PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

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

The Acadia National Park seven-day ($10.00) and annual passes ($20.00) are available at the following locations in Maine:

- Hulls Cove Visitor Center (off Route 3 in Hulls Cove)
- Sand Beach Entrance Station (on the Park Loop Road)
- Island Explorer/Acadia National Park Information Center (next to the Bar Harbor Village Green and Island Explorer transfer location)
- Seawall campground (off Route 102A in Southwest Harbor)
- Blackwoods campground (off Route 3 in Otter Creek)
- Acadia National Park Headquarters (on the Eagle Lake Road/Route 233 in Bar Harbor)
- L.L. Bean Freeport store

Park pass fees make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

Partners

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

Many species of birds live in the Mount Desert Island area.

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

Join us in protecting our national parks.

Preserve

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

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

Participate

Buy a park pass

Your contribution helps:

- rebuild trails and carriage roads
- protect natural and cultural resources
- support the fare-free Island Explorer

Acadia’s coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking and kayaking.
Occasionally I re-read to myself forty-two words from the 1916 Act of Congress that created the National Park Service and set its fundamental purpose: “to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.”

To me, those are some of the most inspiring words in American history, right up there with “We hold these truths…” They establish that national parks are for everyone and shall be kept in top condition for all time. The poet John Keats said something like it long ago: “A thing of beauty is a joy forever.” Only here it’s a mandate. This balancing act — use vs. preservation — is what Acadia National Park’s great staff faces every day, through 2.7 million yearly visits, mostly via automobile. But the legal bottom line is unimpairment. The Park Service has no choice.

Friends is committed to helping, through: 1) our $3-million cash donations to the park and communities since 1995 alone; 2) FOA and park programs that together unleash 35,000 hours of volunteer annual labor; 3) partnering to fund, with L.L. Bean and others, the Island Explorer; 4) policy work to raise park entry fees toward market levels and nudge Acadia in the direction of financial self-sufficiency; and 5) citizen advocacy.

Friends of Acadia’s urgent objective is to help create a transit center to intercept day travelers and allow them the option to leave their cars off-island and board Island Explorer buses to come on. In other words, we seek to restore a bit of lost tranquility, village ambience, natural quiet, and islandness.

Consider two facts: 1) despite a current smoothing of the curve, Acadia National Park visitation has doubled every twenty years, most recently in 1997; and 2) the Census Bureau puts the U.S. population at 291,475,957 people, five million above the highest projections. The mid-range projection for 2050 is 400 million. For 2099, the mid-range is 567 million, and the worst case is 1.1 billion.

A merely doubled U.S. population means a doubling of highways, stoplights, shopping malls, etc. For refuge, people will seek national parks in vastly greater numbers than now. (The parks log about one visit per American per year.) It’s a freight train and you can see it coming, up I-95 and down Route 1-A. Along the way, MDI probably will have reached its maximum development build-out, with many more thousands of housing units, as allowed by today’s zoning.

The notion that Mount Desert Island will somehow escape these massive forces is a dangerous illusion. Acadia is one of those perennial destinations that will draw huge numbers of people forever. Only big things will interrupt big travel to MDI: national economic distress, uncertainties caused by terrorism, extended weather disruptions, epidemics, or a wholesale decline in naturalness and community character of the kind brought on by excessive crowding and pollution. Which is why Friends of Acadia must, with your financial assistance, help develop innovations to manage automobiles now, while the situation can be remedied by methods available to the present stewards of this still magnificent island.

The late Wallace Stegner called national parks “the best idea America ever had.”

I hope the legitimate, civic, democratic purposes of the national parks inspire you too. By law, everyone is welcome. But, please, simultaneously remember the legitimate, civic, democratic command of unimpairment. This means vigilant care by anyone fortunate enough to enjoy the parks today, or to live near Acadia and even to gain a livelihood from its remarkable wealth-generating capacities.

Only the modest principle of “not everyone at the same time” will preserve the highest quality visitor experience that was granted by Congress for all generations, including for a mammoth future population we in this room will never know.

Thank you for everything you do to protect one of Earth’s most beautiful places as a joy forever.

— W. Kent Olson, President
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FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Barb and I arrived in Bar Harbor Memorial Day weekend with a carload of clothes and other necessities for our first month at Acadia National Park. We left most of our belongings back in Colorado, including our son, our dog, and warmer clothes that we soon discovered we would need in the cool and wet June we experienced. After several days of rain, I decided that I should have left the sunscreen at home in favor of the umbrella.

We spent a few hours looking at available houses in our price range (not many) and enjoyed dinner and an ice cream cone downtown with many other new and long-time visitors to Mount Desert Island. Over the next few days, we became your average tourist: starting at the visitor center, driving the loop road (the new entrance stations look great), hiking up and over Gorham Mountain (thinking we would do the steep hikes early before our “high altitude lungs” adjusted downward), going to the top of Cadillac Mountain for the incredible views, and walking more than ten miles sampling some of the wonderful carriage roads.

On Monday, we drove over to Schoodic peninsula for the day, sightseeing and hiking to the top of Schoodic Head via the Anvil trail with a new friend Michael, one of the Schoodic volunteers. What a view of Schoodic, Frenchman’s Bay, Acadia and beyond! We also took an auto tour of the former navy base. Acting like typical tourists, we tried to cram a lot into three days but enjoyed it all.

First impressions from the weekend included spectacular scenery, significant natural and cultural resources, many friendly faces, eagerness to assist, well maintained facilities, good signs, and clean road sides. What a wonderful place!

Those first few days experiencing the park as many of our visitors do provided valuable insight into park operations in a place like Acadia. Managing a national park with several million visitors from all over the world and in the midst of non-park lands, wide-ranging business interests, and many influences from well beyond park boundaries is always a challenge. But it is made easier with the help from others.

Acadia enjoys an excellent staff of professionals who have dedicated their lives to preserving its natural and cultural treasures for this and future generations while providing for the enjoyment of the American people — the real owners of the parks. But it takes much more than staff to make a national park succeed as Acadia does. It requires the active interest and involvement of many others from all walks of life. Federal, state, and local officials make decisions that can affect Acadia. Local businesses also serve park visitors and have a role to play in preserving the park for the future. Neighboring landowners can also respect the park through their actions. Organizations like Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, the Nature Conservancy, and many more directly assist with the mission of the national park. And the volunteers! Over 2,000 individuals donate their valuable time and energy to make Acadia a greater success. These many individuals help support actions needed to protect Acadia, advocate for park improvements, and work in the park to remove alien plants, maintain trails, answer visitor questions, educate people on important park values, or share wonderful stories of the peregrine falcon, wild gardens, or local history for our visitors. Other donors contribute funding for worthwhile projects such as trail rehabilitation, alternative transportation, visitor services, and education programs.

Simply put, Acadia National Park could not succeed without this tremendous support from Friends of Acadia, volunteers, and the wider community. I would like to thank each of you for being a volunteer, a donor, a member of FOA, and otherwise a supporter of Acadia National Park. You are a vital component of the successful team that makes Acadia the very special place that it is. I look forward to working with you in the years ahead to make Acadia even a better place. Thanks again for all you do.

— Sheridan Steele, Acadia National Park Superintendent
Favors to Friends

Our daughter was married in Northeast Harbor, Maine [and] requested that instead of wedding favors a donation be made to your organization...

We were most excited that she and Jim wanted to support the wonderful and vital work that your organization does on their wedding day and in this special way. When my husband made the announcement at the reception, it was met with a round of applause. We had guests from around the world—Japan, China, France, Italy, and Norway...all were overwhelmed with the beauty of the island. Enclosed is our donation...we know that it will be put to good use.

—Judith Gilkes Benson
Sandy Hook, Connecticut

Thank You

“Thank you” to all the staff and volunteers for your strong efforts to preserve the park and facilitate the presence of people.

—Father Jim Gower
Bar Harbor, Maine

Ambassador

This check is for a gift membership...I am spreading the word — keep up the great work!

—Wendy Stoddard
Carver, Massachusetts

Acadia Venture

We just got home from an extremely enjoyable stay at Acadia! I doubt we could have predicted how a fellow named Mike Alley could have “encouraged the kids’ enthusiasm.” The “kids” ranged in age from 15 to 50 and we all...really enjoyed his jostling and wit and reading us stories. I can’t think of the last time I had a story read to me! They haven’t stopped talking about him. They aren’t really sure why there was any fuss made over the projects they did — they had so much fun, they weren’t sure it was work. Anyway, we were glad to participate and the kids are already talking about service projects we might be able to do at National Park Service facilities in our area.

—Michael McCarr
Venture Crew 442 Advisor
Tinicum, Pennsylvania

The Eliots: A Historical Clarification

The respected landscape architect Charles Eliot (1859-1897), of Boston, died at a young age but left a robust lifework that included the founding of the first land trust in the United States. His grieving father, Charles W. Eliot (1834-1926), president of Harvard, inspired by his son’s work, became a principal founder of Acadia National Park.

Historians sometimes confuse the Eliots’ names, wrongly labeling the younger Eliot a “Jr.” or adding a “W.” Such an error slipped into First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island (Westclife Publishers and Friends of Acadia, $60), which relied on a historical source that contained the mistake. Friends of Acadia apologizes and thanks the Eliot descendants who graciously corrected us. The family continues the wonderful conservation legacies of its forebears Charles W. Eliot and his son Charles Eliot.
GATHERING

Now that rosehips are red and fat
and gleaming, summer’s list of chores
on the refrigerator shouts,
paint porch, shingle, repair eave, words
stones in the throat as days shorten.
Run away, says the sun. So we do,
slipping into the silky pond
where the mountain has cast itself
among jet streams and clouds, water
gathering us into ourselves
until we go back, back to when
our slim child bodies, posed with hands
as arrows above our heads, not
yet knowing how to swim, dove in.

— Elizabeth Tibbetts

Elizabeth Tibbetts’s book, In the Well, won the 2002 Bluestem Poetry Prize and was published in 2003. Her work has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. She lives in Hope, Maine.
Ways of Giving

The future of Friends of Acadia depends to a large degree on the foresight and generosity of today’s visionaries—our members—who are willing to consider new ways to make gifts. Here are a few suggested methods of making a difference for Friends of Acadia:

**Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities**
Gifts may be restricted to a designated program or applied to FOA’s general purposes.

**Gift of Life Insurance**
Name FOA as policy owner and beneficiary, and receive immediate tax deductions on your premium payments.

**Gift of Property**
Gifts of real estate, boats, or artwork provide FOA with marketable assets and may enable you to avoid capital gains taxes.

**Named Endowment Fund**
The principal of a fund established in your name—or for someone you wish to honor or memorialize—is managed for growth, while the income from the fund supports programs.

**Charitable Remainder Trust/Charitable Lead Trust**
Provide FOA or yourself with a steady income stream and, with a remainder trust, leave a significant future gift to FOA. Both arrangements entitle you to considerable tax savings.

**Bequest**
Name FOA as a beneficiary in your will and make a lasting contribution to the organization.

For more information about any of these suggested methods of giving to Friends of Acadia, please contact us at 207-288-3340.
On behalf of Friends of Acadia, I would like to thank you, our members, for your outstanding support and for the many hours of hard work you have contributed to Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

You have cleaned the roadsides of Mount Desert Island and filled hundreds of bags of trash; raked the carriage road ditches free of mountains of leaves; donated trees for the village connector trails; raised and contributed millions of dollars for projects related to Acadia National Park; spent countless hours working on the volunteer trail and carriage road crews; sought, donated, and bought auction items; decorated the Gala tent, organized, and produced one of the most successful annual Friends' fundraisers in the nation; contributed thousands of hours in meetings and on activities related to Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and Mount Desert Island issues; groomed the carriage roads for cross-country skiers; and acted as advocates for Acadia National Park.

In return, each of us has the great privilege of visiting, living near, and recreating in and around one of the most outstanding parks in the national park system. We work, vacation, raise our children, and run our businesses; we hike, bike, ski, run, climb, ride, boat, and sail in and around Acadia. And, we soak up its quiet beauty at every turn. Our spirits are renewed, our emotions are soothed, and our bodies are strengthened through our contact with this extraordinary place.

Imagine if you will, for a moment, what it would be like on MDI if the park’s founders had not had the foresight to establish Acadia National Park. Would you have access to the green space that provides endless opportunities for quiet reflection? Would you have the chance to recreate on miles of carriage roads and trails? Would your business thrive? Would you find employment? From the mountains and the water would you see the unspoiled vistas that are Acadia?

We are ever mindful of Friends of Acadia’s mission: “to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby to ensure a high quality experience for visitors and residents.”

Sometimes we must compromise in order to care for this great resource that is Acadia National Park. For instance, we must drive a little slower, sit in traffic a bit longer, dismount our bikes in order for horses to pass, leash our dogs, and share the space with a multitude of other park enthusiasts. Thank you for your part—Friends members, park staff, and Friends staff, board, trustees, and volunteers— for working in so many ways to achieve our mission and for making the compromises that are necessary. Thank you for giving back to Acadia National Park through Friends of Acadia.

— Dianna Emory, Chairman
Ernest Hemingway wrote that if you were lucky enough to have lived in Paris as a young man, then wherever you went thereafter, it stayed with you, “for Paris is a moveable feast.”

So it is with a diverse and devoted summer swarm of visitors to Maine’s Mount Desert Island, whether we’re talking about landed gentry ensconced in stately “cottages” or backpacking bicyclists tenting in public campsites. Each of them will winter over on memories of hump-backed mountains’ purple majesty or waves of rustling ferns; of mossy woods pine-scented or jagged cliffs pink-ledged; of cloudless sapphire skies or clinging fog and tiny winged things that bite.

If they’ve done their homework, they may also offer up a particular prayer of thanks. For there is something nearly miraculous about the way that big and little bits and pieces of Mount Desert Island’s unmolested natural treasures were painstakingly assembled by a relative handful of wealthy and influential summer “rusticators” and held safe against modernity’s depredations by being patched together into Acadia National Park.

It is not too far-fetched to suggest that had this not happened we might well see atop Cadillac mountain today a heliport and an Information Center for Disneyland Down East.

What we have, then, is a classic example of what President Eisenhower called “enlightened self-interest”—the practical value of putting private self-indulgence to the service of the public welfare. In a different, larger sense the creation of Acadia National Park stands as a textbook case history of the American political process, in all its arcane intricacies, constructively at work.
Philip Geyelin became a political power-junkie in the course of 15 years as a Wall Street Journal Washington Correspondent, 12 years as Editorial Page Editor of the Washington Post where he won a Pulitzer Prize, and ten years as a Washington-based syndicated columnist. A Trustee of the College of the Atlantic since 1991, he summers in Bass Harbor.

The textbook of choice is The Story of Acadia National Park by George B. Dorr, published by Acadia Publishing Company. Its subtitle, Two Books in One—The Complete Memoir of the Man Who Made It All Possible, sounds like a bit of a stretch given that the venerable President of Harvard, Charles W. Eliot, is widely credited with originating the concept of creating a tax-free trust to “hold reservations at points of interest on this Island for the perpetual use of the public.” But Eliot himself modestly credited his eldest son, Charles, with the idea and described his own “function” as no more than that of “consultation…and now and then incitement to just one person, George B. Dorr, the principal worker in the enterprise.”

Exceptionally well-connected in Boston and beyond, Dorr was a bachelor with inherited wealth and a talent for inspiring generosity. His restless energy was balanced by a disciplined patience with his project’s advance in inescapable fits and starts. Thus, in August 1901 the “cottagers” did organize at Eliot’s urging the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. But it was not until 1903 that this instrument was granted a charter by the Maine Legislature as a tax-free public service corporation. And it was not until a full five years later that it was given the “Bowl” and “Beehive” on Newport Mountain, its first significant “reservation.”

Soon afterwards came the acquisition of the summit of Cadillac. But it took many more private land grants before the Corporation had accumulated an undivided tract deemed worthy in 1914 of being consigned to Federal custody for public use under the Monuments Act of 1906. It was two more years before the red tape was untangled and the gift was officially accepted.

Dorr was by this time wise in Washington’s ways. For another two years he would prowl the corridors of power in the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and haunt the halls of Congress. On February 26, 1919 he hand-carried to the Executive Chambers a bill creating Lafayette National Park, later to be called Acadia National Park. Late that night President Woodrow Wilson signed it into law just before leaving for the Versailles Conference.

So the system worked. And yet, if that’s what it took to create a National Park on Mount Desert Island in an era uniquely congenial to land conservation, you have to wonder what it will take to preserve it properly in the political climate of today. History suggests it will take a goodly measure of the public spirit of a Charles W. Eliot and the consecration of a George B. Dorr.

IN MEMORIAM
Gifts have been received by Friends of Acadia in memory of:

- Michael Agar
- Patrick Belknap
- Arthur Berry
- Katharine and David Crofoot
- Effie Disston Fraley
- Robert Frolich
- Father James Gower
- Lester Hart
- Fitzgerald Hudson
- David J. Krieger
- Penny Longmaid
- Betty Meiklejohn
- Lucille Pfister
- Ken Sergeson
- Arthur F. Smith
- Raymond F.J. Smith
- Lawrence and Eleanor Swift-Reeve
- Nancy Young

IN NOMINE
Gifts have been received by Friends of Acadia in the name of:

- Lise and Andrew Chapman
- Dwayne and Mary Longenbaugh
- Dave Matava
- Ken Olson
- George Peabody
After increasing concern by Acadia National Park officials and residents in the surrounding communities about the growing problems associated with one of our foreign visitors, *Myrmica rubra*, also called the European red ant or fire ant, Acadia is sponsoring research on the ecology and management of this invasive species. The research is aimed at determining why this species of ant has been so successful at establishing and attaining unusually high densities on Mt. Desert Island, what impact this ant is having on our native ants and other invertebrate and vertebrate fauna, and what can be done to reduce its populations.

Not surprisingly, given that *M. rubra*’s native range in Europe extends from the United Kingdom through Scandinavia and into Siberia, we’ve found that it has an extremely high tolerance for cold temperatures. One hundred percent of the 30 nests monitored on Mount Desert Island this past year survived the cold and snowy winter. We have observed these ants foraging from April into early November at temperatures down to 42°F, and our studies reveal that for most of the season, *M. rubra* forages around the clock. According to Dr. Graham Elmes, who has studied this species throughout its range in Europe, this foraging pattern is unusual and may represent a local adaptation. This characteristic and others may provide *M. rubra* with the advantage it needs to out-compete native ant species. Jeff Garnas, a University of Maine graduate student, has noted reduced abundance of native ants in areas of Acadia colonized by *M. rubra*. Similarly, we’ve found that this species’ presence may be negatively impacting native pollinators and others.

The inability of native ants to compete may also be why *M. rubra* has been so successful here. European ants may be better able to compete with *M. rubra* for food and nesting resources, limiting the red ants to their native range. Ants native to coastal Maine have not co-evolved with this aggressive species, and appear to be less able to hold their own. For instance, during a visit to Acadia, Dr. Elmes noted that nowhere else has he seen *M. rubra* foraging up trees to the heights observed here. In Europe other tree dwelling ants occupy this niche.

Another advantage may be *M. rubra*’s method of colony increase and spread. Similar to European populations, *M. rubra* colonies have multiple queens per nest. Nests excavated in the park have contained from 1 to 49 queens, with worker numbers ranging from a few hundred up to more than five thousand! Colonies winter over with brood, and throughout the warmer seasons move and divide regularly, probably in response to the suitability of the nesting substrate and changing food resources. They use a variety of substrates for nesting, including nesting in soil, decaying logs, under rocks and human debris, and sometimes just within a thick clump of grass, or under a few leaves. Colonies appear to bud when a group of workers with brood and one or more queens forms a satellite nest from the mother nest. This may result in the establishment of an indepen-
dent colony. *M. rubra*’s habit of moving and dividing has considerable significance for its potential spread to new areas. A budding colony can readily colonize a decaying log or potted plant sitting in an infested area. If this log or plant is moved to a new, uninfested location, it takes with it all the individuals it needs to establish a new local population.

Trials are underway this season to evaluate different “least toxic” methods for managing *M. rubra* populations in Acadia and MDI communities. Strategies include the use of baited insecticides, insect growth regulators, and boric acid bait stations. We also are evaluating the relative virulence and potential utility of two species of naturally occurring fungal pathogens isolated from *M. rubra* populations on MDI. If successful, we’ll need to look closer at methods for using them for biological control of *M. rubra*, as well as evaluate their impact on non-target fauna.

In the meantime, we are learning a tremendous amount about this ant. The Acadian Entomological Society and Acadia National Park have sponsored visits by renowned myrmecologists who specialize in Myrmica species. Dr. Graham Elmes from the Center for Ecology and Hydrology in County Dorset, England and Dr. Andrei Francoeur from the Université du Québec, Chicoutimi. These scientists spent several days in the field with us this past June, and presented lectures at the “Ants of the Atlantic Northeast Workshop” held in association with the Acadian and Maine Entomological Societies Joint Annual Meeting in Bar Harbor.

Drs. Elmes and Francoeur, other ant specialists, and several other entomologists and friends participated in a collecting blitz of the ant fauna of Acadia. From the mountaintops to the intertidal zone, they gathered samples of the diversity of ants in the park. With the help of Maine native Gary Oulette, studying ant taxonomy at the California Academy of Science, and Dr. Francoeur we will be identifying all of the specimens collected. This will provide us with a good reference for the impact of *M. rubra*, as well as a current inventory for comparisons with both past (e.g., the ants in Acadia’s Proctor Collection) and future assessments of ant diversity in ANP. Initial identifications indicate that we have attained at least two new species records for the state of Maine.

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Dr. Eleanor Groden is Associate Professor of Entomology at the University of Maine at Orono.
Dr. Frank Drummond is Professor of Insect Ecology/Entomology and Coop Professor of Bio-Resource Engineering at the University of Maine at Orono.
ST. CROIX ISLAND
INTERNATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

Kristen Britain

St. Croix Island National Historic Site is a unit of the National Park Service, preserved as a monument to the origins of Canada and the United States. In 2004 Canada, France, and the United States will commemorate the 400th anniversary of the first French settlement on St. Croix Island. — Editor

The Mission

Some aim at profit, others at glory, and others at the public welfare. The greater number take to commerce.

—Samuel Champlain

In April of 1604 Pierre Dugua, Sieur de Mons, sailed from Havre de Grace, France, aboard the flagship Bonne Renomé, bound for North America. King Henry IV granted Dugua a trading monopoly and the title lieutenant-general of New France. In exchange, Dugua was directed “to establish the name, power, and authority of the King of France; to summon the natives to a knowledge of the Christian religion; to people, cultivate, and settle the said lands; to make explorations and especially to seek out mines of precious metals.”

Dugua and his investors were interested in the lucrative fur trade, for beaver felt hats were popular in Europe. Samuel Champlain, map maker and chronicler of the expedition, hoped to discover a Northwest Passage that would serve as a shortcut for commerce with the Orient.

Upon arrival to North America in May, Dugua explored along the Canadian coast, sailing into a natural harbor Champlain named Port Royal (Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia). “It was one of the finest harbors I had seen on all these coasts,” Champlain said.

Settling Saint Croix Island

In June, Dugua and his company sailed into Passamaquoddy Bay, exploring upriver and the tributaries that fed it. He chose a small island in the middle of the river for the settlement. This was considered, Champlain said, “the best we had seen both on account of its situation, the fine country, and the intercourse we were expecting with the Indians of these coasts and the interior, since we should be in their midst.” They found the surrounding countryside pleasant, the soil fertile and good for brick-making, and fresh water obtainable on the mainland. Dugua named it Saint Croix Island for the intersection of tributaries above the island, which appeared to form a cross.

The men set to work immediately, much at the mercy of black flies, building first a fortification, then a storehouse and dwellings. An oven and a hand-mill for grinding wheat were also built. Gardens, both on the island and mainland, were sown with veg-
etable seeds and grain. Two years after the settlement’s abandonment, Champlain described the waters surrounding the island to be so full of herring [alewives] and bass that vessels could be loaded with them. He observed that the native people came to the area for five to six weeks during the fishing season to take advantage of the bounty. At low tide settlers harvested shellfish from the island’s shore, which proved, Champlain said, “of great benefit to everybody.”

The Meeting of Two Worlds

Nearby native people came to see the newcomers and camped at the foot of the island. Lescarbot recorded, “[they]...placed themselves voluntarily near [the French]; even in certain disputes making Sieur de Mons judge of their discussions.” A small chapel was built at the foot of the island in the “Indian fashion,” indicating a wig-wam, which may have been created for the use of the native people.

The native people served as guides during Champlain’s coastal explorations. They supplied the furs the French sought in exchange for hatchets, knives, glass beads, rosaries, caps, and tobacco.

The Winter

Snow first fell on the sixth of October.

On the third of December we saw ice passing which came from some frozen river.

—Samuel Champlain

Acadie shared the same latitude as temperate France, so it was assumed the climate would be similar. However, the settlers knew nothing of the arctic air flow from the north. As the hours of daylight dwindled and the air sharpened, the settlers discovered they were not prepared for the severity of a North American winter.

The river froze, tides upheaving cakes of ice and cutting the settlers off from fresh water, game, and wood on the mainland. In the storehouse, cider froze in barrels and had to be issued by the pound. Some resorted to drinking melted snow, and their diet consisted of only salt meat and vegetables that Champlain said, “produced poor blood.” By February, men began to die.

During the winter a certain malady attacked many of our people. It is called landsickness, otherwise scurry...of seventy-nine of us, thirty-five died, and more than twenty were very near it.

—Samuel Champlain

Those who perished were buried on the east end of the island. In keeping with Christian burial practices of the times, their feet were positioned toward the east. In March, the native people brought the survivors game in exchange for bread and other goods.

Leaving St. Croix Island

The severe winter of deprivation and death left the settlers anxiously awaiting the return of their ships from France. They expected the vessels at the end of April, but as April passed and mid-May arrived, there was still no sign of the ships. However, on June 15th, the expected vessels arrived bearing more men and supplies, which were met with much rejoicing.

Dugua resolved to move his settlement. After such a devastating winter, he desired a warmer climate. Accompanied by Champlain and some of the men, they sailed down the coast as far south as Cape Cod, but found nothing that pleased Dugua. In the end, he chose to move to Port Royal.

Legacy of the St. Croix Island Settlement

Not only was Saint Croix Island the location of one of the earliest European settlements on the North Atlantic coast, but its harsh lessons led to a more successful settlement at Port Royal, leading to a French presence in North America that endures today.

Kristen Britain worked nearly 15 years for the National Park Service, serving in a variety of natural and cultural settings, including at Acadia as writer/editor. She is currently a full-time novelist residing in Bar Harbor.
When you visit a national park this year, you may ask the entrance station employees about the best hiking route for kids or where to find particular birds in the park. You've probably come to expect knowledgeable Park Service employees who have ready answers to your questions and help get your visit off to a good start. The Park Service comprises employees who are passionate about their mission and have multiple talents and functions. In fact, a typical Park Service position does not fall neatly into any single category. Maintenance workers may be on call as firefighters or as members of search and rescue teams; archaeologists may catalogue artifacts in the morning, then provide interpretive tours in the afternoon. You may encounter far fewer knowledgeable employees, however, if a Bush administration plan — proposing to consider handing over more than 60% of all jobs in the already understaffed, financially strapped National Park Service to the lowest-bidding private contractors— is rolled out across the country. Our parks will lose scientists, archaeologists, maintenance workers, educators, and others who protect parks and provide us a safe and enjoyable experience.

The National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) is so concerned about the administration's privatization plans that it has made stopping this misguided initiative a top priority — and it's not alone in that concern. The administration's own Park Service director, Fran P. Mainella, wrote in a memo that the privatization quotas could limit the Park Service's ability to hire seasonal rangers who make our summer visits more enjoyable, reduce the ethnic diversity of the Park Service workforce, and prove unduly expensive.

Mainella also pointed out that because the administration has provided no money to study jobs that could be privatized, repairs and other vital park maintenance projects at several western parks, including Mt. Rainier, will be delayed. Roads, visitor centers, and other facilities will go without needed repairs. Park Service staff also will be "taken off other priority projects" to study privatization.

Preserving and protecting our national parks is a public trust. People don't work for the Park Service for the money — often a fraction of what they could earn elsewhere. They work there to be a part of something bigger than themselves. They love the institution and the mission to protect America's natural heritage. And as a condition of employment they must abide by an ethical code that prohibits conflicts between their private interests and professional duties. Consequently, visitors to the national parks have come to expect wonderful service from knowledgeable, dedicated personnel. The administration's effort, however, is not about what's best for protecting our parks or serving park visitors. It is an effort to remove as many jobs from the federal government as possible, even if doing so jeopardizes a great public institution or fails to produce real cost savings.

The genuine threat that this effort at wholesale privatization poses to our national parks has generated concern within Congress, the public, and the press. More than 100 members of Congress recently sent a letter expressing their concerns to the administration's Office of Management and Budget director. The Republican-led House of Representatives has decided the administration should not be permitted to even study outsourcing any Department of Interior positions in fiscal year 2004 — a remarkable rebuke of an unwise policy.

"The administration must recognize national park protection as an inherent responsibility of the government," says Tom Kiernan, NPCA president. "It must leave park superintendents, not political appointees, with the opportunity to make decisions that best serve the protection mission of the national parks."

NPCA and many other organizations, including Friends of Acadia, the NAACP, and the American Federation of Government Employees, are working together to prevent the administration from damaging our national parks through its privatization plan. Please add your voice to the growing chorus of opposition to help ensure that decisions are driven by the best interests of the national parks and future generations of Americans, rather than by political ideology.

To learn how you can help protect our national parks from the administration's privatization plan, please visit www.eparks.org/takeaction.

Ronald J. Tipton is NPCA's Senior Vice President for Programs. He joined NPCA in 1999 with nearly 20 years experience with major national conservation organizations. During his career he has worked for The Wilderness Society, National Audubon Society, and World Wildlife Fund. As assistant counsel of the House Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Committee from 1975-1978, he was the leader of major oversight efforts on national park funding and park concessions management.
Friends of Acadia advocates on behalf of Acadia National Park to nullify threats and/or augment park resources and capabilities. Like many other 501(c)3 charitable organizations, Friends is permitted by the IRS to lobby (defined as attempting to influence legislation). The organization must not exceed expenditure guidelines or engage in electoral campaigns. We operate well within these legal limits, working with Congress, state and federal agencies, and local governments.

Our Congressional work often takes us to Capitol Hill, where we sometimes give live testimony before Congress. We lobby primarily for additional park funding. The Maine Congressional delegation has been very supportive. We involve our senators and representatives in the park’s operating, maintenance, and land acquisition needs. In April, as part of the Americans for National Parks Steering Committee, Friends wrote to the Senate and House Interior Appropriations Subcommittees to request additional operating dollars for parks, demonstrating need through examples at Acadia. Friends also partners with a 260-group Maine coalition urging Congress to bolster the Land and Water Conservation Fund, from which Acadia receives money for land and easement purchases.

Friends lobbies for vital environmental protections. We have urged Maine Congressional delegation members to continue their strong stances on regulating air pollution, much of which is blown to Acadia from points south and west. Our testimony to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency urged the agency not to weaken provisions requiring older power plants and refineries to meet modern air emission standards when their production capacity is expanded.

We also work for improved National Park Service policies that encourage philanthropic support of parks. With significant input from Friends of Acadia, the National Park Friends Alliance, an informal affiliation of the largest park friends groups, recently provided comments to senior Park Service management on fundraising policies that inhibit private donations to parks.

Friends occasionally gets involved with state and local issues. In 2000, through complex state and local legislative processes and administrative actions, we and the park achieved jet ski bans, internal combustion engine bans, or horsepower limitations on all Great Ponds on MDI. We recently filed comments on aquaculture operations proposed offshore from park and state-held easements, and sent testimony to the Maine legislature’s Marine Resources Committee requesting that state aquaculture permitting rules be revised to allow consideration of potential noise, vibration, light, and habitat disturbance from proposed aquaculture leases. And, in 1996, Friends partnered with Schoodic Peninsula residents to fight a proposed clear-cut and subdivision plan for a parcel adjacent to the Park.

Friends has also been a conservation advocate in a court action. In 1999, a landowner proposed a dock in Long Cove on the northwest side of MDI. Ledges there serve as seal pupping and tern nesting areas. Endangered roseate terns were also spotted, and Friends intervened in the permit application to the Board of Environmental Protection. The Board and Superior Court ruled against the dock, and the case is on appeal to the Maine Supreme Court.

Our partnership with Acadia National Park is strong because Friends is an independent voice fighting for improved protections and funding for the park. Friends owes a tremendous thanks to our members for providing the financial basis and the citizen will to achieve these advocacy successes. — Stephanie Clement
Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting

1. On July 12, Beth and Don Straus, of Somesville, received the Marianne Edwards Award, FOA’s highest honor, from President Ken Olson (right), for their generosity in donating a pioneering conservation easement to Acadia National Park and for their combined years of inspiring voluntary service to diverse charitable causes.

2. Shawn O. Gorman (center), Director of Partnership Marketing at L.L. Bean, accepted the 2003 Conservation Colleague Award for the company, in recognition of Bean’s $1-million stewardship grant to FOA for the Island Explorer propane bus serving the park and Mount Desert Island.

Rockefeller Welcome

3. More than 100 Friends of Acadia members gathered at the home of David Rockefeller, Jr. and Diana Newell Rockefeller on July 20.

4. The group welcomed Barb Steele and her husband, the new Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele (right), shown with FOA Honorary Trustee Tris Colket (center) and Olson.

5. For his crucial role in protecting Acadia and other national parks, David Rockefeller, Jr. (left) received an autographed copy of First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island, published by FOA and Westcliffe Publishing, from FOA chair Dianna K. Emory (center) and Olson.

6. Maine Governor John Baldacci (center), with his wife Karen (right) and son Jack (far right), was thanked by Emory and Olson, for his strong support of Acadia National Park during his eight years as a Congressman.
Homans Path Reopening

7. On July 16, the public joined Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park officials to inaugurate the Homans Path, a rockwork masterpiece on Dorr Mountain that disappeared from trail maps in the 1940s and was restored as part of Acadia Trails Forever, the $13-million project of FOA and ANP. Left to right, ribbon cutters Charlie Tyson, Acadia Trails Forever chairman; Gary Stellpflug, ANP Trails Foreman; Olson; Tris and Ruth Colket, FOA Honorary Trustees whose outstanding generosity and spirit sparked the campaign; Steele; and Emory.

8. Stellpflug (foreground), whose park trail crews, along with FOA trail volunteers and Youth Conservation Corps workers, reconstructed the Homans Path to exacting historical standards, led reporters and guests on a narrated climb. The Homans trailhead at Sieur de Monts is accessible from Bar Harbor via the Great Meadow Loop village connector trail, another Acadia Trails Forever project.

Millionth Rider

9. Officials from FOA, ANP, Downeast Transportation, Maine DOT, and Acadia Corporation, and onlookers greeted Island Explorer’s millionth riders, the Jenni/Crump/Taft family, from Bozeman and Missoula, Montana, and Washington D.C., as they stepped from the bus at the Bar Harbor Village Green, July 31. The family won FOA memberships, dinner at the Jordan Pond House, and a $250 gift certificate from L.L.Bean, which granted $1 million to FOA for the Explorer. Thanks to Bean, bus service, now in its fifth summer, will continue beyond Labor Day to Columbus Day, beginning this fall.
This is the season that Acadia Trails Forever—the $13 million partnership effort of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park to restore the park’s 120-mile trail system and bring back several abandoned trails—is most evident. With ATF funding, more than 60 trail crew—including park staff, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Maine Conservation Corps, FOA volunteers, and the Appalachian Mountain Club—are replacing trail signs, rebuilding or replacing bridges, blazing trails and more.

Acadia Trails Forever also funds a Recreation Intern and three Ridge Runners detailed to the park to rebuild cairns, advocate Leave No Trace principles, assist visitors, conduct visitor surveys and studies, and serve as Friends of Acadia ambassadors.

Trail projects in progress this season include:

- **A. Murray Young Trail** — repairing tread and paving stones
- **Beech Mountain Trail** — reconstructing stone drainage systems
- **Jordan Pond Trail** — reconstructing stone paving and building bog bridges on the west side
- **Jordan Pond Nature Trail** — reconstructing the trail to wheelchair accessible standards
- **Jordan Cliffs Trail** — installing water bars and stabilizing rocks and treadon the closed section from Deer Brook to Sargent Mountain summit. This will reopen 9/10 mile of historic trail.
- **Ship Harbor** — graveling both loops and rebuilding drainage and stone walls
Starting June 23rd, Acadia travelers have a new means of visiting Schoodic. This summer, Downeast Transportation is operating a new Island Explorer bus route, taking visitors from Winter Harbor through Acadia National Park to Schoodic Point and returning via Prospect Harbor and Birch Harbor. The service runs through Labor Day (September 1st), mostly on an hourly schedule.

The Island Explorer is farebox-free, and will pick up and deliver passengers anywhere along the route that is safe. The bus is wheelchair accessible and carries bicycles. Bicyclists who enjoy Schoodic's one-way scenic road through the Park no longer have to bike the narrow section of Route 186 to complete their loop.

The Schoodic bus service also connects with the privately-run Bar Harbor ferry that crosses Frenchman Bay daily in the summer season (see www.barharborferry.com for schedule information). The ferry carries passengers and bicycles between Bar Harbor and Winter Harbor for a fee.

“We are trying the Schoodic bus service on an experimental basis this summer,” remarked Len Bobinchock, Acadia’s Deputy Superintendent. “Schoodic is considered a low-use area in the Park’s General Management Plan, and we want to ensure that adding bus service will provide new options while preserving Schoodic as a low-key place for people to discover.”

Friends of Acadia pledged $1,000 to the Schoodic bus service this summer with a request that the Park Service gauge the bus’ effects on visitation numbers and experience. Other contributors include Acadia National Park (which funded half of the operating costs), local businesses, Friends of Schoodic, and the towns of Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro.

For more information about the Island Explorer bus service, including the Schoodic route, consult www.exploreacadia.com or call Downeast Transportation at 667-5796.

Conservation Colleagues

In January, Matt Curtis (left), owner of the North Face Store in Bar Harbor, presented a check for $3,100 to Friends of Acadia president Ken Olson (right), representing 10% of the after-tax profits from that store for 2002. Joining them is store manager Wendy Charland. “The North Face store is a progressive corporate citizen and true conservation colleague,” said Ken Olson. “Friends of Acadia is grateful for its generous support.”
In 1998, Friends of Acadia donated two wheelchair accessible carriages to Acadia National Park for use at Wildwood Stables. The carriages were purchased with the generous support of the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation and have provided new opportunities for people with disabilities to enjoy Acadia's carriage roads. They carry up to two wheelchairs and five additional passengers and are available for trips, June–October. Reservations for the carriages must be made in advance by calling Wildwood Stables at 207-276-3622.

The 6th annual Town Hill, U.S.A. Garlic Festival will benefit Friends of Acadia this year! We encourage all of our members to attend this fun community event on Saturday, September 20, following the Bar Harbor Half Marathon.

The festival will be held from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m. at the Atlantic Brewing Company. Admission is $15 (children under 10 free), which includes a free pint glass, a garlic-inspired buffet, live music, fun and games for the whole family, and a chance to compete for the title of Garlic King and Queen!

To obtain a ticket and more information, contact Terry at 207-288-3340 or email terry@friendsofacadia.org.

The Island Explorer will be running to Town Hill the day of the Garlic Festival—we encourage everyone to take the bus!
Book Review

SANCTUARY

First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island

Photography by Tom Blagden, Jr.,
text by Charles R. Tyson, Jr., foreword by W. Kent Olson.
Published by Westcliffe Publishers, Englewood, Colorado and Friends of Acadia, Bar Harbor, Maine.
$60, hardbound.

Nature photographer Tom Blagden, Jr. does not take pictures: he seizes the light and reels in landscapes and seascapes whole, presenting them at once in both their natural and visionary aspects. Three years in the making, First Light is a masterpiece that puts you in the center of Acadia’s natural beauty. Friends of Acadia President W. Kent Olson’s foreword is a keen-minded meditation on land and ownership, taking Robert Frost’s poem, “The Gift Outright,” as its starting point. And Charles R. Tyson, Jr.’s anecdotal text presents a sprawling history of Mount Desert Island as it chronicles one man’s journey from heedless youth to diligent environmentalist.

Westcliffe Publishers and Friends of Acadia have teamed up to create a magnificent book dedicated to the beauty and preservation of Acadia National Park, which encompasses much of MDI as well as parts of Isle au Haut and the Schoodic Peninsula. Olson proclaims the focus of the book when he notes, “On Mt. Desert Island, a small plat of federal park lies at the heart of everything.” The island’s fjord and the tall coastal mountains make “this small place seem large.”

Tyson’s text, which is both history and autobiography, combines with a cautionary tale of how to keep the beauty of the island and Acadia, and still welcome the millions of people who want to see it. Since its beginning in 1986, Friends’ mission has been to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Both Olson and Tyson worry about the future of Acadia and argue that we need to maintain a sense of reverence and awe for the region. But, finally, you cannot argue for reverence and awe: you must simply experience it.

When you turn to Tom Blagden’s photographs all arguments drop away, and you wish there were another word for photograph. These pictures of Acadia—from otherworldly vistas to hair’s-breadth close-ups—are so profound and so immediate that you stop for breath. Both veteran park explorers and armchair veterans of the many wonderful photography books of Acadia and the island will see their familiar places with new eyes, for the photographs—I want to say epiphanies—are in another dimension.

Many of us know that Mt. Desert Island contains two worlds—the natural and the spiritual, a world we want to come back to and a world we are always seeking to know. In his preface Blagden writes, “…I’ve found not a season or a day during which I do not long to be somewhere in the island’s grasp. I know it so intimately that in an instant I can mentally travel to its streams, mountains, ponds, or rocky coasts.”

His intimacy with the island and his formidable photographic skills merge so seamlessly that if your own mind ever falters, unable to call up an image, you can take down this book and look at its pages filled with the quick-fire of the island’s presence and all will be restored. —David Nolf

David Nolf writes a literary news column for Maine In Print, the Down East Wine Companion for the Bar Harbor Times, and works at Port In A Storm Bookstore.
Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear—our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mount Desert Island’s natural wonders—is a wise investment. You can help us protect Acadia Forever.

It’s simple. You need add only one sentence to your will, or a codicil:

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

2. I hereby devise ______% 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.

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

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

Please call us at 207-288-3340 for more information.
Here’s my suggestion: if you find yourself on Mount Desert Island with snow on the ground, get your cross-country skis out — borrow, rent, or buy if you must — and take off on Acadia’s carriage roads. You’ll find miles of trail groomed on two sides for diagonal cross-country skiers and for skate skiers down the middle. Work courtesy of a few determined skiers and groomers gathered under the name of the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA).

AWTA is the result of a simple idea to make Mount Desert Island more appealing in winter, a come-ski-Acadia’s-groomed-carriage-roads kind of idea. With Acadia National Park’s approval, Bob Massucco became one of the founders of volunteer ski trail grooming on MDI.

By day Bob (Dr. Bob to some) is a dentist and, when the season is right, a blueberry farmer. He’s a pilot (his plane once a common site on Somes Pond), a triathlete, and a cross-country and downhill skier. And about a dozen years ago, he took up the art of trail grooming.

In the early days, Bob balanced his professional demands with his winter skiing desires by grooming the carriage roads late into the night. “It started out as a very selfish thing to do. I wanted the ski trails groomed the way I’d want to ski them,” said Bob. And Bob’s way was apparently a good way for other skiers, as well. Over the next few years, he heard more and more appreciative comments. He had offers to help with the grooming. Soon there was another machine, grooming sleds, and the routes expanded from nearly ten miles to thirty-two miles of carriage road. “It became my favorite nightmare,” Bob said, “I never got cold, and always had emergency supplies and a chainsaw. One night I cut down as many as 37 blow-downs. It was a perfect night to be out there.”

But as the effort grew, so did the demands. “I started to get bogged down,” Bob said. “People wanted to give money and I started getting more calls about when we were grooming and where.” That’s when Stan MacDonald joined AWTA.

Stan, a Friends of Acadia board member and then Vice President of Bar Harbor Banking & Trust, suggested formalizing the group a bit. “I thought we could give the effort a name and identity. We decided to call it the Acadia Winter Trails Association, and got Friends of Acadia on board to help raise funds,” said Stan. “That first winter we designed AWTA pins for sale and as incentives for donors.” (Pins are still available, and some might consider them collector’s items.) Friends has purchased two snow machines, and reimburses volunteers for fuel, storage, insurance, and other related expenses each winter.

Stan retired from banking about a year ago, which gave him a chance to enjoy this past winter with a different focus. “It was one of the best winters ever. The snow stayed beautifully. It was great to be able to get out there and groom,” Stan recalls.

At its Annual Meeting in July, Friends recognized Bob’s and Stan’s unique contributions to AWTA, and presented them with Excellence in Volunteerism Awards. Bob was honored “for his exceptional drive as a motive force in the opening of thirty-two miles of carriage roads after each snowfall.” Stan was honored “for his tireless work to improve Mount Desert Island and protect Acadia National Park, his outstanding service to a range of community causes, his effectiveness as chief negotiator, muted partisan and de-facto treasurer of Acadia Winter Trails Association, and of course for his unending curiosity about the natural scene.”

Our thanks to Stan and Dr. Bob, and their AWTA associates. Cross-country skiers far and wide are indebted to you. — Marla Major
OPERATING PHILOSOPHY

To accomplish our mission, we...

 Advocate. We advance park interests before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service and other federal, state or local bodies, and among the general public.

 Make grants. We raise private funds for select capital projects in Acadia and for its enlightened stewardship, creating sustainable revenues through endowments where appropriate. We strive to supplement federal funds and services, not replace them.

 Nullify threats. We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.

 Promote excellent management. We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.

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

 Seek a broad membership. We seek to maximize the number of park defenders, stewards and donors. We encourage every visitor to join Friends of Acadia as a means of giving something back to the park for the privilege of experiencing it.

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

 Support volunteerism. We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of foot paths and carriage roads.

 Produce tangible results. We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.

 Leverage donated funds. We operate on a sound financial basis, leveraging member dues and other gifts to bring the highest conservation return per donated dollar.

VISION

Friends of Acadia seeks an Acadia National Park that is the best funded, best managed, and best maintained national park for its size and volume of use. Mount Desert Island is distinguished by its intact natural character and the quality of village life. The air is clean, the water pure. Low-emissions public transit, funded primarily by park entry fees, contributes to conserving Acadia’s special qualities. Park visitation conforms to sensible carrying capacities. People feel a powerful reverence for their great national park and its host island. They want to keep this place beautiful for all generations. They help protect its outstanding natural, cultural, and economic attributes by supporting Friends of Acadia.
Dear Readers:

This issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal is mailed to every physical address on MDI. Many of you are already members of Friends of Acadia — we thank you for your support! If you’re not a member, I hope you’ll consider joining. Membership begins at only $35.

Annual gifts from our members allow us to help maintain Acadia’s carriage roads and trails, recruit and deploy 1,500+ volunteers each year, protect Acadia against threats such as jet skis and clear-cuts, and lobby Congress to eliminate Acadia’s 53% annual budget shortfall.

Our newest effort is to thin automobile traffic. Thanks to a $1 million grant Friends obtained from L.L. Bean last summer, the Island Explorer propane bus fleet — which has served more than one million riders since it was created in 1999 — will operate until mid-October this year and more buses will be added soon.

We are also working with partners to establish an off-island Transit Hub/Visitor Center to intercept day traffic before it reaches MDI. People will be able to park cars at the hub, buy a park pass, gather information on area activities, and catch a free bus to the island. This will open new travel possibilities for day visitors and commuters and we’ll all breathe easier with the improved air quality.

This work is funded directly by annual gifts from our 3,000 members. I hope you will help by becoming our newest Friend.

If you do not find a reply envelope inserted in the Journal you can join by calling us at 207-288-3340 or sending your check to Friends of Acadia, P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609. Or you can visit our office in Bar Harbor on the second floor of the Swan Building (next to the Post Office) on Cottage Street. We’d love to meet you.

As a member, you’ll receive the Friends of Acadia Journal three times a year as well as a window decal, information on volunteering and invitations to events. Members also have the opportunity to buy First Light, a beautiful book of Acadia photography, for $50 (retail is $60) from our office, so I hope you’ll stop by.

Of course the greatest reward of membership is the satisfaction of knowing you are doing your part to protect Acadia for this generation and for all time.

Thank you in advance!

Sincerely,

Kelly S. Dickinson
Director of Development
The mission of Friends of Acadia is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby to ensure a high quality experience for visitors and residents.