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 off-season) and $40 annual pass are available at the following locations:

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

**Open Seasonally**
Closing dates for these locations vary from September 30 to October 31. Check with the park to confirm.
Bar Harbor Village Green Bus Center
Blackwoods and Seawall Campgrounds
Hulls Cove Visitor Center
Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mountain Gift Shops
Thompson Island Information Center
Sand Beach Entrance Station

For more information visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)

For more information visit [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)
Shorty before I began my new post as president of Friends of Acadia this spring, Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele invited me for a tour of Acadia as part of my orientation. A cold April rain was pelting park headquarters on McFarland Hill when the day arrived, but I was eager to go. The park roads had just been opened for the season, and even Sheridan and Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock felt excitement at their first look at the Loop Road since the long winter.

As we rounded a corner at the base of Kebo Mountain and the view opened up on the Great Meadow, the mist hung in the valley. Then the sun broke through, lighting up the pale shad blooms along the roadside and catching the summit of Dorr Mountain in the distance. It was a stunning view, offered up in an instant to anyone lucky enough to be passing by on that quiet April morning.

Many more gifts from Acadia would follow over the next hour as our winding drive continued on to Sand Beach, Cadillac Mountain, and the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. One small culvert near Sieur de Monts Spring inspired a wide-ranging discussion of severe weather events, fish migration, the looming federal fiscal “cliff,” and the persistent ways of the beaver. After a lifetime spent here on MDI, I was suddenly seeing Acadia through new eyes—with greater understanding of the complex issues faced by park staff every day, as well as a growing sense of stewardship of this remarkable place.

In the weeks since then, my appreciation for the collective work that Friends of Acadia members and volunteers have accomplished through their involvement and commitment has grown each day I’m around this organization. I have seen the remarkable results in black and white in the ridership figures for the Island Explorer bus system; I have felt the solid ground underfoot on the rebuilt trails and carriage roads; and I have heard the pride in the voices of volunteers young and old as they shared stories with me of their contributions to FOA. I am truly honored to join this institution that has made such a difference for Acadia and the surrounding communities.

At the same time, I know that the challenges that lie ahead for this park and its friends have never been greater. The political climate in Washington, the fragility of economies worldwide, and a growing disconnect between youth and the natural world will make it harder than ever to ensure that Acadia receives the support it requires to maintain its reputation as a unique treasure enjoyed by all who visit or live here.

I am glad to report that, since well before my arrival, the staff and board of Friends of Acadia has been hard at work in concert with Sheridan and his staff to take a critical look at the issues facing the park between now and 2016—when both Acadia and the National Park Service will mark their 100th anniversary—and intend to focus FOA efforts strategically by addressing key issues such as youth engagement, resource conservation, and visitor experience in the months ahead.

In the meantime, I am balancing my deepened sense of responsibility with that more spontaneous sense of wonder that I experienced rounding the bend and seeing the sun break through over Great Meadow. It happens on a daily basis, particularly thanks to my daughter Eliza (13) and son Jesse (9). One of their favorite park outings is a picnic dinner at Sand Beach; when we visited recently, the surf was unexpectedly pounding after a northeast blow earlier in the week. We had the beach to ourselves, until a young man in a wetsuit arrived and began body surfing in the frigid breakers—to the kids’ delight. It was another gift from Acadia—something I’d never seen in living here for nearly 40 years—and filled me with optimism about the other discoveries and experiences that lie ahead as we work together to preserve, protect, and steward this wonderful place.

—David R. MacDonald

[Signature]
Summer 2012
Volume 17 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

FEATURE ARTICLES

7 Duck Brook Makes Five
A new way to walk into the park
Aimee Beal Church

8 A Gift to the Acadia Wildland Fire Program
Friends of Acadia volunteers build a storage and maintenance cabin
Andrew Mitchell

9 Two Weeks
Tracking the spring bloom in Acadia
Caitlin McDonough MacKenzie

10 Our Wild Gardens: A Unique and Wild Teacher
An interpretive ranger reflects on the value of the Wild Gardens of Acadia
David Donovan

12 Seeing the Links
A conversation about Friends of Acadia youth stewardship programs
Anna Adams, Sophia Krevans, Nathan Smallidge

14 Designing Acadia
Ongoing improvements to Acadia’s developed facilities
Sam Coplon

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS

5 Special Person: Helen Koch
18 Updates
26 Advocacy Corner
27 Book Review

DEPARTMENTS

1 President’s Message
2 See Acadia through New Eyes
David R. MacDonald

2 President’s Message
3 Superintendent’s View
Focus
Sheridan Steele

6 Poem
Little Sturgeon
Maggie Kager

28 Chairman’s Letter
Inspired by the Past
Edward L. Samek
learned long ago that without focus, work plans can fast become blurry—and significant accomplishments elusive. When I arrived at Acadia National Park some nine years ago, I came with an eye toward developing focus for my efforts. Four park-wide goals were established: protect the land, maintain a high quality visitor experience, engage youth in nature and Acadia, and make the Schoodic Education and Research Center a success. I want to share some of our related accomplishments—and I say “our” because these achievements are the direct result of significant contributions of volunteers, donors, employees, and partners.

Northeast Creek is a beautiful, quiet creek with terrific fall color, cranberry bogs, and great scenery—a wonderful place to canoe. We have made outstanding progress toward our goal of protecting this place (and this experience) for generations to come. After all, Land Protection is Job One. Land is the very essence of any national park. Early on, we formed a four-way partnership with ANP, Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and a very generous conservation buyer. Together we have protected 31 tracts of land inside Acadia, which total more than 500 acres including nearly 200 in the Northeast Creek area. FOA’s creative “land bank” concept is an outstanding tool to help us protect critical lands. There are still holes to fill, but so far we have been able to buy almost every undeveloped parcel that has become available to assure that these tracts remain undeveloped—protecting both park resources and the visitor experience.

Author Richard Louv (Last Child in the Woods) says that “the child in nature is an endangered species, and the health of children and the health of the Earth are inseparable.” Louv also notes that, “lacking direct experiences with nature, children begin to associate it with fear and apocalypse, not joy and wonder.” Engaging children in nature is a high priority for Acadia and FOA. The Schoodic Education Adventure, Acadia Youth Conservation Corp, the Student Conservation Association, and the Ridge Runners are excellent programs to get kids outdoors in Acadia, all supported with private funding. A recent addition to this list is the Acadia Youth Technology Team, established with a grant from FOA, enlisting high school students to find new tools and techniques to connect youth with Acadia and their national parks. This valuable program is in its second year and we hope the team will be able to implement some of their excellent ideas this summer.

Making SERC a success is a tall order because of the facility’s scale. It is the largest of the 20 research learning centers in the National Park System and therefore will require greater program development to fill the space and cover costs. Historic Rockefeller Hall is currently being renovated to house the welcome center, a small conference facility, and educational exhibits on both Navy history and the new science and educational activities being developed at SERC. This renovation will complete about $20 million in improvements that will increase knowledge about park resources, expand research and education related to national parks, and add a “nature-inspired arts” component to activities at SERC. In most cases, we will depend on partners to help increase the value of SERC to Acadia and other conservation interests.

Friends of Acadia has been a strong force in helping us maintain a high-quality visitor experience. Certainly, visitors struggling to find parking or stuck in traffic are not having a high-quality experience. FOA has been an important leader in developing the widely acclaimed Island Explorer bus system. On an average summer day there are nearly 6,000 riders, which means about 3,000 fewer cars are on MDI roads. This summer, with financial help from FOA and the Acadia Corporation, we are providing a new express bus service between the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and Jordan Pond House to reduce parking problems, and associated safety issues, along the Loop Road there.

As we approach Acadia’s centennial in 2016, I hope we can make great progress on these four goals as part of the celebration. Acadia enjoys outstanding public support and an extraordinary group of volunteers, donors, employees, and partners. Together we have made Acadia a leader among national parks, achieving great success in protecting important park values while providing a high level of visitor satisfaction. Managing Acadia would be a nearly impossible task without great partners like Friends of Acadia!

—Sheridan Steele
A Little History
In the spring 2012 Journal article “Climb Every Mountain,” Mary Beal made note of the lack of a sign on Cedar Swamp Mountain. The peak, and this sign, has some interesting history.

Formerly, Cedar Swamp Mountain was mapped approximately .7 mile south of its present location with a given elevation of 740 feet. This summit still has a few cairns near it, and one large iron pin in the granite. I believe this was a property boundary and not a summit marker, though I have never researched this. The peak, and the markers, are only a few yards west of our present Sargent South Ridge Trail, and just a few yards south of an intermittent drainage ford with a few rotted logs corduroyed across the path.

On earlier maps, there is indeed a “cedar swamp” shown along the Asticou Path, generally in an area between Cedar Swamp Mountain and Asticou Hill (Elliot Mountain). There also are Faint Hill and Bear Hill, both names no longer on maps. The present summit was an unnamed peak. Things remained this way until as late as 1941, as shown on the Path and Road Map of the Eastern Part of Mount Desert Island. However, on the USGS topographic map published in the same year, the summit has moved! It is now shown in its present location with an elevation of 942 feet. The former Cedar Swamp Mountain is now unnamed. I have no idea how or why this happened.

A small airplane crashed into present Cedar Swamp in the late 1960s, just north of the peak. The pilot, and I believe one passenger, was killed. Most of the wreckage has been removed, though one can still find pieces of this plane.

The summit remained unmarked until trail crew installed an elevation marker in 1985, and excepting vandalism, there has been one ever since. It is a delightful peak with gorgeous views.

—Gary Stellpflug, Trails Foreman
Acadia National Park

NPCA Represented at National Trails Day
This photo is hilarious. I just showed one of my friends this photo and she actually believed that I was lifting the log on my own (Shhh!). I had a wonderful time getting to meet you [Terry Begley and Stephanie Clement], and all the Friends of Acadia. Now I understand why your organization is model for other National Park friends groups throughout the country. I love Acadia and look forward to the opportunity to visit you all in the near future. Thank you for having me!

—April Mims,
Northeast Program Manager
National Parks Conservation Association

Notes from Friends

Friends of Acadia Journal
Summer 2012
Volume 17 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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.

The Journal is published three times a year. Submissions are welcome. Opinions expressed are the authors’. You may write us at 43 Cottage Street / PO Box 45 Bar Harbor, Maine 04609 or contact us at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321 www.friendsofacadia.org email: info@friendsofacadia.org

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April Mims, Northeast Program Manager for the National Parks Conservation Association, hefts a log on the Trenton Community Trail on National Trails Day.
HELEN KOCH: A CREATIVE SPIRIT IN THE GARDENS

On Junior Ranger Day this past April, many young people were challenged to the “Moss Mystery Minute” in the Wild Gardens of Acadia (WGA). This activity, the brain-child of WGA volunteer Helen Koch, encouraged kids to participate in a number of activities from deciphering the common name for the “pin cushion” moss by examining its shape (with accompanying pin cushion clue) to squeezing sphagnum moss and learning about its amazing ability to hold water and its diversity in Maine. Thanks to Helen’s ingenuity, these kids were delighted by the opportunity to look at mosses in new ways—including through microscopes—and many junior botanists were born.

Helen Koch has been an outstanding steward of the Wild Gardens of Acadia, dedicating approximately 500 hours a year to youth activities, general garden maintenance, and the annual income-generating plant sale. Helen’s love of native plants stems from her education in English and Biology and her professional experience as an assistant editor to a scientific journal and as the Director of a California native plant study area at a community college. She began work with the Wild Gardens volunteers twelve years ago after hearing a talk given by another dedicated volunteer, Sue Leiter.

The Wild Gardens of Acadia will see less of Helen this summer, however, as she and her family are sailing their 44-foot Dutch-built cutter-rigged sloop from Northeast Harbor to Labrador, with a dream of reaching Greenland. Helen first visited Mount Desert Island (MDI) via sailboat and was fortunate to be able to settle here as her husband’s career in the technology field enabled him to work from home. Helen, Philip, and their son Phil, a rising sophomore at Bowdoin College, enjoy hiking in the park, and Helen occasionally finds time to volunteer on the trail and carriage road crews.

Helen’s advice to Friends of Acadia’s members takes the form of a quote from poet Denise Levertov, “The world is not with us enough. O taste and see.” She encourages all of us to sense, enjoy, and explore the natural elements of Acadia National Park—to know it and make it a part of you. A former avid rock climber, Helen has climbed in countries all over the world, including Canada, France, Australia, and the U.S. She has sailed across the Atlantic Ocean several times and explored remote communities from the Faroe Islands to Papua New Guinea.

Helen’s great energy in the Wild Gardens has helped inspire numerous people to take notice of and care about native plants. She volunteers to help people make connections with nature or wild places through seeing the beauty of native plants, understanding how or why a particular species lives in its habitat type, and perhaps getting involved in caring for them directly. She is rewarded for her efforts when visitors get excited about the intricate patterns on the leaves of the rattlesnake plantain or how pitcher plants grow downward-pointing hairs so that their prey cannot easily climb out of the leaves and away from the plant’s digestive juices. Helen helps put the “cool” in nature, and visitors walk away enriched and excited.

Helen, we thank you for your contagious enthusiasm for the natural world, for your generous gifts, and for your creative spirit in sharing the Wild Gardens with others.

—Stephanie Clement
Little Sturgeon
2012 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize
Second Prize

I see you passing under this exoskeletal span of bridge.
I note your snout-nosed slide wide-spread fins like hands seven-foot wavy-tailed torso just a homely fish-puppy.

I wonder as you glide above mud's cloudy upper limits do you observe earth's crust holding the pond water up?
As a self-appointed inspector of slime, do you detect how sprinkler rain rotates evenly plopping your sky with circles?

Scutes support and protect you but as for me each yearly cycle sloughs off my oldest cells replacements itching to find a caesura of gravity or time for some prescient guarantee against these passing decades so sturdily forcing me down.

Oh little sturgeon swim widely linger a hundred years or more buoyed by your isinglass bladder over the pond's low pastures aswirl in your watery slant long after I pass by.

—Maggie Koger

MAGGIE KOGER is a school media specialist with a writing habit. She lives and works in Boise, Idaho, and celebrates le bois—the trees that the city is named for. Many of her poems honor the flora and fauna of the ecosystem with special appreciation noted for birds, bees, and fish. She has published in Poet Lore, Avocet, Mused, Westward Quarterly, Montucky, Blast Furnace, and Eternal Haunted Summer.

Friends of Acadia Journal
If you're seeking a meaningful encounter with nature, it is truly wonderful to get there the “natural” way—on foot. So much modern infrastructure is devoted to automobile travel that it sometimes is difficult to get anywhere without hopping in the car. But the Mount Desert Island section of Acadia National Park, with its close interweaving of town and park lands and its long history of pedestrian exploration, lends itself quite naturally to a walk into the park.

That—along with the need to reduce automobile congestion in Acadia by facilitating alternative travel to the park’s trailheads, carriage roads, and other destinations—is why Acadia Trails Forever, Friends of Acadia’s landmark partnership with Acadia National Park that created the first-in-nation endowed trail system, included a goal to build five Village Connector Trails linking MDI communities to the park. So it was with particular pride that a group of park officials, FOA members and volunteers, representatives from the National Parks Conservation Association and the Acadia Inn, and community members joined FOA staff and board members on National Trails Day, Saturday, June 2nd, to inaugurate the Duck Brook Connector Trail—the fifth Village Connector Trail and the completion of that goal.

The Duck Brook Connector Trail will provide convenient access to the carriage roads for hotel guests, College of the Atlantic students, and area residents. The 3/4-mile trail begins on Route 3 (Eden Street) in Bar Harbor, next to the Acadia Inn and across the street from the College of the Atlantic main entrance. It leads through a lovely, peaceful woods and a small wetland traversed by a boardwalk, to the Duck Brook Road. From there, users can follow the quiet road to the Duck Brook carriage road entrance. The trail is open to foot traffic only; cyclists are welcome to walk bicycles on it. There is no public parking at the trailhead. By mid-summer this year, signs will be installed to mark both ends of the trail.

The new trail was made possible by right-of-way agreements with David Witham (owner of the Acadia Inn and the Bar Harbor Motel) and Richard Collier (who was owner of the Bar Harbor Motel when the trail was being planned and constructed) and funded by the Acadia Trails Forever program, private donors, and a $20,000 grant from the Nature Valley Corporation. Construction began in September of 2011 with a kickoff volunteer event on National Public Lands Day.

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The trail replaces an unofficial trail along an abandoned roadbed, which was not open to the public. The new trail follows that roadbed but includes a newly-constructed section leading out to Route 3. It was built by Friends of Acadia volunteers led by the park trail crew and FOA field crew leaders. Acadia National Park Trails Crewmember Christian Barter led most of the work on the trail. At the trail inauguration, he told attendees that “the challenge we had when we started this project was to put a trail in a 20-foot swath between two motels in the lowest ground, because fill had been brought in to build the motels and they’d left this big drainage ditch in between. Those of you who have worked on trails know that there’s a lot more that goes into it than what you see when it’s done. We want it to look like part of the natural landscape. But in fact there’s a lot of stuff under the ground, and a lot that goes on off in the woods, because our goal is to build trails that are going to last for a long, long time and need very little maintenance.”

Acadia National Park Trails Foreman Gary Stellpfulg added, laughing, “at first we were thinking, well, this is the dumbest thing we’ve ever done. But as we worked on it and we got it through the woods, we found that the woods are really nice, and we realized that people were using it. It’s important for the trail system but it’s also a nice trail in itself. So it’s joined the pantheon of wonderful trails at Acadia National Park.”

AIMEE BEAL CHurch is the communications and outreach coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
A GIFT TO THE ACADIA WILDLAND FIRE PROGRAM

Andrew Mitchell

When you need help, you call on your friends. When the Acadia Wildland Firefighters found themselves in need of a chainsaw maintenance shop and equipment storage facility, they called upon Friends of Acadia. Park Volunteer Coordinator Jonathan Gormley approached FOA member and retired engineer Mark Munsell about heading up the project. Mark graciously agreed.

The heavily forested setting at the park’s McFarland Hill headquarters called for a rustic structure, something out of the early tradition of the National Park Service. I scratched together a rough drawing based on an “old school” backcountry patrol cabin design. It included provision for wood heat, two work benches, and shelving adequate to consolidate storage of the majority of the wildland fire suppression equipment and supplies. Five hundred and forty square feet of roofed and enclosed space was deemed to be affordable. Twenty thousand dollars of Northeast Region Fire Management funds were allocated. Together, Mark and I toured the Appalachian Mountain Club lodge at Echo Lake to determine if a similar timber-frame building was feasible. As they say, the rest is history.

With a one-page sketch and the AMC lodge example in mind, Mark drew up a detailed set of plans. He and Jonathan assembled a team of dedicated FOA volunteers and compiled the materials list. They set to work in early August 2011, persevering throughout the late summer and early fall. In the end they exceeded all expectations, and the results speak for themselves. The fully insulated storage and shop facility sports a gorgeous front porch, rough cut siding, and an emerald-green metal roof.

The cabin was built on time and under budget, with a perfect safety record. It is a testament to the power of partnerships in the pursuit of the ideal of the founders of Acadia National Park. Critical expertise and support were provided by a variety of park maintenance staff. The fire crew could be counted on for grunt labor when required, but this was truly an achievement of Friends of Acadia volunteers, a real gift to the Acadia Wildland Fire Program.

Andrew Mitchell, the fire management officer at Acadia National Park, is a forester by education and a certified Maine State Arborist, which helps support fire-resistant landscape planning as an aspect of hazardous fuels management at Acadia.
I am walking across at low tide to Bar Island. The last time I was out there the starflowers were white bursts of angular petals, Canada mayflowers held up stalks of blooms like little sparklers, and the lilacs guarded the ghosts of old homesteads with their cotton-candy boughs of violet flowers. That was in the second week of May. It's been an early spring; nearly everyone agrees we are two weeks ahead of schedule. I've heard this “two weeks” figure from gardeners at Garland Farms, botanists at Acadia National Park, the nature columnist at the Mount Desert Islander, librarians, historians, shopkeepers, and ice-cream scoopers. My motive for chatting up the weather with everyone on MDI? I'm a biology graduate student, I've come to Acadia National Park to study the spring wildflowers, and I need your help.

My research explores how changes in climate and land use affect plant communities in New England. When I look at a landscape, or a flower, I am often wondering to myself: What did this place look like a century ago? Did this plant always grow here? Was it once much more abundant?

But at the heart of my research I am attempting to tackle the difficult subject of how climate change affects ecological communities. When I look out over the landscape from Great Head, or the summit of Cadillac, or Wonderland beach I wonder how does climate change fit into the processes and patterns that I am seeing here? Are warmer temperatures changing things? How? And how much?

Scientists have found that warmer temperatures are correlated with earlier flowering times. As I saw on Bar Island this May, spring is coming sooner than it used to, and the plants are responding with blooms weeks before they once opened. When ecologists study the timing of things like flowering or leafing out or when migrating birds arrive, they call it phenology.

Observing phenology was once a popular pastime for naturalists—Thoreau's journals are filled with charts of the first flowers, first leaves, and first birds that he saw on Walden Pond. The timing of flowering is closely tied to temperature, so tracing shifts in flowering phenology allows scientists to track the effects of climate change on the flora. When we add in studies of phenologies of other organisms—insects, birds, herbivores, and pollinators—we can catch shifts that don’t match up. Flowers may be blooming and then dying before a hummingbird arrives to drink their nectar. Relationships and food chains may be disrupted, unable to adjust to the quickly changing climate.

So, how has the timing of flowering changed on MDI? Are we really two weeks earlier than before? I don’t know yet, but I am enjoying the search. Diving into this research leaves me feeling less like a biologist and more like an archivist. Tracing the flowering phenology of plants on MDI through the last century involves old flora lists, local weather records dating back to the 1890s, old photographs, and musty herbarium specimens. Observations of flowering times must be pieced together, and while I have started collecting my own data for this spring, there are many holes. I hope to use the records of others—local gardeners, amateur naturalists, carriage-road-walking-flower-lovers—to create a robust dataset of flowering dates from recent years. If you have any observations to add to these records—a notebook, a calendar, an old journal from the attic full of some relative’s cursive field notes—please let me know. Any and all local records of flowers on MDI are welcome additions to my research.

CAITLIN MCDONOUGH MACKENZIE is a graduate student in biology at Boston University, spending her second summer at Acadia National Park thanks to fellowships from the Park Service and SERC Institute. Anyone with information on flowering dates on MDI can reach her at mackenz@bu.edu.
I’m a teacher, and I love to share the excitement of the natural world with anyone who happens to be nearby. Students, friends, Acadia National Park visitors and others who spend time with me can’t miss the respect I feel for the living world here on Mount Desert Island. As a lover of plants, I’ve enjoyed the experience of coming upon lichen, ferns, conifers, and flowering plants and wondering, what is this? And then, finding out. As the old Chinese proverb says, “The beginning of wisdom is the proper naming of things.”

That’s how our Wild Gardens of Acadia became my teacher. As an ANP interpretive ranger, part of my mission is to help visitors connect with and appreciate the resources in the park. For the last two summers I have walked with groups of curious people, who took a chance and spent some of their precious vacation time strolling along the carriage roads to learn about Acadia’s plants. To prepare myself as a knowledgeable resource for my fellow plant explorers, I generally walk the route along the Eagle Lake loop and photograph any plant the name of which I am unsure. From there I go directly to the Wild Gardens and confirm each plant’s identification. In fact, I have made a habit of stopping by this wonderful resource at Sieur de Monts Spring early almost every morning for the past three summers—it is the absolute best time to be in this unique place.

Coming from Massachusetts, where as a biology teacher I have taken many trips to Framingham’s “Garden in the Woods” (operated by the New England Wild Flower Society), I have always assumed that every federally designated natural area would have a place set aside for the identification of their native plants; however, it turns out that most other national parks, seashores, recreation areas, and so on do not have anything like our Wild Gardens!

My wife, Mary Kay, and I became aware of this as we travelled west last October. Starting in Utah’s Zion National Park, Mary Kay wrote in our journal “this is like nothing we have seen before, absolutely magnificent!” We learned from the park website that Zion, “at the convergence of three ecological provinces: the Colorado Plateau, the Great Basin, and the Mojave Desert…is home to a remarkable diversity of plant and animal species.” So we set off on a hike to discover these plants. We took pictures, did some drawings, and then started looking for a “wild gardens of Zion.” Not to be found! Yes, a park ranger told us, “we do have a herbarium available to scientists, teachers, and park managers,” as well as ranger-led plant walks during the summer, and ID tags on some of the trees around the visitor center. But a garden with a significant percentage of Zion’s species grouped according to their natural habitats and carefully labeled?

Sorry, no.

As we hiked along Angels’ Landing on a warm autumn day, we continually asked each other: was that plant the endangered Shivwits milkvetch (Astragalus ampullariodes), and, did we see Mormon tea (Ephedra nevadensis)? There’s always a search online when we get back to our motel room, but it sure would be nice to check it out in person, right here in this park. Please don’t misunderstand—Zion is, as Mary Kay said, a magnificent place!

With a terrific built environment, including a beautiful and energy-efficient new visitor center, the Park Service can justifiably be proud of Zion. Its road surfaces match the red Navajo sandstone of the canyon, and their bus system rivals Acadia’s Island Explorer, but where’s that special garden where visitors and staff can begin and deepen their relationship with Zion’s native plants?

Moving on to Bryce and the Grand Canyon, and then into California and
Joshua Tree National Park, we continued to hike and look for unique plant communities. Like Zion, Joshua tree had an area next to the visitor center with some identified plants. Fantastic plants—very little in the way of plant identification. Sequoia, King's Canyon, and finally the awesome Yosemite! Would John Muir’s place of inspiration have a visitor’s garden? Well, sort of. We discovered the Nature Center at Happy Isles, located near Yosemite Falls, but were disappointed at how limited the plant information was along the kid’s trail. In a recent telephone conversation with Yosemite park ranger Matt Holle, I asked if we had missed Yosemite’s garden. Matt said that, in his experience, Acadia has one of the only gardens of this type, although Voyagers National Park is building a native plant walk as part of their new Native American Museum.

We motored on to Muir Woods, where we discovered large potted plants in front of the entrance/visitor center with some labels, and then to Point Reyes National Seashore, with no labeled plants anywhere. We thought our last national park, Death Valley, would certainly have an area set aside for the purpose of identifying and studying wild plant communities. Arriving in late October, we found the daytime temperatures only in the mid 90s so we set off on a couple of day-hikes. Every ranger we talked with seemed puzzled when asked about gardens, but helpfully informed us that Death Valley did have plant brochures. After visiting Badwater Basin, America’s lowest elevation at 292 feet below sea level, it was time to begin our journey home.

Our journal is filled with superlatives: the splendor of Grand Canyon, the vastness of all that was in our view in Arizona and California, and Utah, the immense magnificence of the giant sequoias, King’s Canyon, and Mt. Whitney. Joshua Tree was a wonderful surprise, as was the Pacific Coast at Point Reyes and the incomparable Yosemite, but nowhere did we find a perfect, quiet place to learn the names of the plants that call these national parks home. The Wild Gardens of Acadia is my teacher, and in a way, it’s my friend. I can depend on it, and always know that when I slip past the little fence and walk among the twelve native habitats I will discover that very plant, with its proper name tag, alive and thriving. We should all be glad for this unique and wild teacher, right here in Acadia.

DAVID DONOVAN is a seasonal park ranger at Acadia National Park, and teaches biology at Catholic Memorial High School in Boston. He has been a member and volunteer with Friends of Acadia since 2000.

The Wild Gardens of Acadia nurtures and displays Acadia’s native plants, some of which—like this nodding trillium in bloom—might be difficult to spot out in the park.
Each summer, Friends of Acadia sponsors several programs that hire teenagers and young adults to do vital work in Acadia National Park. It’s a great benefit to the park, and is often a watershed experience for these young employees. In June, three veteran members of these programs got together to reflect on their experiences. Sophia Krevans, a recent graduate of MDI High School, is a returning member of the Acadia Youth Technology Team. Nathan Smallidge will be a senior at MDI High School next fall and is a returning member of the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps. Anna Adams, who grew up near Ellsworth, is a past member of the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and now works for Friends of Acadia as a field crew leader. —Ed.

ANNA ADAMS: Thanks for coming to share your perspective on what it’s like to be in the youth programs with Friends of Acadia. To start off, explain what your involvement was.

SOPHIA KREVANS: I was one of the four students on the Youth Technology Team. We gave a youth perspective on how technology could be integrated in the park, in a way that would make a stronger relationship between youth and the park and not in a way that would hinder that relationship in any way. I’m coming back this year to continue doing the same thing.

NATHAN SMALLIDGE: I was on the AYCC trail crew last year and we pretty much tried to make a bunch of trails. I’m coming back this year and it’ll be good.

AA: How has your relationship with the park itself changed through your involvements with these programs?

SK: I always loved working with people and working in groups, but being able to do a job that was so collaborative made me realize that I want to work in an environment like that. And I’d never thought of working in nature or working with a park, but I really, really loved it, and definitely would see myself doing something like what I do in the future, maybe on a bigger scale. Also—I’d never done that much with technology. I’ve always been more of a consumer. But I loved being able to use it and integrate it in a way that was really meaningful. That was cool.

AA: I think for me, too, on a basic level it made working for the park and working for nonprofits more accessible to me, because it had felt sort of far away. To start out in the youth programs and work up was really…I think it changed a lot for me and my perspective on that.

NS: I can honestly say not many people have a job where you smash rocks up for most of the day. When I came back to school after the summer, I got a lot of respect for doing all this hard labor and actually helping to make trails.

SK: I think I never really saw the link between the community and the park until I worked there last summer. I remember we went out to Baker’s Island, and they were saying all the names, and I was thinking, “that’s my teacher! I’ve seen these names on restaurants and in the town!” The park is really doing a great job of protecting this island’s history and linking it to the community. I’d never seen those links before until I’d worked there. And now when I’m out in the park with friends—I was out at Sand Beach the other day, and we were walking the Great Head Trail, and
I was telling my friends all the stories, because we went on one of the tours there, and I was giving them the Sophia version of the park tour. And I said, oh, look at this sand—it’s not real sand; it’s crushed shells. But the park is interesting in that it protects the history too, not just the natural landscape—it protects the whole cultural story of the Island as well. And I love being able to see those links from our past.

AA: I know that I didn’t realize how much the park affects this area even off the Island: how much revenue it brings in, how many people it employs, how much involvement with the community it has. I just didn’t really see the overall picture until I was working here.

NS: Yeah, I saw the same thing. I thought “the park” was just park rangers, but then I actually got the job and I learned that there’s all this other stuff going on too, and it was an eye opener, all the people that work there. There’s a lot of people.

AA: I’m working with a crew right now, building bogwalk over near Long Pond, and now that’s our bogwalk. I don’t think I ever would have been this invested in the park if I hadn’t worked in it.

NS: Yeah, I definitely would. It’s definitely a memorable experience.

SK: Before my job, I’d never even thought of what the community would have been like without the park. Imagine what this Island would be like if we didn’t have people who cared so much about the park and took care of it. So, my little brother was on the AYCC as well, and on Mother’s Day we went for a Mother’s Day hike on the Jesup Trail, where he primarily worked during the summer. He was talking about all the different things he did, and all the layers of rocks he put down, and he had so much ownership over it. I think it’s great to see the individual impact that the park has on people.

AA: And we do have a unique experience in this park—and you both know this growing up here—that since our park’s not a square, it’s more integrated into the community just by how it is shaped; it has more of a connection with this area. It’s pretty neat.

SK: This was my dream job. I would have done it for free. And it was just a great experience—every time I go out into the park I have another story about it, and I have another memory of it. Everything connects together, and it’s great. Everybody on this Island, whether they know it or not, has some sort of connection to the park. I know I have this connection through my job, and through when I go out on hikes, but it impacts everyone on this Island and it has been really great to see that impact and be part of that. I appreciate everything that Friends of Acadia has done for the youth they’ve hired. It’s made a big difference for me.

AA: I’m working with a crew right now, building bogwalk over near Long Pond, and now that’s our bogwalk. I don’t think I ever would have been this invested in the park if I hadn’t worked in it.

Would you recommend to someone, if they’re thinking about doing one of the youth programs through Friends of Acadia, to try it out?

AA: Would you recommend it also, to try out the Youth Technology Team?

SK: Yeah, I hope they keep this program going. I think it’s a great opportunity, and it’s awesome because not a lot of national parks are doing it and it’s great that Friends of Acadia is sponsoring it. I think it’s very cool—very innovative and unique.
Over the past 20 years, the National Park Service has undertaken an ambitious effort to restore, renovate, and upgrade developed facilities within Acadia National Park. Beginning with the comprehensive restoration of the carriage road system in 1989, ANP has systematically upgraded aging park infrastructure. Increases in park visitation over the years place new demands on ANP’s facilities, many of which were not designed for the volume of visitors and their evolving patterns of use. In addition, federal regulations addressing universal access, resource management, and environmental protection have necessitated improvements that were not anticipated in Acadia’s formative years.

Acadia’s unique character comes from an integration of natural and designed landscapes. The park’s iconic cultural resources were the product of thoughtful design efforts in the early 20th century, involving notable architects and landscape architects of the period including Grovesnor Atterbury (gate lodges), Frederick Law Olmsted (motor roads), and Beatrix Farrand (carriage roads). Following development of the core park facilities from the 1910s to 1930s, the next 40 years saw incremental improvements to address visitor needs on a site-specific basis. In 1992 the first (and still current) General Management Plan (GMP) for ANP was completed, providing comprehensive, long-term plans and strategies for managing the park’s natural and developed areas.

For the past 15 years an interdisciplinary team of architects, landscape architects, engineers, and environmental scientists, led by the local firms of Roc Caivano Architects and Coplon Associates Landscape Architects, has provided planning and design assistance to ANP to implement the GMP. Over 20 sites in the park have been rehabilitated to meet contemporary needs, establishing a cohesive approach to design of park facilities. Projects have ranged from modest interventions to comprehensive facility rehabilitation and broadly fall into four categories: Visitor Services, Accessibility, Transportation, and Interpretation/Educational facilities:

Visitor Services: Although ANP licenses concessioners to operate certain park facilities, the park owns the buildings and grounds that house them. To address aging facilities, a number of improvements have been completed in recent years with several more awaiting funding. At the Jordan Pond House, an elevator and an expanded kitchen were seamlessly integrated into the 1970s-era building. Designs have been completed for a multi-phase site rehabilitation that began with circulation improvements in 2009. The next phase includes a renovation of the tea lawn to provide more shaded seating, improve drainage, and restore native vegetation. Designers worked closely with ANP historians and the State Preservation Officer to ensure changes will be consistent with the tea lawn’s designation as important historical and cultural landscape. The challenges are to provide shade (umbrellas are problematic in this windy location) while preserving the integrity of the tea lawn and the historic vistas to Jordan Pond and the Bubbles. On account of constant heavy use, the grass is difficult to sustain—the “lawn” being more reference than reality. The plans include regrading for improved drainage, reconstructing the soil profile of the lawn area using a new durable turf mix to withstand compaction from heavy use,
and providing for irrigation of the lawn area and garden beds. Groves of native canopy trees will be carefully located on either side of the tea lawn to provide shaded seating while preserving vistas. Crushed granite pathways around the perimeter of the lawn will replace worn dirt paths and the perennial beds will be supplemented for prolonged seasonal interest. The brick terraces adjacent to the building will be reconstructed and slightly enlarged to provide additional areas for outdoor dining and help manage foot traffic around the building. Improvements for area way-finding, pedestrian connections, and bicycle access and parking will complete the renovation of the Pond House site.

Down the road at Wildwood Stables, a multi-phase site improvement plan will address issues of function and appearance. The recently completed first phase reconstructed the horse paddock to improve drainage and use space more efficiently; subsequent phases will address visitor arrival, carriage ride staging, and improvements to the existing campground. And the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and ANP Headquarters on McFarland Hill may see renovations in the upcoming years; long-range conceptual planning has begun to explore improvements to these outdated facilities.

Accessibility: The passage of federal universal accessibility standards has advanced the rehabilitation of several ANP facilities. At Sieur de Monts Spring, the grounds of the nature center were reconstructed to provide barrier-free access to the building while expanding outdoor program space. In 2006 an accessible trail was developed at the summit of Cadillac Mountain, linking the accessible parking area with the summit interpretative platform. The design of the trail involved minimizing disturbances to sensitive summit vegetation and integrating the paved route into the existing terrain. Stone work and surfacing reference original 1930s trailwork. And recently, the steps at Sand Beach were reconstructed for improved access and visitor safety, replacing the large, uneven granite treads with a uniform concrete stairway. The new stairway was kept within the existing alignment to preserve vegetation, and the old granite treads were used as a retaining edge to stabilize an adjacent, eroding slope. The stair widens at the bottom to provide improved opportunities for viewing, gathering, and access. The design included rehabilitation of the upper viewing plaza and connections to the bath house and parking lot.

Transportation: Recognizing the growing impact of motor vehicles on park resources, the GMP advocated for capping parking at current levels and establishing a public transportation system to serve the park and surrounding communities. The Island Explorer is the successful realization of this concept, and existing facilities have been
Acadia’s unique character comes from an integration of natural and designed landscapes. The park’s iconic cultural resources were the product of thoughtful design efforts in the early 20th century, involving notable architects and landscape architects of the period.

Interpretation and Education Facilities:
The units of Acadia National Park outside Mt. Desert Island have also received facility upgrades in recent years. At the St. Croix Island National Historic Site, an interpretative trail featuring life-size bronze statues depicting the 1604 French settlement was installed and a new entry, parking, and ranger station were developed. In 2009 the NPS renovated the former naval communications facility in Winter Harbor into a campus for the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC Institute). The project transformed an aging military base into a pedestrian-oriented campus in which academic, residential and social centers are linked through a system of pathways and open spaces. The project employed sustainable design solutions to address building renovation and reuse, landscape rehabilitation, and reorganization of pedestrian and vehicular circulation systems.

The planning and design for projects within the park follow an iterative NPS process, engaging project designers and ANP personnel in developing context-appropriate, cost-effective solutions. The design process is typically divided into several stages beginning with programming and conceptual design and advancing into detailed design and construction documentation. The process is designed to ensure that projects meet or exceed current NPS design criteria for sustainability, accessibility, and life cycle costing. These criteria include state-of-the-art energy and material science for structures, locally sourced materials where possible and practical, low-impact sit development practices to address storm water, dark sky compliant lighting, and revegetation with native plant materials, among many others.

The extent of work accomplished to protect park resources and enhance visitor experiences over the past 20 years is testimony to the foresight, skill, and commitment of ANP staff and personnel. The notable work of Superintendants Sheridan Steel and his predecessor Paul Haertel, Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock, retired Chief of Maintenance Jim Vekasi, current Chief Keith Johnston, and park engineer Clay Gilley have been critical in securing funding, overseeing the design process and administering construction for the host of projects that will serve Acadia National Park well into the 21st century.

SAMUEL R. COPLON is a landscape architect and principal at Coplon Associates in Bar Harbor, Maine. Sam has over 30 years of experience in a wide range of public, institutional, conservation, and residential projects and has been involved with landscape design projects in Acadia National Park since 1998. He was recently elected a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects.
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Lona and Jeff Alibum
Janet Albobello
Kim and Thomas Beckett
Nathan Bell
Kristy Berksza
Sandra Bernard
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Frances Cherwynd
Jane Graziano and Wesley Chodos
Jeanne Cohurn
Anna Cooke and Charles Woodward
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Kathy and Wil Cunningham
Suzanne Curran
Debra, Anna, and Ryan Daly
Tonda and Thomas Davies
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Maine Sea Coast Mission
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Gigi Turbow Marx
Dayle Vander Sande
Stephanie and Zachary VerWey
Rosemary Watkins
Mary Ann Winter
Woodwinds
Dusty Pearson and Phil Zuckerman

February 1–May 31, 2012

Ledges on Dorr Mountain’s Homans Path.
Over the years, Friends of Acadia’s annual fundraiser has grown from a small auction and progressive dinner to a huge event, raising hundreds of thousands of dollars for conservation work in and around Acadia. What hasn’t changed is the generosity of friends and members.

This year, the Benefit features fine works of art, trips to exotic locales around the world and in our backyard, handcrafted and Maine-made items, and special adventures in Acadia. Close to 100 items—too many to list here—will be included in the auction catalog. To request a copy, email Lisa Horsch Clark at lisa@friendsofacadia.org.

There are three items of special note this year—a car, a boat, and a painting—that deserve special mention due to the extreme generosity of the donors. The car, a 1936 Ford Model 68 Convertible Sedan, was given by an anonymous donor. In a recent appraisal, California-based Gooding & Company, the acclaimed auction house known for selling significant and valuable collector cars, stated: “This 1936 Ford benefits from a restoration of a solid original example. Paint, plating and upholstery throughout are fresh. Under the hood, the 221 cubic-inch V-8 appears correct and clean. Conclusively this is a very nicely restored and presented 1936 Ford Convertible Sedan.”

The boat, Salt Ponds, was donated by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Butler. It is a custom Able Somes Sound 26, well maintained and owned by the same family since her launch in 1987. The semi-displacement hull is relatively light and very maneuverable; it is in keeping with the traditional lines of a Maine lobster boat yet incorporates contemporary performance concepts. In addition to the boat, the auction item will include a custom galvanized roll-on trailer, one year of winter storage, and coat of varnish next spring donated by John Williams Boat Company in Hall Quarry. With a recent sanding of her deck and a sea trial by John Williams Boat Company, the boat is ready for a lucky family to dart around MDI during the warm summer months.

Trail Workers, a 2007 Judy Taylor oil painting, was purchased by Friends of Acadia members Bert and Suzi Zbar and donated to FOA for sale in this year’s auction. Modeled on Acadia’s Civilian Conservation Corps workers of the 1930s, Trail Workers exudes the hard work and skill of the young men who built Acadia’s trails, roads, and other infrastructure. The framed oil-on-linen painting has been traveling around MDI throughout the spring and summer for showcase at local galleries, libraries, and businesses.

For an absentee bid form or more information about these and other items up for auction on August 11th at the Asticou, visit www.friendsofacadia.org or call 207-288-3340. We are grateful to all of our auction item donors for their generosity. Their love for this magnificent place fuels our work to preserve and protect Acadia now and for future generations.

Acadia Gateway Center Inaugurated
The Island Explorer will have a new home this summer thanks to the opening of the maintenance center at the Acadia Gateway Center. On Friday, May 4th, Congressman Michael Michaud joined Federal Transit Administration Deputy Administrator Therese McMillan, representatives from the Maine Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, the Town of
Trenton, L.L.Bean, and Friends of Acadia for a ribbon cutting ceremony and reception at the new facility.

The maintenance center is part of the first phase of work at the Acadia Gateway Center, the transit and welcome center intended to serve day use visitors and commuters to Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park. Complete with propane fueling station, bus wash facilities, locker rooms for the drivers, and bus maintenance bays, the new facility will be a significant upgrade for the Island Explorer, which previously operated from the parking lot at the Trenton Marketplace. Phase 1 included construction of the building together with Route 3 road improvements, installation of septic and water systems, night sky-friendly street lighting, and driveway/parking lots. Funding was primarily from the Federal Transit Administration’s bus facilities program, with roadwork funding from the Federal Highway Administration and matching funds from state bonds. Friends of Acadia also contributed $50,000 to complete the installation of phone lines, security systems, and business equipment.


The partners in the Acadia Gateway Center await word on whether future phases will be fully funded. Preliminary design is expected to begin this summer with $3 million already secured through the National Park Service. Future phases will include a welcome center to be staffed by area chambers of commerce and the National Park Service, and a transit center and parking area for Island Explorer passengers.

Friends of Acadia is also working with a group of Trenton residents to design and build a footpath that will leave from the turn-around at the end of the road to the maintenance center. The path is a 1.8-mile loop that traverses spruce/fir forests and new growth forest areas to reach an expansive heath. The trail will be a great recreational asset for residents and visitors to the Acadia Gateway Center. Trail construction is expected to be complete by the end
Acadia Forever

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

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- 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.

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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.
of the year, with interpretive signs in place next year.

The opening of the maintenance facility at the Acadia Gateway Center represents a significant milestone in Island Explorer history. When the twenty signatories to the original Island Explorer partnership agreement gathered in 1999, the long-term goal was to create an off-island transit hub where visitors could purchase park passes, get park information, and ride the Island Explorer. The Acadia Gateway Center maintenance facility is a tremendous step in that growth, providing a stable home for the base of operations.

**Trenton Voters Accept Donation**

In 2007, Friends of Acadia purchased 369 acres on the west side of Route 3 for the Acadia Gateway Center. After the Center’s environmental assessment was complete, Friends of Acadia sold approximately 151 acres to the Maine Department of Transportation for the facilities and associated lands needed to mitigate wetland disturbances. Friends retained the remaining 217 acres of forest and wetlands, but did not want to be long-term landowners.

By unanimous voice vote at Town Meeting on May 19th, Trenton residents approved the acceptance of Friends of Acadia’s offer to donate the remaining land to the Town. Prior to making the donation, Friends will work with a qualified conservation organization to craft a conservation easement for the property that will guarantee public access in perpetuity, prevent clear-cutting, and keep the land undeveloped for future generations.

**Park Pass Art Competition Winner**

Rory Burmeister, a fourth-grade student at Pemetic Elementary School, won the 2012 Acadia National Park Pass Competition. Her winning artwork will appear on the ANP annual pass window decals for the coming year (see the inside front cover). FOA President David MacDonald and ANP Ranger Kevin Langley announced the award at the Pemetic Awards Assembly on June 13th, presenting a $50 check and a park-themed gift bag to Miss Burmeister. 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.

**Five Years of Questing**

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are partnering for a fifth season of Acadia Quest, a program aimed at getting more kids and their families outdoors and into the park. Quest teams receive a free park pass, a park map, and a Quest card with challenges designed to get teams interactive with Acadia (and their communities) through Friends of Acadia events and out-

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*Park Pass Art Competition winner Rory Burmeister (center) with David MacDonald of Friends of Acadia (left) and Kevin Langley of Acadia National Park (right).*
Members of the St. Paul’s Community Church (Cleveland, OH) youth group “flossed” a quarter-mile of Rockefeller’s teeth—the iconic granite coping stones—on the Eagle Lake Loop when they volunteered in June. The 2012 volunteer season kicked off with numerous youth groups volunteering on projects in Acadia and on the Trenton Community Trail, and participating in FOA events. By June, Friends of Acadia had already hosted groups from Connecticut Middle School-Montessori, Ellsworth High School, Old Town High School, Mount Desert Island High School, Montessori High School of Cleveland, the St. Paul’s Community Church Youth Group, Vermont Commons, and Windham High School.

door activities like biking, hiking, boating, swimming, and exploring. Once again L.L. Bean will generously sponsor Acadia Quest with a donation of three grand prizes. To date more than 70 teams have signed on for the 2012 Quest.

**Cleaning Up Community Roads**

On Saturday, April 28th, Friends of Acadia hosted another successful Earth Day Roadside Cleanup. Approximately 375 volunteers collected trash and other roadside debris from the roadsides of MDI and Trenton. Groups included Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, the Brain Hubbell Campaign 2012, Enterprise Car Rental, Hannaford Supermarket, Knowles Real Estate, MDI High School, MDI Hospital, the Pemetic School, and the US Coast Guard.

**Celebrating Community Trails**

Friends of Acadia celebrated National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2nd with events highlighting two new community trails. In the morning was the dedication of the Duck Brook Connector Trail, Friends of Acadia’s newest Village Connector Trail; and in the afternoon Friends of Acadia hosted a volunteer trail-building project on the Trenton Community Trail, followed by a cookout for volunteers.

**Night Sky Festival**

The fourth annual Acadia Night Sky Festival will be held Thursday, September 13th through Monday, September 17th. In the afternoons Chad Kālepa Baybayan, keynote speaker for the 2012 Acadia Night Sky Festival, will speak about celestial navigation.
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](http://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.

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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](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).
addition to the festival’s regular stargazing events, the festival will feature Chad Kālepa Baybayan, captain and navigator for several Hawaiian deep-sea voyaging canoes. Mr. Baybayan will speak about how indigenous groups used the stars to navigate and find their way across vast expanses of the ocean. Mr. Baybayan is the Associate Director and Navigator in Residence at the ‘Imiloa Astronomy Center of Hawai‘i. Keep checking the festival website (www.acadianightskyfestival.com) and Facebook page (Acadia Night Sky Festival 2012) for updates throughout the summer as additional events are planned.

New Staff
Friends of Acadia welcomed three new staff members in May. David MacDonald has been hired as the new president and CEO of Friends of Acadia. He brings a two-decade track record of successful leadership and management of the land protection program at Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), one of the country’s leading land trusts. As director of land protection at MCHT, he oversaw an annual land acquisition budget of $5 million and during his tenure was involved with many landmark conservation deals in the Acadia region. In 2008 he served as the interim president of the Trust. He also serves as a volunteer board member of the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary in Somesville and the Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve in Seal Harbor, and was a founding Commissioner of the Land Trust Accreditation Commission from 2005 to 2010. A lifelong resident of Mount Desert Island, David has a deep knowledge of Maine geography and conservation, the Acadia region in particular.

Sarah Curts is the new accounting and administrative associate at Friends of Acadia. She has extensive experience in business administration, most recently during her nine-year tenure as office manager at the nonprofit Marine Environmental Research Institute in Blue Hill, Maine. Sarah holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Maine. She lives in Ellsworth.

Alison Leonard has been hired as seasonal development assistant for the 2012 summer season. During the academic year, she works as an instruction librarian at Husson University in Bangor. Prior to earning her M.L.I.S. in Library and Information Science from San José State University, Alison worked in nonprofit development for more than a decade.
In Gratitude

Tide pool near Little Hunter’s Beach.

VOLUNTEER CREW LEADERS
Don Bell
Len Berkowitz
Bruce-Denny Brown
Bucky Brooks
Jenn Donaldson
Bob Hartley
Mike Hays
Jack Hirschenhofer
Cookie Horner
Don Lenahan
Cliff Olson
Donna Reis
Betsy Roberts
Carol and Don Sessions
Bob Sanderson
Rita Timmons
Kip Warren

EMERITUS CREW LEADERS
Bruce Blake
Maureen Brooks
Julia Schloss, Crew and Emeritus Leader
Committee Chair
Dee Solomon
Marilyn and Al Wiberly

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Window Panes

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Barbara Arter, Angler
Bar Harbor Whale Watch
Camp Beech Cliff
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Hannaford Supermarkets
Iron Slipper Farm
Island Explorer
Jackson Laboratory
Zack Klyver, Naturalist
L.L.Bean
Quietside Café
U.S. Fish and Wildlife
The Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee of
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Less than two weeks into his tenure as Friends of Acadia President, David MacDonald accompanied Conservation Director Stephanie Clement, board member Hannah Sistare Clark, and advocacy committee members Ralph and Susan Nurnberger on visits to Capitol Hill. The group met with Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, and staff of Representatives Michaud, Pingree, and Moran. The agenda for the meetings was to introduce Mr. MacDonald in his new role, thank the Maine delegation for their support of park appropriations and the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and encourage opposition to two bills.

The first bill, H.R. 4089, the Recreational Fishing and Hunting Heritage Act, would open many units of the National Park System to hunting. While Acadia should not be affected by the bill because of state law prohibiting hunting on Mount Desert Island and because of an exclusion in the bill for “national parks” and “national monuments,” Friends of Acadia was concerned about the bill’s blanket approach to opening national park units, regardless of appropriateness for hunting.

The second bill, H.R. 1505, the National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act, would enable the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to ignore environmental laws, including the National Environmental Protection Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Clean Air Act, etc., on lands managed by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture within 100 miles of the international land borders of the United States. Acadia National Park falls within this boundary. If the bill passes, the CBP could construct fences, deploy temporary infrastructure, and install, maintain, and operate surveillance equipment in Acadia without further consultation of the public or collaboration among agencies.

Friends of Acadia will continue to track these bills and work with the Maine Congressional delegation on issues of importance to Acadia. If you would like to help, become a member of the Acadia Advocacy Network by contacting Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.
Hunting, Fishing and Camping
by Leon Leonwood Bean
with updates by great-grandson Bill Gorman
Down East Books, 2012
112 pp., Hardbound

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A ffectionately known around the world as L.L. Bean, Leon Leonwood Bean used his personal knowledge of hunting, fishing, and camping to write a no-nonsense and practical guide on exploring the outdoors. Originally published in 1942, this staple for old-time camps in Maine has been revised in conjunction with the 100th anniversary celebration of the L.L.Bean company. The 2012 edition includes the entire original text, with commentary and annotations on modern day hunting, fishing, and camping added by L.L.’s great-grandson, Outdoor Channel television host Bill Gorman. Also included are the original black-and-white photos plus new and historic color images.

Though much of the book was beyond my technical outdoor skills, a true outdoorsman would love reading the then and now of stalking game in all weather; the ideal equipment for catching salmon, trout, and bass; and the fine points of setting up camp. One of the best examples of this is L.L.’s pages with instructions on finding your way with a compass, paired with Bill’s GPS how-to. I also found the evolution in safety issues and equipment very interesting.

But for me, I loved reading the history of the company and frequently got lost in the old catalog covers and photographs. It was a nostalgic look back to a much simpler time, when cell phones didn’t interrupt vacations and you cooked the food you caught over a fire at camp. And important for me as a conservationist were L.L.’s words on protecting the outdoors. Though it was not a common sentiment in the early 1940s, L.L. knew how the ecologies of plants and animals were intertwined. He wrote, “Wildlife depends on the forests. Keep Them Green.” True then, true today.

Hunting, Fishing and Camping is a recommended read not only for outdoorsmen but for anyone who appreciates L.L.Bean the company and would like to learn more about the history of the business over the last hundred years. Enjoy the walk down memory lane.

—Lisa Horsch Clark
Twenty-six years ago when concerned residents of the communities surrounding Acadia National Park created Friends of Acadia, they began with a clear mission: to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Over the years, this mission has been a consistent guide, and adherence to it has led to the significant successes of FOA.

Looking ahead—especially to the 2016 celebration of the 100th anniversary of the founding of Acadia National Park—the Friends of Acadia staff and board have spent considerable time over the past year developing a strategic plan to focus our vision and activities for the future. The plan was informed by 1) a clear understanding of the natural, human, and budgetary challenges facing the park; 2) a review of past accomplishments; and 3) a recognition that we must make choices; we must focus our resources on projects of greatest impact and leverage. While we will, of course, continue our past commitments and successful programs, the following describes the “three pillars” on which FOA will focus its efforts to best achieve the broad goals of our mission statement:

Balanced Use: This pillar is about directly addressing the challenges inherent in balancing the effects of public access with the needs of preservation of the park, to preserve and enhance the visitor experience. What can FOA do to help mitigate congestion? What can FOA do to help visitors understand where they inadvertently harm the park? Despite the fact that ever-increasing Island Explorer bus ridership, additional routes, bike transportation, and the Acadia Gateway Center all help ease the pressure of growing visitation at Acadia, congestion continues at certain places, days, and times. One project this summer about which we are enthusiastic and optimistic is that Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and the Acadia Corporation (the Jordan Pond House concessioner) have donated funding to initiate the new “Pond House Express” route between the Jordan Pond House and the Hulls Cover Visitor Center.

Generational Stewardship: This pillar is about encouraging young people to understand, appreciate, and value Acadia and all National Parks as well as to prepare future leaders, volunteers, and donors to support Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park. This summer the Acadia Youth Technology Team has returned for a second year to implement selected projects that were identified by them last year. With increased support from Friends of Acadia, the innovative park program responds to the second pillar in three ways: it develops specific tools for engaging youth with Acadia National Park; it develops a model by which Acadia and other national parks can have guidance from young people on how to connect with their peers; and it develops the team members as local, young stewards of the park.

Natural Resource Sustainability: This pillar is about protecting selected lands and other natural resources deemed critical to sustaining the park’s vitality, beauty, and peacefulness for the future. Last year there were several important land protection successes, including Acadia Land Legacy (a partnership of FOA and Maine Coast Heritage Trust) purchases of properties on Lower Hadlock Pond and Round Pond, as well as an important advisory and financial role in the purchase of 3,200 acres just north of Acadia’s Schoodic District by a conservation-minded buyer. This summer, Friends of Acadia continues to work with MCHT to realize the goal of a conservation easement on the lands bordering the park to protect its forested gateway in perpetuity.

Protecting Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities will continue to be a dynamic and never-ending task. Friends of Acadia is prepared, alert, and focused to protect Acadia for the future. We have assembled and created a remarkable team to address the park’s needs. The team includes FOA’s talented and dedicated staff, the FOA board, and many other volunteers, donors, and partners. Acadia National Park is our largest and most important partner, and their senior leadership team has given much valuable input to our planning process. As board chair, I wish to gratefully acknowledge and thank the thousands of individuals, local businesses, and interested corporations and foundations who support our important work. Your help enables Friends of Acadia to care for Acadia National Park. The park and the visitor experience are enhanced, protected, and the better for it!

Edward L. Samek

Chairman’s Letter

INSPIRED BY THE PAST, FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE!
Our 3,600 members from all over the world help to fund essential park projects and new initiatives, benefiting trail and carriage road maintenance, youth programs in the park, land conservation, and much more.

Member benefits include a subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, published three times annually, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you’re a vital part of FOA’s work to preserve Acadia for this generation and for all time. Additional member benefits are listed at www.friendsofacadia.org/membenefits.shtml.

**Help us to protect Acadia by joining Friends of Acadia.** To renew your membership or become a new member, use the envelope provided in this magazine, call the Friends of Acadia office at 1-800-625-0321, or visit our website.

For more information visit www.friendsofacadia.org
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.