiful.”

PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

Whether walking, bicycling, driving, or riding the fare-free Island Explorer through the park, all must pay the entrance fee from May 1st to October 31st.

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

- Acadia National Park Headquarters (Eagle Lake Road)
- Hulls Cove Visitors Center
- Thompson Island Information Center
- Bar Harbor Village Green Bus Center
- Sand Beach Entrance Station
- Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds
- Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce
- Southwest Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain gift shops

Eighty percent of all fees paid in the park stay in the park, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

For more information visit

www.friendsofacadia.org
Discover
The Jackson Laboratory
Tour our campus this summer.

Bar Harbor, Maine, not only claims a spectacular national park. It’s also the home of a major genetics research institution: The Jackson Laboratory.

Learn about the non-profit Laboratory’s work and its impact on better health and a future of personalized medicine tailored to your unique genetic makeup. Sign up for a summer tour.

Walking tours are given every Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 to 3 p.m., from June through September. Space is limited and pre-registration is required, so book early! To sign up, call 207-288-6051 or email tours@jax.org.

For more information about tours, visit www.jax.org/tours.

Can’t make a tour? Then watch our six-minute introductory video at www.jax.org/foa or learn more about our work and its contributions to better health at http://genetichealth.jax.org.

BECOME A MEMBER!

JOIN OUR 3,000 MEMBERS
from all over the world in funding necessary park projects and new initiatives. Member benefits include:

• A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually, highlighting the beauty of Acadia, issues facing the park, and Friends of Acadia programs, activities, and events

• A Friends of Acadia window decal

• The satisfaction of knowing you’re helping preserve Acadia for this generation and for all time

ALREADY A FRIENDS OF ACADEIA MEMBER?

Give a gift membership and treat a friend or loved one to a one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, along with other special benefits.

For more information, call the office at 1-800-625-0321, email the Director of Development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
**New Staff**

AIMEE BEAL is the new Communications and Outreach Coordinator at Friends of Acadia, and editor of the *Friends of Acadia Journal*. Prior to joining FOA, Aimee worked as a freelance editor and for five years was managing editor at the nonprofit poetry publisher Alice James Books in Farmington, Maine. There, she was responsible for book production, accounting, and marketing and publicity. Aimee holds a B.A. in creative writing from Carnegie Mellon University, and an M.F.A. in creative writing from the University of Pittsburgh. A native of Bar Harbor and Blue Hill, Aimee brings a lifelong connection with Acadia to her work at FOA.

JIM LINNANE has been hired as field crew leader, joining Senior Field Crew Leader Cliff Olson in coordinating volunteer projects on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads. A resident of Town Hill, Jim is no stranger to the work, having volunteered and led volunteer groups with FOA for the past seven years. Jim came to MDI after retiring as manager of Policy Development and Program Analysis with the State of Connecticut.
ACADIA FOREVER

Estate Planning—Supporting the Mission of Friends of Acadia

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

It’s simple. Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

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

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

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

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

For more information, call the office at 800-625-0321, e-mail the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Advocacy is central to Friends of Acadia’s mission, and the advocacy work the organization does helps to bring additional public funding to Acadia National Park, ensure legislation and policies that are beneficial to the park, and fight threats to park resources. Recent advocacy efforts have positively impacted such issues as firearms regulations in Acadia, and the sulfur content of home heating oil. Now, FOA has formed an Advocacy Committee to help guide advocacy programs regarding issues affecting Acadia.

The new committee will support FOA’s strategic plan, which identifies advocacy as one of five core objectives through 2016. A task force examined advocacy best practices of kindred organizations and interviewed fellow board members, policy makers, and park management, in an effort to update and improve our advocacy practices. The task force found that Friends of Acadia already employs a range of successful advocacy tools such as legislative visits, strategic partnerships, and media work, and suggested additional tools—e-newsletters, legislator meet-and-greet activities, visitor surveys, and action alert tracking mechanisms—assisted by an Advocacy Committee.

The Advocacy Committee will strengthen the organization’s capacity to develop opportunities and mechanisms to involve FOA members in advocacy activities. Currently, FOA leads the Acadia Advocacy Network, a group of members and non-members who are kept informed about issues affecting Acadia, meetings concerning those issues, and opportunities to weigh in with Congress, the state legislature, and local governments. All Friends of Acadia members are welcome to join the network to receive alerts and join in advocacy efforts. For more information, please contact Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.
In any endeavor, there’s nothing as useful as seeing how others have succeeded at the same thing before you. In the past year, I commissioned (as chair of the Friends of Acadia Board) an Advocacy Task Force to study effective advocacy for environmental policy change in the National Park System. The Task Force interviewed over 40 friends groups and national organizations to create a blueprint for success for the new FOA Advocacy Committee. Just as this work was starting, I was given *Repairing Paradise: The Restoration of Nature in America’s National Parks* by William R. Lowry. This book was a perfect way to begin my advocacy education.

*Repairing Paradise* emphasizes how our traditional approach to natural resource protection, while intended to preserve precious landscapes through the creation of national parks, has ironically yielded environmental degradation in those magnificent places. Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Everglades, and the Grand Canyon each stand as a remarkable image of “America’s Best Idea”—the National Parks. But, as Lowry points out, each of these preserved places is now in need of restoration after a near century of use and abuse. Equally urgently, each is in need of policy changes to ensure that the situation is not simply repeated after another hundred years. Lowry uses scientific evidence gathered from years of research on natural resources in and around National Parks to build his case for policy change.

Most interesting, especially in the context of Friends of Acadia’s own advocacy work, are Lowry’s case studies on what he describes as the most effective tool for impacting governmental policy change: creating effective coalitions. *Repairing Paradise* gives examples of how coalitions of citizens and organized groups, like friends groups, have positively influenced policy change to reintroduce wolves to Yellowstone, reduce automobile traffic choking Yosemite, replenish water flows to the Everglades, and work toward restoring natural water flows in the Grand Canyon.

Says Lowry, “At each of the Parks used as a case study, the inclusion of these Advocacy actors [interest groups, journalists, researchers, and agency officials], regardless of how much they explicitly coordinate, helps explain how pro-change forces create and use certain conditions to effectively engage the larger public to influence substantive and lasting public policy change.” Those conditions—a positive definition of the issue, compelling economic arguments, convincing scientific evidence, and agency commitment—are key to any advocacy group’s ability to attract essential public support for its efforts.

These case studies offer a powerful tool for individuals and organizations seeking to create a better and more sustainable National Park System by influencing policy changes. *Repairing Paradise* gives me confidence that our collective hard work advocating on behalf of Acadia and all National Parks will yield positive results for the next century of America’s Best Idea.

—Lili Pew

*Many Hands: A Penobscot Indian Story*  
By Angeli Perrow  
Illustrated by Heather Austin  
Down East Books, 2010  
32 pp., Hardbound

*Many Hands* is a beautifully illustrated children’s book that tells the story of Lily, a young Penobscot basket maker. During a dream, Lily is inspired by her grandmother to make a beautiful water lily basket. When she wakes, she makes the basket—her finest—for which she seeks attention from her family and friends. “Many hands make the basket” is the repeated mantra of the tribe, teaching the important lesson of working together and valuing the significance of everyone’s role in the community.

While the overarching theme of the book is a valuable lesson for young people to learn, the step-by-step tutorial on traditional basket making will be of interest to readers of all ages, as will the introduction to the Penobscot language that is woven throughout the story. Both art of basket making and the Penobscot language appear to be at risk of disappearing in the 21st century. By introducing these subjects to readers at an early age, one can hope that both will be preserved for future generations. Lily’s tale is well paired with the lively watercolors of Helen Austin. The illustrations feature vibrant colors and subjects seen with a child’s eye, beckoning for the page to be turned.

—Lisa Horsch Clark
As I begin this Chairman's Letter, I have a smile on my face because summer is here—which means that the focus of my letter is the amazing ways each of you gives back to our community, to Friends of Acadia, and to Acadia National Park. Summer elicits the highest level of engagement with our precious Acadia and the natural resources surrounding our communities. Volunteerism peaks in the summer months, as local residents join together to make a difference with projects in Acadia National Park and their own communities, and the many visiting friends and family members work to give back to a place they love so dearly. In the summer, local nonprofits like Harbor House, The Neighborhood House, YMCA, and area camps are magnets for youth activities, and these organizations work together to maximize volunteer opportunities, teach new skills that may change a life perspective, and grow a lifelong appreciation for stewardship of the best of our natural resources. Friends of Acadia is proud to help in these partnership efforts, and we passionately share the wish to give back.

Early every spring, our first major volunteer effort is the FOA Roadside Clean-up organized for the last Saturday in April. As in past years, I got on my bike early in the day and rode to every community from Blue Hill, through Trenton, to the far reaches of Mount Desert Island, thanking every person I saw cleaning up their part of the roadside. This year, I rode 87 wonderful miles, thanked hundreds of people, and welcomed many new friends to the family of volunteers. Giving back gives us pride for our communities, pride for our team effort, and the satisfaction of starting off the warm season with a beautiful-looking roadway.

Out in the park, I see ample evidence of the partnership between Acadia National Park trails crew and the FOA volunteer crew. Stones and foundations are being reset to make trails safe and fun for all levels of hikers, carriage roads and culverts are being repaired and rehabilitated, and many other projects are in process to keep maintenance up and safety issues down, and create the best of all visitor experiences.

All of these projects cost time and effort—not to mention money. In a time when federal dollars in support of our national parks are being cut back or eliminated, Friends of Acadia is working harder than ever with advocacy efforts and fundraising initiatives to help our beloved Acadia. FOA’s Benefit Auction is one of our most public and fun ways of raising dollars to run our programs and strengthen our ability to give back. The volunteers of the Benefit Auction Committee are working hard to gather a fabulous line-up of auction items and plan a fun and memorable event.

Giving back is a way of life that I learned from my family many years ago. It still feels as wonderful today as it did in my first volunteer experiences as young child. So much of what Acadia and Friends of Acadia brings forth is a sense of place, and the reverence to protect, preserve, and steward our home—this place where land and sea come together in most glorious beauty. To each of you who gives back in your own special way: thank you for your gift of caring, and for making a difference.

—Lili Pew
In accomplishing its mission, Friends of Acadia is guided by the principles of stewardship, advocacy and education, citizen engagement, collaboration, and independent leadership:

**Stewardship**  
**WE PROTECT THE PARK:** We mobilize people and forge alliances to respond to threats to the park and engage in issues in the surrounding communities when there is a risk of detrimental impact on the park.

**WE PROVIDE A MARGIN OF EXCELLENCE:** We augment federal funds and services, rather than replace them. We raise philanthropic funds and recruit volunteers for projects and programs in Acadia and for its stewardship. We create sustainable revenues through endowments where appropriate.

**WE WORK WITH COMMUNITIES:** We promote public conservation in surrounding communities through programs and grants that enhance their natural character, protect Acadia’s unique resources, and strengthen the park’s integrity.

**WE FOCUS RESOURCES:** We steward our organizational and financial resources to maximize the benefits of programs offered and funds expended. We engage in projects and programs that we believe will have the greatest positive impact on the park.

**WE LEVERAGE DONATED FUNDS:** We operate on a sound financial basis, leveraging member’s charitable gifts to bring the highest conservation return per donated dollar.

**Citizen Engagement**  
**WE PROMOTE VOLUNTEERISM:** We supply a corps of motivated volunteers of all ages to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of foot paths and carriage roads, thereby encouraging individuals to develop a deeper sense of connection with the park.

**WE PROVIDE OPPORTUNITIES:** We seek a broad and diverse membership to maximize the number of park advocates, stewards, and donors. We encourage every visitor to join Friends of Acadia as a means of giving back to the park that inspires them.

**Advocacy and Education**  
**WE ADVOCATE:** We advance the interests of the park and its visitors before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service, and before other federal, state, and local bodies.

**WE PROMOTE EXCELLENT MANAGEMENT:** We speak for park visitors to encourage the continual betterment of park policies and operations.

**WE EDUCATE:** We provide and support education of the public regarding the legacy of our national parks and the conservation values they represent.

**Collaboration**  
**WE WORK IN PARTNERSHIP:** We believe in the power of collaboration. By working in partnership, we extend our reach, access specialized skills and talents that complement our core capabilities, avoid duplication, and engage additional resources in the park’s protection.

**Independent Leadership**  
**WE OPERATE INDEPENDENTLY:** We function as a free-standing nonprofit organization, supportive of the park but independent from it. We reserve the right to differ respectfully.

**WE OFFER LEADERSHIP:** We are committed to setting the standard for national park partnerships, providing supportive philanthropic leadership. Through benchmarking and rigorous performance measurement of our efforts, as well as calculated risk taking, we strive to continuously improve the quality of the visitor experience while preserving the park’s natural character.

---

**The Plants of Acadia National Park**  
**Compiled and edited by:** Glen H. Mittelhauser, Linda L. Gregory, Sally C. Rooney, and Jill E. Weber  
This comprehensive guide presents scientific descriptions of 862 plant species found on Mount Desert Island, the Schoodic Peninsula, and Isle au Haut. It includes wildflowers, ferns, grasses, sedges, rushes, trees, and shrubs, and features over 2,200 color photographs.  
**Published by:** The University of Maine Press in association with The Garden Club of Mount Desert, a member of the Garden Club of America; Friends of Acadia; and The Maine Natural History Observatory.  
542 Pages ISBN 978-0-89101-120-0 $24.95  
Available from your local bookstore or from the University of Maine Press www.umaine.edu/umpress
Mission

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