PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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

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

Open Year-Round:
Acadia National Park Headquarters (Eagle Lake Road)

Open May through November:
Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Thompson Island Information Center
Sand Beach Entrance Station
Bar Harbor Village Green Bus Center
Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds
Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops

For more information visit
www.friendsofacadia.org
President’s Column

FRIENDS OF ACADIA AT 25 YEARS

In a mere quarter century, the idea sparked on a hike in the park has become a leading example of citizen stewardship of national parks. Since it was established in 1986, Friends has grown from a 5-person steering committee to an organization with 25 board members, 10 full-time staff, 13 seasonal staff, and more than 3,500 members. All have influenced the course of FOA. Individuals are the common thread throughout FOA’s history—its creation, growth, and current strength. Individuals who love, respect, and need Acadia National Park, and who feel responsible and grateful.

In early July, we received a letter from an 11-year-old new member from New Hampshire named Ryan, which demonstrates inspiration leading to action. Ryan wrote: “On June 26 to July 2, my family and I went to Bar Harbor on vacation. When I was on vacation, we went to many different amazing places, but my favorite place was Acadia National Park. I saw so many amazing views and learned a lot. I learned about all the islands, and how many wealthy people there are on the island…. My family and I went on a lobster boat and learned about lobsters and we got to see a lot of seals. I wish I could be just like a lobster and lose a part of my body and replace it by growing a new one. My favorite part was going kayaking. We saw many of the islands close up while we were looking at the wildlife, and getting exercise. I learned that if I go to the top of Cadillac Mountain at around 4 a.m. that we could be the first people in the United States to see the sun rise. I am making a donation because I want you to be able to keep Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park as it is now.”

Ryan understands and wants to be part of our highest goal—to preserve Acadia and the communities that flank its boundaries so that we and those who follow will have the opportunity to discover one of Earth’s most magnificent places.

Over these past 25 years, FOA has developed a strong partnership with Acadia, disagreeing respectfully when necessary, and listening to park users and the local communities to understand the complex relationship of which Acadia is an integral part. From our earliest days of serving as a liaison between “town and gown,” as founder Marianne Edwards described FOA, we have developed the abilities, skills, and respect to accomplish vital conservation and to be heard as knowledgeable advocates for Acadia.

With time, the organization has grown in its scope—requiring an ever-more-strategic understanding of what a friends group can and should do, and also what it should refrain from doing. A strategic FOA success was the establishment of a $4 million maintenance endowment to match a $4 million federal appropriation for the reconstruction of Acadia’s carriage roads. The match was met on both sides, the reconstruction was completed, and the grants continue to be paid—totaling more than $3 million to date. However, there is more to this partnership than the funding—it is the commitment that FOA will not replace federal dollars, but will always strive to strengthen the park’s ability to do its work.

Today, Friends of Acadia participates at a national level in discussions that might lead to impacts in our national parks. What affects the National Park System will ultimately affect Acadia. FOA shares the on-the-ground perspective of individuals who visit and live adjacent to a national park. Acadia’s splendor has an economic, inspirational, and physical impact on those who work, dream, and recreate here.

Friends of Acadia’s mission includes the surrounding communities. This commitment to work toward the protection of Acadia, both inside and out of its boundaries, reflects a mature understanding of the interwoven character of the park—on MDI and at Schoodic and Isle au Haut.

Our anniversary provides an opportunity not simply to reflect on accomplishments, but also to take stock about what matters today. Together, Friends of Acadia and the park are looking for solutions to problems that have changed since 1986—like how to protect the remaining privately held lands inside Acadia’s legislated boundary; how to use technology to serve as a portal, rather than a diversion, to nurture a sense of connection with nature in our future stewards; and how to balance vital protection of Acadia with a meaningful experience. As we build our history of private stewardship partnership, we thank the many individuals who were inspired to become the first Friends of Acadia and those who are building on that legacy.

As we build on our history of conservation partnership, we thank the many individuals who were inspired to become the first Friends of Acadia and those who are building on that legacy.

—Marla S. O’Byrne

Friends of Acadia Journal

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As we celebrate the 25th anniversary of Friends of Acadia and look ahead to the 100th anniversary of Acadia National Park in 2016, it is important for us to think about common concerns related to Acadia’s future. What are the real issues that will affect Acadia over the next 25 years and beyond? Although I do not pretend to have a crystal ball, there is one facet of the equation that seems obvious—people. Since the early 1900s, people have shaped the destiny of Acadia not only with their vision, but with their donations of time, money, and land, as well as other efforts to preserve this island’s spectacular natural values. Throughout my 35-year career, I have seen countless examples of individual effort to benefit the common good, particularly as it relates to protecting national parks for the coming generations. Until recently, I have taken such public support for granted. After all, national parks are truly special places filled with family fun, things to learn, and, of course, inspiration.

As technology threads its way into every aspect of life, I notice a shift in lifestyles and interests that I find alarming. Television began with three channels of fairly bland programming; today most households have multiple televisions each with 100-plus channels of action-packed fare available around the clock, even capturing nature at its wildest and most surreal moments. The internet has grown into an all-encompassing window to the world. Online games create virtual opportunities for people to do things they cannot do in real life, and many people enjoy someone else’s adventures through YouTube rather than attempting their own. According to the Frasier Foundation, kids under age 18 are spending more than 7.5 hours per day, or more than 50 hours per week, using electronic media. Little time is left to explore the neighborhood creek or forest like I did as a child. What will happen to national parks when people don’t have time for nature and the real world outdoors?

Long-term stewardship of our national parks will depend on choices made by today’s youth and the youth of the future.

Quite simply, I believe long-term stewardship of our national parks will depend on choices made by today’s youth and the youth of the future. We must find new ways to connect kids to “their” national parks and to nature. Today’s youth, saturated by technology, “experience” the world from pixels on a computer screen rather than a mountain overlook, or from sounds on their iPods instead of frog calls at a nearby pond. Middle schoolers seem too busy playing games on their cell phones or iPads to care what is happening around them, often ignoring the wonder of nature and their natural environment. Unfortunately, for many youth, the virtual world is more popular and convenient than the real world all around them.

As the author Richard Louv said so well, “lacking direct experience with nature, children begin to associate it with fear and apocalypse, not joy and wonder.”

Our goal is to challenge this. We know that national parks are more than a great place to vacation. They must be places where Americans learn about their heritage, become inspired by the natural world around them, and develop lifelong interests that include the need to conserve important natural resources for the next generation and beyond. Research is showing that kids who spend time in nature are better critical thinkers, more creative, do better in math and science, and have less stress in their lives. At Acadia, we are seeking ways to use technology to lead kids into nature, not away from it. We want the youngest generation to see Acadia for what it is today and must be into the future—a place for discovery, for physical challenge and personal creativity, for serenity amidst the chaos and complexity, and for making good choices. We want them to experience life in the real world rather than viewing it virtually through a screen.

Friends of Acadia and our other partners are helping us to develop new programs and initiatives that will truly engage youth in their national park and enlist the next generation of stewards, committed to protection like generations before them. We hope to make Acadia the “most kid-friendly park,” with a dynamic array of innovative youth programs—like excellent service-learning projects, introductory career programs for teens, and the FOA-funded 2011 Youth Technology Team—to create things for kids by kids. Over the next 25 years, we hope that Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia together will become a national model for youth shaping the future of America’s great national parks.

—Sheridan Steele
Facebook.com/friendsofacadia

Keep Friends Connected to Acadia

Thank you so much for posting these pictures [on Facebook]! We come once a year in the Fall and these pictures reinforce all the great feelings we have about Acadia! Thank you again.

—Jacki Hagmayer
Pennsylvania

Al Butler Memorial Trail Cleanup

We want to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts that participated in helping clean up the trail. Especially Mary Jones, who got Friends of Acadia involved, the 50 or so volunteers of Friends of Acadia, all the employees at the town of Tremont who have already been involved since the beginning. The Quietside Ice Cream Shop and our family and friends. When we drove in it was very moving to see all the people that were already there and then the Friends of Acadia vans with a caravan of cars following them. What you did was wonderful not just for what you did, but with the warmth and caring you put into it. You are all very special people. Al would be so proud and grateful, as we are. Thank you so much—we really appreciate all of this.

—The Al Butler Family
Southwest Harbor, Maine

Acadia Quest

It’s been nice and relaxing to go on the Quest missions and free our minds of everything going on. And to be able to do it without spending a lot of money has been a tremendous help. Thank you so much for your hard work with Friends of Acadia so families can enjoy the great Acadia experience.

—Jillian Dupuis
Veazie, Maine
With the passing of Chrysandra (Sandy) Walter, Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the National Park Service have lost a wise friend and ebullient champion. When Sandy succumbed to cancer this March, she was completing her second year on the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors.

Sandy’s full, rich adult life was dedicated to conserving America’s natural and historical heritage. A child of the golden west, she set her course early, taking her San José State University degree in park administration and recreation management into a 38-year career with the National Park Service (NPS). In those years, through ten assignments, she explored 24 states in all regions of the country, beginning as a new ranger at Point Reyes National Seashore and concluding as the Deputy Director of the Northeast Region of the NPS.

Sandy was a natural teacher of nature and national history. Her early assignments often drew on those gifts: environmental education in the Pacific Northwest, interpretation in New York, and superintendent at the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park. As her NPS responsibilities grew, she helped others acquire and focus those skills. She led a national workgroup making recommendations for improvements to the National Park Service’s education and interpretation programs and also led initiatives to make parks and their stories relevant to the nation’s diverse populations.

Sandy taught her colleagues and is remembered as an ever-candid mentor to regional and park staff. Acadia superintendent Sheridan Steele recalls, “Sandy was a dedicated National Park Service professional in every sense of the word. She was a courageous leader and always put the best interests of the national parks and the employees ahead of all else. Her depth of experience, her wisdom and her commitment to the cause made her an extraordinary addition to the Friends of Acadia Board. Her knowledge, ready smile, and enthusiasm inspired us all.”

The signature opportunity in Sandy’s Park Service career was as superintendent of the young Lowell National Historical Park from 1984 to 1992. She oversaw major capital development, including the rehabilitation of Boott Mill as the park museum, and established the Tsongas Industrial History Center to serve school children and their teachers—a program so successful that school classes now visit from all over the country.

Working in collaboration with Joe Wilson, former director of the National Council for Traditional Arts at the U.S. Library of Congress, Sandy helped to establish the Lowell National Folk Festival. Twenty-five years later, the event continues as the Lowell Folk Festival, the largest free folk festival in the nation. Through this newfound love of music, Sandy met her husband, Seamus Connolly, an internationally known master of Irish traditional music. Together, Sandy and Seamus worked to further the Celtic music, song, and dance tradition.

In 2007, Sandy retired with Seamus to North Yarmouth, Maine. Ever a lover of our national parks, she soon launched a line of jewelry inspired by the distinct beauty of each national park. And, like so many before her, she fell in love with Acadia. “Acadia is my national park, now!” she told colleagues and friends. To our great good fortune, Friends of Acadia drew on Sandy’s love of the park to enlist her as a member of the FOA Board in 2009. Board Chair Lili Pew found her wisdom invaluable at a key time in the history of Friends. “When I first met Sandy during her board interview, I knew she would be the focal point of knowledge, insight, and drive that would propel our ongoing advocacy work to a best-in-class level, which would become a model of success for friends groups across the nation. She worked tirelessly and courageously through her illness to participate in the advocacy task force, and was a voice of forceful resolve to find better ways for us to be effective advocates. I know each of us will carry her words, guidance, and passion forth in all our efforts, with a smile of appreciation and gratitude for our lessons well learned. I will miss you, Sandy.”

We did not have Sandy Walter with us for as long as she and we wished, but she became our dedicated, resourceful, and inspiring friend. Says FOA President Marla O’Byrne, “Sandy modeled the strength of partnerships, professionally and as a volunteer, sharing the very best of what she had to give. Her life, dedicated to our national parks, illustrates the commitment and bonds of what is truly an extended family. We will miss this family member.”

—Jack Russell
Submissions are invited for the 2011
FRIENDS OF ACADIA
POETRY PRIZE

“The future of this world lies in the relationship we have with it.
Poetry helps develop an understanding and appreciation of—and a
connection with—the world around us.”

—Kate Barnes
former Maine Poet Laureate

Established in 1998, the Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize is awarded
biannually to promote and recognize distinctive nature poetry.
Three winning poems will be published in the Friends of Acadia
Journal (print and online), and awarded prizes by category:

- 1st place: $350
- 2nd place: $250
- 3rd place: $150

GUIDELINES
Submit up to 3 nature-based poems, each of 30 lines or fewer.
Entries must be original and unpublished. Simultaneous submis-
sions are permitted; please notify us immediately if a poem is
accepted for publication elsewhere. There is no fee to enter.
Postmark deadline: January 30, 2012

FORMAT
Submit each poem on a separate page. Include a cover sheet with
your name, address, and the titles of the poems you are submit-
ting. Do not include your name on manuscript(s).

For notification of results, include a business-sized SASE.
Manuscripts will not be returned.

If you wish to receive a copy of the Friends of Acadia Journal in
which the 1st place poem is published, include a self-addressed
envelope, at least 9” x 12”, with $2.00 postage attached. (This is
in addition to a business-sized SASE for notification.)

Please send all entries to:
Editor, Friends of Acadia Journal
PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609
or editor@friendsofacadia.org

Poem

Friends of Acadia
2010 Poetry Prize
Honorable Mention

Plate 345 Seaside Sparrow

I know that hope is the hardest love we carry
—Jane Hirschfield

What you want is the saltwash
of high tide, the breeze of the sea
pushing against your primaries,
words to one old prayer of bones
this light.

What you want is a firm stand
of hollow sea grass,
should you return.

What you want is to be sure
of what to do on a day like this
when the heart in your chest
wants to be fire given a chance
with wind.

Jeanie Tomasko’s poems have appeared in Lilliput Review,
The Midwest Quarterly, Verse Wisconsin, Avocet, and Fox Cry
Review, among others. Her first chapbook, Tricks of Light, is
forthcoming from Parallel Press (2011). She loves the Maine
coast and spent many summers in Maine as a child. She works
as a home health nurse in Madison, Wisconsin. “Plate 345
Seaside Sparrow” was first published in Verse Wisconsin online.
Kate Vanoff

Kate Vanoff first got involved in Friends of Acadia through close friend Story Litchfield, who is a Friends of Acadia member, Benefit volunteer, and overall park enthusiast and supporter. In 2006 Kate was invited to be on the Friends of Acadia Development Committee—the same year the committee was also looking to create a signature event for Friends of Acadia that was purely focused on youth. The purpose of the event was to introduce the island’s young people (year-round, seasonal, and tourist alike) to the great activities available in the park. Friends of Acadia established a planning committee for the event, to be called “Family Fun Day,” and Kate enthusiastically agreed to serve as chair. It was a perfect fit, and through it Kate found her niche with FOA. “As a mother of young children I thought it would be fun to have an event that would showcase all there is to do in the park in a very kid-friendly setting,” Kate explains.

Each year Kate brings her own style and enthusiasm, along with a small cadre of volunteers, to the Family Fun Day event. As an avid equestrian, Kate makes sure that equestrian activities are part of the event, including pony and carriage rides. Her quest for adventure is reflected in her desire to include a rock climbing wall—a favorite activity among the attendees—but she also welcomes activities like art in nature, fly-fishing, trail building demonstrations, and kids just being kids: exploring the Steur de Monts site, looking for salamanders under rocks, or dip-netting in the stream. “Family Fun Day is a fun and educational opportunity for both young and old alike to take in all the park has to offer—plus get your face painted, climb a rock wall, and get a pony ride” she says.

It was Kate’s husband Nick who first discovered Acadia National Park on a boat trip with family friends; it left quite an impression on him. Nick always remembered it to be a place with amazing hiking and beautiful harbors. When Nick suggested the family look for a summer home in Maine, Kate resisted. Having summered on Long Island, NY, Kate was accustomed to miles of sandy beaches and warm summer waters. “I thought Maine was beautiful, but, come on—the ocean is cold and the beaches are rocky. Water, water everywhere, but not a drop to swim in!” she jokes. Eventually Nick “won out” and the couple began looking for a home in Maine. “We looked in a few areas in Maine, but MDI was where we wanted to be because of Acadia National Park. No place else had such a jewel in their backyard.”

Once settled in as a summer resident of the island, it didn’t take long for Kate and Nick to want to give back to Acadia. Kate eagerly said yes when Story asked Kate to get involved with FOA. “Why wouldn’t I want to become a part of Friends of Acadia? Nothing beats hiking up to the top of Parkman, Gilmore, Sargent, or Cadillac—take your pick—reaching the top and looking out over the island to the vast water views. This is worth protecting!”

Friends of Acadia is fortunate to have a volunteer like Kate who recognizes the importance of cultivating future park users who will in turn become the future stewards of Acadia. Says Kate, “It is my sincere pleasure to be a part of Family Fun Day. I am proud of Family Fun Day.” And we are proud to count Kate among our friends.

—Ivy Begley
From the beginning, Friends of Acadia has been rooted in hands-on stewardship of Acadia National Park. In the early 80s, Marianne Edwards was volunteering at the Acadia Visitor Center desk but became interested in other ways to help the park. Chronic federal underfunding for several decades had left Acadia with a large backlog of maintenance work, and the trail crew welcomed the assistance of Marianne and a small group of volunteers out on the trails. When, on a naturalist hike in September of 1985, Stephen Koster asked Marianne if a friends group model had ever been considered as a way to channel philanthropic support for the park, Marianne quickly recognized that an organization of individuals could do more than just raise funds. Her own experience suggested that it could play an active role within the park by supporting volunteers on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads and by serving as a liaison between the park and communities. Months later, Marianne Edwards, still a volunteer in Acadia, found herself on the founding committee of Friends of Acadia. The founders defined the purpose of FOA to be: 1) the promotion of better community understanding, 2) fundraising, and 3) to be active in volunteer recruitment.

Fueled by the desire of park users to “give back” to Acadia, Friends of Acadia began encouraging and assisting volunteers who wanted to help out on the trails and carriage roads. A group of avid park hikers—the Downeast Outing Club, led by Anna and George Buck—began doing maintenance work on the park trails and carriage roads that gave them such pleasure. Every Tuesday the group would tackle a project. By 1990, George Feltus, a volunteer at the park and member of FOA, began leading volunteer groups out on Saturday mornings to perform necessary light work such as clearing leaves from culverts and drainages, cutting overgrown brush, and rebuilding rock cairns. Friends of Acadia began leading volunteers on Thursday afternoons, and the park worked with groups like the Appalachian Mountain Club, University of Maine, and the Boy Scouts. A volunteer program was taking off on its own, though still piecemeal in format, which would become the longest-standing partnership program between Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

Over the next few years, the program grew. Each group worked in conjunction with Acadia’s volunteer coordinator and trails foreman, and each volunteer leader was trained by park staff. From the beginning, safety was the most important consideration, then the proper use of tools to the program, proper techniques of trail work, and finally specific assignments. FOA began to provide tools. As the skill level and experience of the volunteer leaders increased, volunteer groups were no longer limited to cutting back vegetation and cleaning drainage (although still a crucial part of the program); volunteers learned to maintain cairns, build drainage ditches, build and install bog walk, grade trails, and complete other “smaller” projects—allowing Acadia’s professional crew to do more skilled and heavy work. The extra assistance also allowed the park to expand projects on the western side of Mount Desert Island, an area that had been neglected in the past.
By the late 1990s, Friends of Acadia’s stewardship volunteer program had taken the basic shape it maintains to this day. The program roles were twofold. First, FOA recruited and organized the trail and carriage road volunteers who met every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday from June through November, with more than a dozen experienced volunteer crew leaders leading the work projects. In addition, Friends of Acadia donated thousands of dollars each year to the program, providing funds to purchase tools and equipment, provide water and snacks for volunteers, and advertise and promote the program.

As the trail and carriage road volunteer program expanded, so did the need for more assistance coordinating the program. In 1997 FOA hired Chris Corwin as the first paid field crew leader. Chris worked with the ANP volunteer coordinator to support the volunteer crew leaders and, by then, hundreds of volunteers who donated thousands of hours each summer on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads. The following year FOA hired Mike Alley, who served as field crew leader for eleven years.

Today, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning the field crew leaders pack up tools and gloves, collect information from volunteers, and head out for a day’s work in Acadia. The other weekdays are typically set aside for one of the dozens of scheduled groups—students, scouts, outdoor clubs, and others—that visit Acadia each year and contribute hundreds of hours of manual work. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park staff plan for thousands of volunteers each year: “The volunteer program takes lots of coordination with the volunteer coordinator and other park staff to ensure that we have volunteers for all projects and projects for all volunteer abilities, but also that that we meet the park’s needs” says Jim Linnane, FOA senior field crew leader. “Whether the project is brushing or graveling a trail or raking and weeding along the carriage roads, all the volunteer work is necessary and useful, and the park staff does appreciate the volunteers’ efforts” he adds. One very important job of the FOA field crew leaders is to ensure that every volunteer knows how valuable his or her contribution is to Acadia.

The FOA volunteer partnership is driven by the desire of individuals to give back to a natural treasure that has so enriched their own lives.

Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug says, “One hundred percent of the brush cutting on trails and almost all of the cairn maintenance is handled by volunteers. We would probably be eliminating cairns were it not for the Waldron’s Warriors. The brush cutting by volunteers has saved my own crews literally thousands of person hours. The brush cutters truly do a magnificent job, which allows the trailsides to remain in a natural state. Volunteers have branched into more complex projects, too, such as highlining rocks, drainage projects, building bridges, and winter work that helps position us to a faster start in the spring.”

Working alongside ANP and FOA staff are the FOA volunteer crew leaders, whose ranks are now at 25. Their skills are as diverse as their backgrounds and personalities. Retirees, mostly, from a wide range of careers; some of the crew leaders live in the area year round while others are seasonal residents. They have much in common, including a strong connection with Acadia and a skill set necessary for a good leader: good communication skills, a sense of humor, dedication to the job at hand, and a work-hard ethic. “I have been working with volunteers at Acadia, in one way or another, since 1987 and am constantly amazed by their willingness to give something back. They are truly inspirational. When I am in my seventies, I can only hope that I am as willing and able to do as they do,” says Jonathan Gormley, the ANP volunteer coordinator.

The Friends of Acadia volunteer crew leaders have earned the trust and respect of the ANP staff, built over time. This took some time. “Way back, I recall going to park division chiefs asking them to trust us with more jobs, reminding them that we are an eclectic group of volunteers, with varied backgrounds and skill sets,” remembers Julia Schloss, current chair of the FOA volunteer crew leaders. Over time, park staff started to come to the volunteer crew leaders with jobs beyond trail and carriage road work. Today, through the effective partnership of ANP, FOA, and the volunteer crew leaders, volunteer crews perform essential work with invasive species management, vista clearing, highlining rocks and boulders from quarries to trails for use in constructing stairs and walls, reconstructing cobblestone bridging, engaging and cultivating youth stewards, replacing and rehabilitating carriage road signs and picnic tables, constructing barriers to protect sensitive resources, and working on village connector trails.

Over the years, the FOA volunteer partnership has expanded in many directions, all driven by one force: the desire of individuals to give back to a natural treasure that has so enriched their own lives. In years ahead, with government budgets eroding and national parks facing continued underfunding, it is certain that the stewardship program will be as important as ever in Acadia. If the past is any indication, the partnership between Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, the volunteer crew leaders, and last but not least the volunteers will ensure “happy trails” in Acadia’s future.

TERRY BEGLEY is the projects and events coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
For visitors and residents alike, a relaxing walk with companions or bike ride along Acadia National Park’s rustic carriage roads is the perfect way to enjoy one of the finest examples of broken-stone roads in America today. With forty-five miles to explore by horseback, ski, or walking shoe, Acadia’s carriage roads are a testament to how one person’s determination can leave behind a legacy for future generations to enjoy. The gift of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. and family, Acadia’s carriage roads are a state-of-the-art system that reveals the artistry of the workers who built the road system between 1913 and 1940. One glance at the carefully planned vistas, gently curved bridges, and stately lines of coping stones leaves one with the impression that these roads were intended not only to serve as a transportation system—they were developed to highlight the beauty of nature.

Built to Last

Acadia’s carriage roads span approximately 16 feet and were constructed with methods that required significant skilled hand labor. The roads are considered “broken-stone roads,” which evolved from the engineering style developed by John Loudon McAdam around 1820, referred to as macadam roads. Engineered to handle Maine’s capricious coastal weather, they feature carefully placed ditches, stone culverts, multiple layers of increasingly fine rock, and a six- to eight-inch crown, all to ensure good drainage from snowmelt and ravaging storms. The final hard surface, compressed by horse-drawn rollers or steamrollers, was almost impervious to rain. Well drained, the roads would be less vulnerable to erosion and freeze-thaw cycles, as well as damage from wheels or feet (whether horse or human) sinking into soft, saturated road beds. Although built to the state of the art at that time, annual maintenance was required to keep road surfaces intact and culverts functioning.

When the carriage road system was gifted to Acadia National Park by the family of John D. Rockefeller upon his death in 1960, the park lacked the resources to add staff to perform annual upkeep. Instead of Rockefeller’s seasonal maintenance staff of 40, the system now received limited maintenance from the park’s small road crew. Without annual upkeep, leaves and woody growth choked the drainage system, erosion led coping stones to tumble out of place, and the roads’ condition gradually deteriorated. As the upper levels of fine material were lost and vegetation grew on the road surface, it became impossible to maintain the surface slope and erosion accelerated.

The Carriage Roads Today

After decades of neglect, the restoration of the carriage road system was no easy task, and the National Park Service did not do it alone. Between 1992 and 1995, an extensive rehabilitation of the carriage roads was financed by federal construction funds along with matching private funds from Friends of Acadia. Woody vegetation was removed from roads and shoulders. The extensive system of ditches and drainage systems were re-established to arrest erosion. Fortunately, the well-constructed roads had retained their basic structure. By replacing the lost upper layer materials, it was possible to restore the original surface configuration, then finish with a carefully controlled mix of crushed stone and clay. Coping stones were reset or replaced, and some of the historic vistas that once greeted horseback riders, carriage...
Drivers, and walkers were reopened. The beautiful granite faced bridges had also fallen into disrepair from lack of maintenance. Starting in 1996, the National Park Service began intensive rehabilitation of the bridges throughout the park road system. All of the bridges in the carriage road network were re-pointed; drainage and waterproofing features were installed or corrected. Rehabilitation of the Eagle Lake Bridge concluded that effort in 2010. Today, Acadia’s carriage roads are considered the best example of broken-stone roads in America.

Preservation Maintenance
The matching funds raised by Friends of Acadia established the carriage roads endowment in 1995. Each year, FOA grants more than $200,000 from this endowment to the park to ensure that the carriage road system will be maintained in close to its original condition. Maintenance occurs in accordance with a preservation maintenance plan, developed by historical landscape architects approved by the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. The endowment supports six national park employees who lead the bulk of the work efforts. These folks run the grader, backhoe, flail mower, chipper, York rake, roller, bucket trucks, dump trucks, chainsaws, and numerous other tools needed to manage the roads. They have creatively modified standard equipment, making rubber-bladed graders and chain-link-fence draggers to better groom the historic roads.

Many elements of the carriage roads require skill and care to maintain. The large granite coping stones line the roads and serve as guardrails. Roughly hewn and irregularly spaced, the stones create a rustic appearance and are affectionately called “Rockefeller’s teeth.” Like any good dental work, coping stones need to be flossed regularly and reset when erosion or frost-heaving knock them out of place. Cedar signposts, originally stained with shingle stain (#248, according to Rockefeller’s specifications), were installed at intersections to direct carriage drivers. The signposts of today are untreated, white cedar. Numbers that match maps and guidebooks are attached to the signposts to help users find their way. Periodically, worn signposts and signs must be replaced with new ones that mirror the originals.

In addition, carriage road maintenance requires a vast amount of simple physical effort every year. The carriage road crew works with and provides oversight to the numerous school groups and other organizations that arrive with gifts of hand labor. Volunteers working under the guidance of Friends of Acadia contribute thousands of hours to the vital tasks of cleaning ditches and culverts, clearing brush, and assisting park staff with other restoration projects. During the winter months, volunteers build replacement carriage road signs and posts, meticulously following historic construction standards. Other groups, such as the University of Maine Forestry program, work "Broken-stone road" construction was the most costly and durable road technology of its time. The camber, or crown, ensured that water would drain from the surface.
in cooperation with the park on sustainable vista management and maintenance throughout the system. The concessioner at Wildwood Stables, who offers horse-drawn carriage rides to visitors wishing to experience the roads as originally intended, regularly cleans the roads used by the horses.

Park staff aggressively pursue funding from multiple sources in the National Park Service to support maintenance and project work years in advance. The park has recently acquired federal cyclic funding to maintain the surface grade of the network and is working to develop engineering surveys and formal recommendations to address repetitive washout areas to mitigate soil loss. A portion of park user fees, authorized by the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, also helps fund carriage road maintenance. Federal funds and park user fees continue to support preventative maintenance on the carriage road bridges to prevent them from falling into their former state; this includes ongoing re-pointing, cleaning, and waterproofing. User fees have also funded annual projects, including repairing stone walls and opening overgrown vistas. More than one hundred vistas have been restored in the past ten years.

The Eagle Lake carriage road is next. Throughout the 60s, 70s, and 80s, the loop around Eagle Lake was always the most popular and so the best maintained. As a result, it was the only section not restored down to the sub-grades. The alert user may notice the tops of many of the large foundation stones now exposed through the thin surface material. The park is developing plans to fully restore this final section of the carriage road system, and is working on securing funding for the project.

A Spirit of Philanthropy

Park volunteers, visitors, and groups like Friends of Acadia are continuing a tradition of philanthropy begun by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and other early conservationists. Generous private donations of funding and equipment, as well as time and physical effort, support the massive effort of caring for the carriage roads. At the end of the day, much of what it takes to manage and maintain this intricate network is invisible to the many that enjoy it—further enhancing the seamless enjoyment of the natural wonders of Acadia.
Volunteer group to aid Acadia National Park

Anne Hyde Degan
NEWS Hancock Bureau

BAR HARBOR — In the face of budget uncertainties and increasing pressure on the park’s resources, a citizens group has been formed to encourage greater public and private support for Acadia National Park.

Friends of Acadia, a volunteer membership organization, hopes to encourage local people to volunteer their time to work with park trail crews, in the information center, at campgrounds, or in other capacities.

The group also plans to raise money to support park activities that are unfunded, and to increase public awareness and appreciation for Acadia’s natural resources.

John P. March, a member of the board of directors, said park officials face the difficult challenge of accommodating more and more visitors each year, while still protecting Acadia’s natural resources.

“Add to this dilemma the budget cutbacks suffered by the national park system in recent years, and the need for local support becomes clear,” said March, a Seal Harbor resident.

He said the group began meeting once a month this fall to decide which projects it would support in the coming months. Although independent from park management, the group is working closely with park officials, March said.

“One of the real values would be to create another avenue of interaction for citizens, as well as some monetary benefit,” said Joseph Abrell, acting superintendent of Acadia.

Several ideas are being discussed as possible projects that the group could assist with, although the ideas are still in the exploratory stage, March said.

One is the possibility of raising funds to support a part-time park naturalist to work within the local school system.

“It’s our feeling that the park is a terrific resource. It would be good if the children in the local schools could share this,” March said.

The group also is considering private fund-raising to help support physical improvements and maintenance projects at the park.

“Initially, we just want to raise enough money for the work that the park couldn’t do on its own given the budget constraints,” March said.

National parks across the country are operating with fewer dollars as a result of sweeping budget cuts over the last few years.

Acadia operates on an annual budget of about $1.5 million.

Bangor Daily News 12/4/86

1986

Join the Fun
The Bear Island Light is Lit

Jack Perkins

The Bear Island Light shines once more! This historic lighthouse at the mouth of Northeast Harbor, its light extinguished by official decree eight years ago, has been given new life thanks to the efforts of Friends of Acadia.

Formal relighting of the 150-year-old coastal fixture occurred on a foggy evening this August, the weekend that also marked the 200th anniversary of American lighthouse service established under order of President George Washington, and the bicentennial, as well, of the town of Mount Desert, off which the Bear Island Light is located.

Officials of the National Park Service, which has custody of the island, and the Coast Guard, joined members of Friends of Acadia at relighting ceremonies. There would have been a marine parade with hundreds of boats circling the lighthouse, live radio broadcasts from a Coast Guard cutter reviewing the parade, a dedication by Senator George Mitchell, whose efforts on behalf of those who would restore old lighthouses are well documented, and a spectacular fireworks display to mark the moment of relighting BUT —

Fog did us in! The grand ceremonies had to be scrubbed! But, on radio from the mainland, two Park Service employees on the island flipped the switch and the light began flashing each five seconds through the murky night.

Friends of Acadia could celebrate. All those who had led fund-raising efforts to support Bear Island Light could rejoice. A bit of Maine coast history was reborn.

Actually, our efforts on behalf of the old lighthouse structures had begun a year earlier raising monies to restore and stabilize the roof of the keeper’s house adjoining the light to prevent further destruction.

Then, the question was asked: Why not relight the light? Why not, indeed.

A task force from Friends of Acadia met with Coast Guard officials to determine feasibility and procedures. Since the Coast Guard, in deciding to decommission the light years before, had declared the Bear Island Light no longer needed for navigational purposes, we would have to either present persuasive arguments that it was needed, or undertake permission to restore the light as merely a private operation. That’s the course chosen.

Coast Guard personnel, familiar with lighthouse technologies, were generous with time and expertise. The light that had been removed from the tower might be replaced but new equipment, now available, would be much better.

Recommended: a stand-alone, solar-powered system. Single solar panel affixed to the deck of the lighthouse. Twelve volt deep-cycle solar battery. Clear, flashing light, 35 amp, set to flash for a half second each five seconds. All control equipment automatic, photosensitive, darkness triggering the flashing of the light, a carousel of spare bulbs, the device able to sense when a bulb has burned out and rotate a fresh bulb into firing position. No people required, save for annual maintenance checks which Coast Guard personnel volunteered to handle.

Friends of Acadia arranged purchase of this equipment. Acadia National Park Superintendent Jack Hauptman, actively interested throughout the project and largely responsible for its successful conclusion, assigned staff to process paperwork and eventually manage the physical installation of equipment.

So that, finally, fog or no fog, when that August night came, it was Superintendent Hauptman who led jubilant Friends in the celebratory countdown — four, three, two, one!!!

And the Bear Island Light, so long dark, flashed forth once more!

When next you see it, think of Friends of Acadia, think of what people, working together, can accomplish, think of the specialness of this part of the world where the Bear Island Light once more lights the way for our ships and our souls.
An Appalling Predicament
Friends Take on a Major Lobbying Effort To Raise Acadia National Park Budget

Oh, yeah, sure you don’t have enough money.” We are all skeptical when anyone, and particularly a government agency, says that their budget is inadequate. But believe it or not, Acadia National Park’s budget is not only low, it is abysmal.

We can start by making an assertion that all parks and the entire Interior Department is considerably underfunded. Accepting this premise, we can make a further assertion that Acadia National Park’s budget is indeed an aberration. Various circumstances, primarily historical, have left our park with the burden of an impossibly small budget to meet what has been stated as being this country’s highest demand for services.

The accompanying box explains this phenomenon with low budgets as it relates to the National Park Service as a whole. Acadia’s problem fits this paradigm, but is far more extreme than the explanation given there. Additional factors are:

1. Acadia National Park is located in the remote northeastern United States. It is the only National Park in the northeast; most of this country’s National Parks are in the west. Thus, they have naturally received most of the attention and resources.

2. One only has to look at the Congressional Interior Committee to see that most members are from the western states. Even the most native of us realize that funding and allocations go to those members whose Congressman fight for these states whose Congressmen fight and manipulate for them. In the case of Maine, that comes from the fact that our representatives have a substantial budget in place before austerity hit. During merger times, it’s very difficult to build on a budget beyond receiving standard across-the-board increases.

3. Acadia National Park has had the National Park is number one in visitation due to tremendous pass-through numbers.

4. Acadia National Park has become the focus of national attention through promotion and reputation. National vacation trends have become a large factor in increasing visitation numbers. Regional development has been a force in attracting more visitors, tourists, and new residents. These forces do not show signs of abating and in fact will probably lead to even greater numbers of people and more stress on the park and surrounding communities.

5. Acadia National Park has never had a strong organization lobbying and pushing legislatively on its behalf.

It is the intention of Friends of Acadia to assist Acadia National Park by raising funds for various projects but, and this is the big “but,” we are not going to assume responsibility for those parts of the park budget that are the federal government’s obligation. Thus, we are working very hard to make certain that the park receives a substantial budget increase this coming year.

So far we have had a remarkably sympathetic reception to our plans from Senators Mitchell and Cohen, and Representatives Brown and Snowe. They are very much aware of Acadia National Park’s budget dilemma and the forces aligned against us as we proceed to remedy the inequities.

Board member Robert Blake is representing us in Washington; we have an excellent Legislative Committee, and Diane Peterson is this effort. We presented case that prevail leading necessary, we our members.

Hangar Dance!

Dance to Swing and Big Band music at Friends of Acadia Bar Harbor Hangar Dance. Proceeds will benefit the renovation of the carriage roads.

BAR HARBOR AIRPORT
JUNE 10TH • 8:00pm – 1:30pm
Bob Haskell’s Big Band
Bar Harbor Caterers
Broken Band for sale
Splendid door prizes
Set-up & A/C provided
$12.00 per person

Tickets make great Mother’s Day gifts!

Resource Sensitive Tourism

Protecting - Reinventing - Preserving
A Friends of Acadia Program

1990

Friends of Acadia Journal Summer 2011
1996

Restoration At Last


A Day to Remember

On a Saturday morning in early May, 57 people, ages 12 to 92, met at the entrance to the Acadia National Park to participate in the first “Take Pride in Acadia Day.” This volunteer group was made up of Park Service employees and local residents.

The group was divided into three crews: east, west, and central. Each crew was assigned a unique location to work on. The crews worked on roads, parking lots, and trails throughout the Park.

According to Acting Superintendent Ken Robichaud, organizer of the event and volunteer on that day, the work that was done would have taken two employees two and one half weeks to complete. Because of the assistance of volunteers, the work was accomplished in a day.

It is possible we will again see a day when all of Acadia’s trails and carriage roads are in excellent shape. To see this happen, we need more volunteers and increased budget appropriations for the Park.

Nobody even has to be told what to do. It’s neat to see volunteers from the Park and volunteers from the community working side by side.

~Meg Scheid

ANP Volunteer Coordinator

Schoodic Clear-cut

Averted for Now

W. Kent Olson
President
Friends of Acadia

In early April, Friends of Acadia learned of plans to cut 1,000 acres of space for a future forest next to Acadia National Park at Schoodic Point, a portion of the Mount Desert.

The park is being managed by the National Park Service. The proposal was made by the Maine Forest Service.

Conservationists called for a review of the affected trees, Winter Harbor, and Gouldsboro, which are not protected. In the meantime, a group of volunteers has been working to save the trees.

I just joined Friends of ACADIA

Friends of Acadia Journal
One of the largest projects each freshman at Mount Desert Island High School has to complete is a service learning project. Service learning is like community service, but instead of simply participating once, you try to solve an issue or change the way it is looked at. Instead of just doing the work, you’re teaching and educating people on an issue, and on how other people can help. To start the project off you have to pick something meaningful to you. I chose volunteering in Acadia National Park.

Over the past five or so years my family has volunteered in Acadia, typically on Take Pride in Acadia Day. I never quite knew what sparked my mom to take us, but one thing’s for sure: I am so glad she did. This day is dedicated to cleaning the carriage road drainage systems of all the leaves from the fall so the roads can drain when snow starts to melt in spring. Friends of Acadia provides food and T-shirts, and it’s such a fun time, which makes it hard not to want to come back the next year! Each year the experience gets better and better. I am proud to be able to tell people that I’ve contributed to make many miles of park land, which people from all over the world enjoy, a better place. Acadia is our backyard, and it’s our responsibility as members of this community to keep our backyard clean and healthy.

This year at Take Pride in Acadia Day, the weather was not ideal but the event was still on. Especially memorable was cleaning out the drainage tunnels that run under the carriage roads. Being a kid, it’s a lot easier to get down in the tunnels to rake the leaves out than it is for an adult. We kids took to the challenge and raced to clean out the drainage tunnels as fast as possible. Some of us even crawled completely through just for fun! It was fun to be able to do something that the adults couldn’t do, and it also helped out the park because the drainage tunnels are very important to keep clean.

As part of my project, I researched the history of FOA and other volunteer organizations on MDI. I also researched policies that affect volunteering, and current solutions to the issue. One thing my project focuses on is why it is so important to volunteer in your community, and one answer is that volunteering draws the community together. It allows you to get to know your neighbors, and unites everyone under one cause. I think it’s so important for younger students and children to help out in the park because it provides a great chance to be outside and learn about Acadia. And volunteering in the park teaches children a sense of responsibility and respect for their surroundings—life lessons that can help young children succeed later on in life.

Another reason to volunteer is that your work makes a huge difference in many people’s lives. The park is used by so many people from all over the world, and the work volunteers do really makes a difference to the people who come from far away to enjoy the beauty of our backyard. The park impacts so many people and it gives a great sense of pride to give back to such an important cause. It’s a feeling I wouldn’t trade for the world.

I think it’s so important for younger students and children to help out in the park because it provides a great chance to be outside and learn about Acadia. And volunteering in the park teaches children a sense of responsibility and respect for their surroundings—life lessons that can help young children succeed later on in life.

ELLIE MASON will be entering 10th grade at MDI High School in the fall. She loves to read and has been doing gymnastics for most of her life. She loves to be outside and in Acadia National Park, and enjoys volunteering for Friends of Acadia.
IN MEMORIAM
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

Robert Apgar
Jamie Benson
Sigrid Berwind
Edward McCormick Blair
Wilmer Bradbury
Herbert Bryant
E. Parker Calvert
Dow Case
David Caswell
Robert Cawley
Ray and June Checker
Cody
Beverly Coleman
Jim and Rita Crosson
Elizabeth Curley
Ray Deihl
Don Delane
Isobel Dolan
Edith Edelson
Michael Fawley
Martha and Joseph Findlan
Richard Foster
Henry Frick
Richard Frost
Karen Gardner
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Eva Smith
Clancey Solomon
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Patricia Siles
Barbara Stone
Edward Stool
Elizabeth Thorndike
Paul Todd
Howard White
Thomas Witt

February 1, 2011—May 31, 2011

Village Connector Trails

A COMMUNITY TRAIL TAKES SHAPE IN TRENTON

Terry Begley

Since October 2009, Friends of Acadia has been working with a committee of Trenton residents to design a community trail behind the Acadia Gateway Center on the west side of Route 3. The project will expand outdoor recreational opportunities and provide educational access to some of the outstanding habitats in Trenton, including the heath, bogs, and forest landscapes rich with lichens, ferns, mosses, and other plants.

The Trenton Village Connector Trail Committee has developed a trail vision and flagged a trail route across land behind the Acadia Gateway Center, owned by Friends of Acadia and the Maine Department of Transportation. The National Park Service Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program provided on-the-ground technical support in designing the trail. The 1.8-mile, natural-surface trail loop will include bog-bridging, boardwalk, and three bridges.

Friends of Acadia recently received a $25,000 grant for construction of the trail from the Yawkey Foundation. Next steps include finalizing the trail route and construction methods, applying for wetlands permits from the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, and recruiting volunteers for trail construction. Friends of Acadia will continue to assist the Trenton Village Connector Trail Committee with fundraising for the trail, writing grants, and seeking in-kind donations from area businesses and contributions from other donors.

In designing and planning the trail, the Trenton Village Connector Trails Committee has reached out to stakeholders including local residents, Trenton Elementary school teachers, scout leaders, hikers, cyclists, Acadia National Park personnel, representatives from the Healthy Acadia coalition, island historians, Trenton elected officials, local snowmobile and ATV clubs, Hancock County planning officials, and members of the village improvement association. The committee believes that the trail will be a community asset providing opportunities for walking, birdwatching, picnicking, and nature study.

Trailwork began in June. A crew of FOA stewardship volunteers braved a Saturday morning downpour to begin cutting the trail route. Additional Saturday morning workdays are planned for July and August, and a larger “Trenton Trail Day” event in September will include a cookout lunch following the morning’s trail building.

For information about volunteering on the Trenton Trail please contact Terry Begley at 288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

TERRY BEGLEY is the projects and events coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
Middle School students at Pemetic Elementary School again participated in the annual Friends of Acadia roadside cleanup. Each spring Pemetic students help to clean up the roads in Southwest Harbor, but this year as part of a service-learning project, the students decided to separate the trash into three categories: polystyrene (a.k.a. “Styrofoam”), plastic, trash, and returnable cans and bottles. Students and teachers split up along three different routes and walked back to school. Two hours later, students had collected 13 trash bags of polystyrene, 13 bags of plastics, 15 bags of trash, 15 bags of returnable bottles and cans, and miscellaneous large items. The roadside cleanup and data collected confirmed that take-out containers and coffee cups are plentiful along the road.

In the classroom, students have researched the water cycle, the Pacific trash gyres, and the impact of trash on organisms, food webs, and the environment. Students believed that since we live on an island, trash does not have to travel very far to make it to the ocean, so we need to take care of it before it gets there. They were surprised to find out that plastic takes hundreds of years to break down and polystyrene will never biodegrade.

The students then decided to survey local restaurants and businesses to find out their recycling practices and the type of take-out containers they use. Students surveyed a total of 13 restaurants and area businesses and collected the following data.

1. What materials do you recycle?
   - #1–7 plastics: 8
   - #2 plastics: 1
   - paper: 6
   - cardboard: 9
   - nothing: 2
   - compost: 4

2. Are you aware of the recycling policies in your town?
   Yes: 8  No: 5

3. What type of take-out container do you use in your business?
   - Plastic: 7
   - Paper/Cardboard: 6
   - Polystyrene: 3
   - Corn-based products: 3
   - Other: 2

4. Do you believe that trash on the side of the road is a concern in your town?
   Yes: 8  No: 5

5. Would you be interested in learning about more environmentally-friendly take-out containers?
   Yes: 8  No: 1  Maybe*: 4

   *Expense is a concern

After analyzing the results, students determined that there are definitely things they can do to help. Educating others about the impact of trash on organisms and ecosystems is a great place to start. There also seems to be a need to inform others about the recycling policies within each island town. The greatest lesson learned through this project was that the plastic and polystyrene may be cheaper at first, but the cost in the long run may be astronomical. There are alternatives out there and we need to be the leaders as we all work together to make our Earth a better place. Students will continue their work on this project in the fall.

Bonnie Burne teaches middle school science at Pemetic Elementary in Southwest Harbor.
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.shtml 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.
Park Pass Art Competition Winner
Emma Forthofer, a student at Pemetic Elementary School, won the 2011 Acadia National Park Pass Competition. Her winning artwork appears on the ANP annual pass window decals for the coming year (see the inside front cover). FOA Conservation Director Stephanie Clement and ANP Ranger Kevin Langley announced the award at the Pemetic Awards Assembly on June 15th, presenting a $50 check and a park-themed gift bag to Miss Forthofer. Each 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.

Acadia Youth Technology Team
Friends of Acadia has hired a team of four high-school age interns and an assistant team leader to work with Acadia National Park staff this summer to explore, field-test, and recommend ways that technology can be used as a portal for today's youth—many of whom spend more time with computers than nature—to connect with Acadia.

Interns Audyn Curless, Sophia Krevans, Ryann Rourk, and Liam Torrey, all students or recent graduates of Mount Desert Island High School, bring very different skills and experiences to the team but they share great creativity and inquisitiveness, and a deep love for Acadia. John Carll, a life sciences educa-
tion major at Husson University, is the assistant team leader. Every week, the team explores an up-and-coming technology (like 3D imaging, smart phones, or virtual reality), field-tests it throughout the park, and meets with park staff to brainstorm how it might be used to solve park problems and tell Acadia’s story. By creating a youth-powered pilot program, the park is seeking to identify technological tools that can offer meaningful nature-based experiences for teenagers. In addition, the park sees this pilot program as a test of the feasibility of using youth-powered pilot teams to build momentum, capacity, and support for new youth-focused projects.

Friends of Acadia chose to celebrate its 25th anniversary by providing matching support for this innovative project. FOA President Marla O’Byrne says, “The Acadia Youth Technology Team pilot program demonstrates the best of FOA’s work with Acadia—it is a pioneering project that looks toward the future and the next generation of park stewards, that perfectly matches the park’s priorities and needs with Friends of Acadia’s mission and abilities. We are delighted to partner with the park on this exciting new program.”

L.L.Bean Renews Island Explorer Support

On June 23rd representatives from L.L.Bean gathered at Acadia’s Hulls Cove Visitor Center to announce an additional $1 million, 5-year commitment to the Island Explorer Bus System. “We are pleased to continue our support of the Island Explorer bus system,” said Janet Wyper, Manager of Community Relations for L.L.Bean. “L.L.Bean has deep roots in Maine and a long history of supporting conservation projects.” She added, “It’s a natural fit for our company to sponsor the Island Explorer, which has enabled millions of people to enjoy one of Maine’s and the nation’s greatest natural assets, Acadia National Park, in an environmentally-friendly manner.” In appreciation for the partnership, Friends of Acadia presented L.L.Bean with a custom-carved walking stick handcrafted by FOA member Mel Timmons.

Sue Moreau, Manager of the Maine Department of Transportation’s (MDOT) Multimodal Planning and Operations Division, stated that the Island Explorer system is the “crown jewel” of public bus systems in Maine, noting that it has been used as the model for other seasonal public bus systems in the state.

The free, propane-powered Island Explorer buses will carry passengers in and around Acadia from June 23rd until Columbus Day. New this year, a morning bus will leave from several locations in Ellsworth and drop passengers at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center in Acadia, where they can transfer to buses going into the park or downtown Bar Harbor. An afternoon bus returning to Ellsworth leaves the Hulls Cove Visitor Center at 4:55 p.m. The extra operating costs of this service were provided by several Ellsworth hotels and businesses, the Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce, and Friends of Acadia.

The Island Explorer partners with L.L.Bean’s custom walking stick. From left to right: Lili Pew, Len Bobinchok (ANP), Sue Moreau (MDOT), Paul Murphy, (Downeast Transportation), Kelly Warisky (L.L.Bean), Michi Sumpter (Ellsworth Area Chamber of Commerce), Janet Wyper (L.L.Bean), Ed Samch, and Marla O’Byrne.
Join the more than 3,500 FOA 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 today and for future generations

**Already a Friends of Acadia member?**
Give a gift membership and treat a friend or loved one to a one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, a packet of six greeting cards featuring the stunning photography of George DeWolfe, and other membership benefits.

1-800-625-0321  www.friendsofacadia.org
National Trails Day
On Saturday June 4th Friend of Acadia and Acadia National Park celebrated National Trails Day with an open house at the park trails workshop and a choice of hikes or volunteer activities on Mount Desert Island and Schoodic. In a new partnership effort, FOA and ANP co-hosted a work project with the Town of Tremont on the Al Butler Memorial Trail, a community trail that starts at the Tremont Town Office, runs along an outlet of the Bass Harbor marsh, and borders Acadia National Park. The town of Tremont provided a hot lunch to the dozens of volunteers who participated on the trail cleanup. The National Trails Day activities were co-sponsored by FOA and Acadia National Park and underwritten by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, the Bluenose Inn, the First, Hale and Hamlin, the Knowles Company and Window Panes. Generous in-kind donations were provided by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Hannaford, and the SERC Institute.

New Staff
This year, FOA hired Anna Adams to serve as field crew leader, joining senior field crew leader Jim Linnane to coordinate volunteer projects on Acadia’s trails and carriage roads. She brings to the position a long history with FOA and the park. In high school, Anna was an Acadia Youth Conservation Corps crew member for two summers, and she subsequently worked for the park trail crew for another two summers. Says Anna, “Working for FOA as an AYCC member changed my life goals and helped me find my true calling. Working with FOA again as a field crew leader is now what I consider my ‘dream job,’ and coming full circle. I am looking forward to helping others experience and enhance the park I know and love.”

Anna also worked as an island steward on Marshall Island with Maine Coast Heritage Trust. She recently earned her B.S. in Environmental Recreation Management with a concentration in parks management from the University of Maine at Machias. She lives in Mariaville. Welcome, Anna!
**New Members**

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends!

Beth Eldridge and David Adams
Michelle Alacce
American Enterprise
Investment Services Inc.
Elizabeth Anderson
Katie Appar
Paul and Wendy Behling
Jonathan Bender
Craig Berry and Christine Feorino
Sarah and Michael Blair
Sharon Blake
Mary and Martin Bond
Tom Ann Carey
Colby College
Lynnette and Michael Cook
Bill Cooper
William and Kathleen Cotter
Michael Daley
Davenport & Company LLC
Susan Devlin
John Dolan
Martha Faulkner
Jane Fawley
Susan Freedman
Marie Griffith
Abram “T. J.” Guay
Ginny and John Hackenberg
Shirley Helfrich
Jean Howell
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February 1, 2011–May 31, 2011
In Gratitude

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Advocacy Corner

Friends of Acadia board members Howard Solomon, Lili Pew, Jack Russell, and Gail Clark joined Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele and FOA staff Marla O’Byrne and Stephanie Clement for a day of meetings on Capitol Hill in March. The group shared information with the Maine delegation and other Congressional offices about how proposed budget cuts would affect Acadia National Park’s operations and land acquisition projects. Ms. O’Byrne and Ms. Pew also attended meetings with leaders from other friends groups to highlight the power of philanthropy in leveraging Congressional appropriations to accomplish national park projects.

In May, FOA volunteer Hannah Sistare Clark joined representatives from the Friends of Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge and the Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce in Washington at a national advocacy event to highlight the need for strong Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) appropriations. The group visited the offices of the Maine Congressional delegation and discussed LWCF’s critical importance to land protection in Maine.

These advocacy efforts were rewarded in June when Acadia received word that it will receive $1.7 million in FY 2011 from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to acquire 39 acres on Lower Hadlock Pond, one of more than 130 privately-held parcels of land that lie within the legislated boundary of the park. Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust have been holding this property—through ownership of 10 acres and an option on the remaining acreage—for Acadia’s eventual acquisition. Its purchase will help to protect the drinking water supply of Northeast Harbor and preserve access to several historic village trails that connect to the park.

Friends of Acadia advocates with Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele (right) on Capitol Hill in late March. From left to right: Howard Solomon, Lili Pew, Jack Russell, and Gail Clark.
As I began my final Chairman’s Letter—before welcoming in Ed Samek as the next Friends of Acadia Chairman of the Board in July—I wanted to share my overwhelming sense of gratitude for the gift of service and giving back that each of you who love Friends of Acadia and our precious park has allowed me to enjoy over the past four years. When I came back to Maine full time in 2001, transitioning from a summer resident to a grateful full-time resident, I knew I was finally “home,” where my heart, soul, and spirit’s greatest energy and effort could finally fly free…all for Acadia! In articles over the past years, I have often reflected on my greatest mentors within my family, especially my father, and lessons of giving back through philanthropy, volunteerism, and forging powerful partnerships. These lessons brought from the past have been a core part of the synergy and growth that has occurred at Friends of Acadia, under the superb leadership of the Board of Directors, President Marla O’Byrne with her outstanding staff, Acadia National Park staff, and all our volunteers, members, and partners. What an amazing journey of accomplishments to look back upon and celebrate with a huge heartfelt “thank you” to all of you!

I was recently asked about my accomplishments over the past four years. My answer is simple. My every effort to make friends for Acadia—from helping inspire youth to seek out a connection to Acadia through hiking or volunteering in the park or building a corps of next-generation stewards; to taking carriage rides with George B. Dorr Society members, who have included FOA in their estate plans; to joyously sharing my passion for Acadia across the country with donors, partner organizations, and our leaders in Washington—has made a difference in protecting and preserving our precious park. Making the effort to connect with people, to inspire them to care, and to engage all in building a lifelong bond with FOA and with Acadia is the accomplishment I am most proud of.

Four years ago we had a mountain to save with our partners, and we did it in a month. Four years ago we brought to life the Acadia Gateway Center to encourage the long-term growth of car-free travel through our Island Explorer partnership. This year we will see the first buses settle into this new location and we will celebrate the 4-millionth passenger on the Island Explorer. Three years ago the economic downturn left our nation in turmoil and filled with uncertainty, yet FOA rose to the occasion and through our disciplined leadership and committed members we survived, thrived, and even saw our Annual Benefit reach new levels of success. Two years ago we celebrated a best-ever year-end tally of volunteer hours—their combined impact was off the charts in terms of the trails rehabilitated, outreach to new members, and other benefits to Acadia! Last year we launched an enhanced advocacy effort, building upon our long-standing “best-in-class” reputation for results, to emphasize park funding needs for maximum benefit to Acadia and the local area. On top of all this, our fundraising efforts hit a new high mark that allowed for increased program plans in support of our strategic plan for Acadia’s centennial. This year already, our board, staff, and the strength of our partnerships has allowed us to forge through a wall of obstacles that could have derailed critical land conservation efforts, enabling the protection of a significant parcel. Having spent countless hours and days working with our partners, I am so thrilled to see what great results come from the partnerships that Friends of Acadia builds, strengthens, and benefits from!

As my journey in the chairman’s role comes to a close, I ask each of you to join me in finding the special place in your heart, your soul, your spirit that Acadia has brought to life and set free, and let it push you to give back even more. That place inspired the founders of both Acadia and Friends of Acadia to care, to give back, and to steward our park for the centuries to come. We are the keepers of the founders’ vision, and our efforts as volunteers and leaders will be key to the second century of Acadia National Park. This has been the greatest journey of my life—thanks for the ride! And onward and upward in support of Friends of Acadia…especially to Ed Samek as the next Chairman. GO ED!!

—Lili Pew
Acadia Quest: Let’s Move Outside  
*Ongoing through Saturday, November 5*

There’s plenty of time to join the Quest! A new format and new activities for 2011 has families trying different ways to get moving in Acadia as they explore, protect, and learn. Teams that meet the participation requirements will be entered into the grand prize drawing at Take Pride in Acadia Day on November 5th. L.L.Bean has again donated three fantastic grand prizes. Teams are posting their adventures at www.facebook.com/friendsofacadia. Take a look!

Clean Water, Clean Shores  
*Saturday, September 17*

Friends of Acadia and over 20 community and governmental partners will organize the second annual cleanup of Acadia and area shorelines, including the beaches and shores of MDI, and Alley, Bar, Bartlett’s, Folly, Great Gott, Islelord, John’s, Placentia, Pond, Swans, Tinker, and the Porcupine Islands, with sites in the towns of Trenton and Lamoine as well. Opportunities to join a kayak caravan or see Acadia from a rarely-visited island make this a fun—as well as valuable—cleanup event.

Acadia Night Sky Festival  
*Thursday, September 22 through Monday, September 26*

Although urban areas within a day’s drive of Acadia have already lost sight of the Milky Way, the park still offers inky nights awash in brilliant starlight. The Acadia Night Sky Festival will celebrate the night sky through education, science, and the arts. Attend one event, or join in for the whole extended weekend.

Take Pride in Acadia Day  
*Saturday, November 5*

Last year, this giant autumn work party drew over 500 volunteer leaf-rakers—infant to nonagenarian, and from all over the world—to clear drainage ways and prepare Acadia’s 44 miles of historic carriage roads for winter. Enjoy the free “CCC” (chili, cornbread, and cake) lunch afterward, knowing you’ve just done something of inestimable value to Acadia.

For more information or to register for events, visit www.friendsofacadia.org or call 207-288-3340.
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.