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

Open Year-Round

- Acadia National Park Headquarters
  (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

Open May - November

- Hulls Cove Visitor Center
- Thompson Island Information Station
- Sand Beach Entrance Station
- Blackwoods Campground
- Seawall Campground
- Jordan Pond and Cadillac Mt. Gift Shops
- Mount Desert Chamber of Commerce
- Village Green Bus Center

Your park pass purchase makes 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

Protect

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

Join us in protecting our national parks.

Preserve

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

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

Participate

Buy a park pass

Your contribution helps:

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

Acadia's coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking and kayaking
Looking to the Future

This issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal highlights several milestones—the Civilian Conservation Corps celebrates its 75th anniversary (page 12), the First Lady visits Acadia (page 17), and protection of Acadia Mountain is completed in less than a year (page 17).

Looking forward, a once-in-a-lifetime milestone is approaching.

In 2016, Acadia will celebrate its 100th anniversary, an anniversary shared with the National Park Service. Nationwide, plans are being made to prepare our parks for their centennial. Here at home, Friends and the park are busy planning partnership efforts to strengthen and protect Acadia’s resources.

In preparation, Friends recently completed its third strategic plan. Our vision for the centennial both honors and extends that of George B. Dorr, an Acadia founder and the park’s first superintendent. Dorr wrote, “It is an opportunity of singular interest, so to develop and preserve the wild charm and beauty of this unique spot on our Atlantic coast that future generations may rejoice in it yet more than we...”. That opportunity remains of tremendous interest today.

Friends has identified five goals setting us on a course that builds on the work done over the past 20 years and that guides us through the next eight years to Acadia’s centennial. The five objectives address stewardship and resource protection, public engagement, environmental leadership, advocacy, and organizational effectiveness and financial capacity.

Preserving Acadia’s Unique Resources

As we have been for many years, Friends is committed to protecting Acadia National Park’s most important and most threatened natural and cultural resources. With our partners, we will protect available lands with and adjacent to Acadia’s boundaries, respond to threats that would result in the degradation of the park’s resources, and manage and make strategic, leveraged grants toward natural and cultural resource protection projects in the park and communities.

An Acadia for Everyone

Acadia is, of course, for everyone right now, but as the saying goes, “you can’t love what you don’t know.” So, we need to make sure that Acadia is relevant to a broad-spectrum of ages and heritage nationwide. We are developing multiple opportunities for volunteerism and engagement and promoting meaningful connections to the park. For Acadia to thrive, we must ensure that the next generation of advocates and stewards will be in place to protect these magnificent lands.

Sustainability in Action

Acadia, and Friends as a park partner, will strive to be national leaders and learners in innovative environmental sustainability. Our goal is to educate visitors and residents about their impact on the park and how they can improve sustainability; to integrate fossil fuel carbon reduction choices in operations, transportation, and other programs; and to establish Acadia as a “Climate Friendly Park” in collaboration with the National Park Service.

Advocating for Acadia

Advocacy may be one of our most difficult jobs—but it is also one of our most important roles. Friends works to advance Acadia’s interests, maximize public funding, and ensure effective, beneficial policies and legislation by leading advocacy efforts at the federal, state, and local levels. It is essential to educate policy makers and the public, and to create a strong public awareness and understanding of the issues of greatest importance to the park’s future.

Building a Stronger Friends of Acadia

Evaluating challenges on the horizon, Friends will work to expand financial capacity with a particular focus on unrestricted funds and diverse revenue sources. To maintain a strong organization, we will provide the staff, resources, and tools necessary to promote efficiency, productivity, and satisfaction of staff.

George Hartzog, a legendary National Park Service Director in the 1960s, once wrote, “The national park idea has been nurtured by each succeeding generation of Americans. Today, across our land, the National Park System represents America at its best. Each park contributes to a deeper understanding of the history of the United States and our way of life; of the natural processes which have given form to our land, and to the enrichment of the environment in which we live.”

Those of us who share the land which is Acadia, who enjoy its carriage roads, trails, coastline, and mountain summits, understand the enrichment it brings to our lives. I hope you will join us in nurturing this magnificent park, which is truly America at its best.

—I hope you will join us in nurturing this magnificent park, which is truly America at its best. —Maria S. O’Byrne
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A Fundamental Shift Away From Nature

When I worked at Rocky Mountain National Park, I heard a story about a family. They pulled up to a scenic overlook and the father got out with his video camera. As he was filming the mountain grandeur, the kids jumped out of the van, and the father yelled, “Get back in the car—you can see this when you get home!” I really hope this is not a true story, but there is no doubt that today’s technology-crazy society is more willing than ever to watch something on the screen rather than experience it in person.

According to Oliver Pergams at the University of Illinois, “All major lines of evidence point to an ongoing and fundamental shift away from nature-based recreation.” Steady declines are reported in per capita nature recreation since 1991—including fishing, hunting, camping, horseback riding, sailing, golf, and more. These trends are most pronounced in youth. A recent Roper Center poll shows a significant downturn in participation in outdoor recreation activities over the last few years for the first time since its polling began. Though Roper doesn’t survey anyone under 18, its polls indicate the strongest trends may be forming in younger age groups. Roper says that 90 percent of the people who engage in physical outdoor activities began that participation between the ages of 5 and 18.

Many factors contribute to the declining interest in the outdoors. Here are just a few:

- More urbanization (80% nationwide) and less of a land ethic
- Less open space and more restrictions on common space (e.g., “no tree forts”)
- Expectations for controlled environments like indoor malls and stadiums, recreation centers, and air conditioning
- Changing demographics
- Cable television 24/7
- Youth “obsession” with electronics
- Prevalence of video screens in cars, cell phones, and MP3 players
- Fear of the unknown, including personal security, diseases, and even the sun and ticks—media hype can often contribute to these fears
- Less trust of other adults or society in general
- We can do most everything from home—work, shop, bank, access entertainment, and socialize
- A shifted focus on pop culture instead of natural wonders

While all these factors play a role in determining our interest in the outdoors, sometimes it just boils down to a lack of free time. Families today have little time for recreation, travel, or trying new experiences. Kids today are involved in so many activities that demand their time that it is difficult to go on family adventures. Three-fourths of all households today have only one parent or have both parents working. With single parents in particular, it is understandable that with being both the wage earner and the person responsible for all the cooking, cleaning, and parenting, it would be easy to encourage your child to watch television or play on the computer rather than worry about them being somewhere out of sight.

With everyone so busy, it is no wonder the extended family vacation is less popular today. People are taking shorter trips and staying closer to home. This trend has been exacerbated by the rapidly increasing cost of gasoline and other travel expenses.

The staff here at Acadia is working hard to make sure the dire predictions of unhealthy kids growing into adults who can’t relate to nature don’t come true. This summer the park has expanded offerings for children and families as part of the new Engage Youth project. Park visitors will find new family programs, ranger-guided activities, and special events. Students and teachers will benefit through transportation assistance and scholarships for the park’s residential education program, as well as the Teacher-Ranger-Teacher program, which brings teachers into the park and puts the park in the classroom. Technology-savvy kids will be able to learn about the park through MP3 tours, enhanced web pages, distance learning broadcasts, and even cell phone tours. High school and college students can experience the park through summer internships and park ranger and volunteer positions.

Through the Engage Youth project, Acadia National Park staff is expressing its commitment to reaching out to younger generations. After all, the future of Acadia—and all national parks—rests in the hands of today’s children. Let’s get our kids outside!

—Sheridan Steele

Superintendent’s View
Notes from Friends

Acadia Quest Success
Editor’s note: In April, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park partnered to launch Acadia Quest. The program challenges young people and their families to spend more time outdoors in Acadia. Teams compete in activities in three categories: explore, learn, and protect. The teams that complete all program requirements have a chance to win one of three grand prizes in November. As the notes below indicate, the families are connecting with the program and the park. You can find more information about Acadia Quest on page 18 or by visiting www.friendsofacadia.org.

My son Josh and I attended National Junior Ranger Day [as part of our Acadia Quest activities]. We had such a great time! My son was so involved at all the stations that we didn’t have time to make it to the last three. I am so excited that I am going to make the Family Fun Day in July a scouting event for Pack 44 in Orrington. And, my son also got extra credit in his Social Studies class for visiting a national park—he brought his journal and button to school to show his teacher what he did over vacation.

— Stacey Morneault
Orrington, Maine

I read that it would be a good idea to make reservations for Family Fun Day so our Acadia Quest team would like to sign up.

Gabby is excited to use this as a “learn” activity on the Quest. Thank you, we love all this information of things to do with the family.

— Maria Jordan
Maine

Engaged in Acadia
We had a lovely thing happen yesterday at the membership table at Jordan Pond. John Craig and Cheryl Zamvlinsky of Apopka, Florida, joined Friends at our membership table on June 11. John had just proposed to Cheryl on top of Penobscot Mountain. Their first act as a newly-engaged couple was to become members of Friends of Acadia!

— Georgia Munsell, volunteer
Lamoine, Maine

Annual Report Corrections: Friends of Acadia failed to acknowledge the generosity of Diana Rigg in our listing of George B. Dorr Society in the annual report recently mailed to donors. We appreciate the foresight and generosity of Diana and all Dorr Society members. The following members were erroneously listed in the wrong giving societies:

Robin and Paul Vermilyen should have appeared in listing for the Acadia Society.

The Garden Club of Mount Desert should have appeared in the listing for the Acadia Society.

Sunrise over Schoodic Peninsula and Frenchman Bay as seen from Schooner Head
Cover photographs by Tom Blagden

This Journal is printed on chlorine-process free, recycled, and recyclable stock using soy-based ink.
Merle Cousins—Roads Foreman Emeritus

The person most often associated with the 45 miles of beautiful carriage roads that wind through Acadia National Park is John D. Rockefeller Jr., who carefully designed and built each road, bridge, and vista of the carriage road system that he generously gifted to Acadia National Park. But among members of Friends of Acadia, Merle Cousins is a modern-day hero of the carriage roads. Merle, a recently-retired National Park Service employee, dedicated much of his career to keeping the carriage roads in a condition that would make Mr. Rockefeller proud.

Merle spent most of his childhood in Franklin, moving to Mount Desert Island in 1960 where he attended high school. He later attended Maine Maritime Academy and served a stint as a merchant marine. Merle's long and storied career with the National Park Service began in 1972 when he returned home to MDI for the summer. He was offered a so-called summer job at Acadia—a job that ended 36 years later.

Merle started in the maintenance division, first at Sewall and later at park headquarters when the east and west maintenance districts were combined. In the late 1980s, Friends of Acadia was formed, forever changing the direction of his career.

In its first major accomplishment, Friends crafted an agreement with the park and Congress to fund the rehabilitation of the carriage road system. Merle recalls that with few hands to do the maintenance work required of such an extensive carriage road system, the roads had fallen into disrepair. A combination of public funding and private donations through Friends of Acadia funded the rehabilitation, which started in 1991. Merle was appointed as a work leader of the carriage road rebuilding process and a year later he was promoted to supervisor.

Merle helped lead the crew of park workers in an historic effort to re-build the roads that Mr. Rockefeller gifted to Acadia. The crew removed vegetation from roads, shoulders, and ditches, and reestablished drainage systems to prevent erosion. Layers of the roads were restored, and new surface materials were applied to replace those that had washed away over the years. Coping stones were reset or replaced, and some of the historic vistas that once greeted horseback riders, carriage drivers, and walkers were reopened.

"What amazes me," says Merle, "is that prior to 1991 the roads were in absolutely horrible condition. It wasn't the park's fault—we just didn't have the people and resources for maintenance."

After serving as a supervisor, Merle was promoted to the position of carriage road foreman. And, in 2006, Merle became the roads foreman, in charge of all park roads and carriage roads, as well as the maintenance shop.

Merle describes the most special part of his career as helping make possible the drastic difference in the quality of the carriage roads from pre-1991 compared to today. He noted rehabilitating and maintaining the carriage roads has led to increased use, especially by bikers, allowing Mr. Rockefeller's generosity and talent to be appreciated and experienced by many.

And Merle's dedication to caring for the roads has not gone unnoticed by the Rockefeller family. He recalls a Friends of Acadia annual meeting about 10 years ago when he was recognized with a public service award. After accepting the award, David Rockefeller, JDR Jr.'s son, approached Merle and congratulated him with great thanks for "taking care of Daddy's roads."

Merle's extensive knowledge of the carriage roads and their maintenance routine is evident to anyone who spends time with him. For the past several years, members of Friends' George B. Dorr Society have enjoyed a carriage road tour, complete with Merle's narration of historical anecdotes and details about the carriage road system. It is inevitable that at least one member on the tour is so impressed with Merle that they ask if they can bring their friends and family back for another tour.

Perhaps Merle's knowledge is most appreciated by the volunteers who spend mornings working in the park. Under the guidance of Merle and two other seasonal field crew leaders funded by Friends, volunteers help with raking and the general upkeep of the carriage roads.

After 36 years of work with the National Park Service, Merle retired in May. Though he's not on the trails every day, he and his wife, Allie, regularly use the carriage roads and hiking trails, especially on the west side of Mount Desert Island. They recently purchased their lifetime park passes and Merle admits he's been back in the maintenance shop a few times since May.

Though Merle will be dearly missed by friends and co-workers, his dedication to the park will always be remembered and will inspire future caretakers of Mr. Rockefeller's roads. Friends of Acadia salutes Merle for his years of service to Acadia National Park and its carriage roads.

—Erin Hitchcock Fogg
Give the Gift of Acadia

Looking for the perfect gift idea for a birthday or anniversary?

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

Please send a special $40 gift package* to:

Name

Address

City, State, Zip Code, & Telephone Number

Message you would like on the card:

* Gift package includes:
- The Rusticator's Journal, a delightful book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park
- A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually
- A Friends of Acadia window decal
- The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park

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

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

Friends of Acadia
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www.friendsofacadia.org
207-288-3340 • 800-625-0321

ACADIA FOREVER

Estate Planning—Supporting the Mission of Friends of Acadia

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

And, it's simple. Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

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

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

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

For more information, call the office at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Clare Shepley, of West Tremont, Maine, died of ovarian cancer on December 9, 2007. She left three children and their spouses, eight grand children and a legion of friends and acquaintances whose lives were enriched by her wit, grace and generosity, and by her personal example: She lived life with a broad margin, cherishing her days even in the bleakest moments of the two-year siege preceding her death.

Early in life, Clare visited Maine with her father, staying at the Claremont. She later made Mount Desert Island her home. Any activity that had an outdoor component interested her, especially if it required physical movement in great quantity. Clare hiked in Acadia National Park in all seasons. She sailed boats among the islands in summer, and kayaked and canoed in salt and fresh water. She captained a Bulls Eye named Sweet Pea, an O’Day called Amiga, and her motorboat Loon. Family and friends came aboard for a great adventure with a very skilled helmsman who had extremely good judgment.

Clare was a licensed Maine lobstwoman (there is no such thing as a Maine lobsterwoman). She placed her few traps offshore near her house at Goose Cove. She hauled them by hand from a skiff she rowed herself—after kayaking to it. Given the price of the license, traps, buoys, lines, skiff and bait, the first season’s lobsters cost about $400 a pound. But her grandchildren were pretty impressed by Nanny’s hauling, and that was reward beyond counting. (They were more awed watching her hang six spoons from her face.)

Clare’s inborn leadership ability found outlets in Maine. She was elected the third female president of the Causeway Club and was respected for her work in developing the professional staff and for the creative improvement of facilities. Because she listened to all viewpoints, people praised her inclusiveness. She could push the bulls back with authority, humor, and offense to none. She made efficient business decisions but never imposed her way. Clare unfailingly credited others for their contributions to the work product. Even as the club’s champion woman golfer (three times), she celebrated the accomplishments of others foremost. She was a combination of sensitive leader, sharp-minded chairwoman, focused problem-solver, and natural friend to all.

She served on the boards of the Wendell Gilley Museum, Acadia Senior College, and the Southwest Harbor Library. As a trustee of Island Connections, she advised on serving the areas infirm and elderly. She donated to Friends of Acadia. But her charitable activities went beyond organizational affiliation. Clare drove people to hospitals, the food market, banks—whatever the real needs. If she thought you should have a dog, she got you one. If your horse needed to visit the vet while you were away, she hitched up her trailer and did the job. As always, she preferred no attention to herself.

Three months before she died, she climbed the Precipice with her son, John Conzelman. Clare led. Her only complaint, he said, was that the people ahead of them were too slow. Clare Shepley was a life force.

— Adapted from Bar Harbor Times, “A Woman of Substance,” with Nan Lincoln, and information from the family and Ken Olson.
Established in 1998, the Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize is presented biannually to promote and recognize distinctive nature poetry.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2008 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize:

FIRST PRIZE
Bevery Voigt
Torrance, California
“In the Backyard”

SECOND PRIZE
Charlotte Muse
Menlo Park, California
“Bat Rhapsody”

THIRD PRIZE
Brooke Pacy
Waldoboro, Maine
“Encounter”

Wesley McNair, an extraordinarily gifted poet from Maine, judged the competition. McNair has held grants from the Fulbright and Guggenheim foundations, two Rockefeller fellowships, and two fellowships from the NEA. Last year he received a $50,000 United States Artists award as one of America’s “finest living artists.” He has served three times on the nominating jury for the Pulitzer Prize for poetry and published more than a dozen books, including poetry, essays, and anthologies. McNair lives in Mercer, Maine.

HONORABLE MENTION
Christina Lovin
Lancaster, Kentucky
“The Stone Canoe”

Gerry Stork
Lyndonville, Vermont
“My Monet”

Trina Gaynon
Woodland Hills, California
“On the Ridge”

Meredith Nash Fossel
Alna, Maine
“Bird Tree”

Cynthia Spearance
Washington, Maine
“Ancient Grace”

Linda Neal Reising
Poseyville, Indiana
“Clock and Compass”

Lari Smith
Lexington, Massachusetts
“Landscape by Starlight”

Artis Bernard
South Portland, Maine
“The Train from Budapest to Krakow”
Friends of Acadia Poetry Award
1st Prize

In The Backyard

We tell our stories wide-eyed
as though we don’t believe
them ourselves— how the blue jay

sat among the beans three days
straight and the Vidalia onions
bloomed on strong green stems,

their gauzy bridal caps folding
back, presenting their white bouquets.
How she had died on the last day

of spring and what that meant.
How on the evening of the funeral,
as twilight and the lightning bugs

arrived, and as our grief was just
beginning, two deer— a buck and a doe—
stepped slow and high-footed into the yard,

glowing tawny against the green
silhouette of apple trees. How the buck
moved into the next yard but the doe

 lingered, how she looked up at us
gathered behind the porch railing, then
lowered her head again to the grass.

How she wasn’t afraid. How the roses
bloomed so heavy the branches
lay in the dirt.

— Beverly Voigt

BEVERLY VOIGT is a native of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and
currently lives in Torrance, California. She works as an editor.
Acadia National Park is most commonly known and visited for its historic carriage roads and hiking trails, pristine forests and lakes, and inspiring coastal views from Mount Desert Island. More recently, though, the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park, a quieter, less-traveled portion of the park that lies on 2,300 acres at the tip of the Schoodic Peninsula, has been receiving local, national, and international attention. This increased attention is the result of a proposal to build a resort community development on 3,200 acres bordering the park.

Early this spring, consultants representing the landowners of the parcel adjacent to the park contacted the Schoodic communities, Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, local land trusts, and other stakeholders to talk about their proposal to build a large-scale “eco-resort.” The concept plan includes a golf course, two hotels, a beaver ecology center, a captive bird breeding center, a marine education center on Sargent Island, a native plant nursery, areas set aside for resort housing, and a green corridor that includes trails and roads for bicycles and electric trams. Friends met twice with the consultants, but was dissatisfied with the level of information regarding the amount and type of housing proposed and the lack of secure plans for long-term preservation of the proposed “green corridor.”

Additionally, Friends sought to share with the consultants the irreplaceable conservation values associated with the 3,200 acres adjacent to the park. The lands are a critical habitat link between the North Woods and Acadia National Park, which stands at risk of genetic isolation at the tip of the Schoodic Peninsula. Together with the park, the private lands are part of a 9,000-acre undeveloped habitat block— one of the largest undeveloped habitat blocks on the Maine coast—interacted only by Rte. 186. Portions of the park and the adjacent private lands have been designated by the Maine Natural Areas Program as a Focus Area of Statewide Ecological Significance because of rare jack pine woodlands, waterfowl and wading bird habitats, shorebird feeding and roosting areas, and rare plant community types.

The Value of Schoodic

Erin Hitchcock Fogg

A panoramic view from Schoodic Head reveals the currently undeveloped landscape that provides habitat for many species and provides visitors with the opportunity for quiet discovery.

Additionally, the undeveloped land has incredible values for the visitor experience at Schoodic. Numerous viewpoints along the Schoodic National Scenic Byway and from vantage points in the park would be negatively affected by construction associated with the “eco-resort.” Visitors who arrive at the Schoodic District of Acadia travel through a lovely, forested corridor along Moore Road that appears to be part of the park, but would most likely be developed with housing and a lodge. Similarly, the park’s exit road is but a thin strip of conserved land through which housing could be seen. The view from Frazer Point would forever be changed by a lodge sitting above Frazer Creek and the aquacenter proposed for Sargents Island. And, the view from Schoodic Head, which presents a dramatic panorama eastward to Petit Manan, northward to Schoodic Mountain, and westward to Cadillac, would be marred by new housing and “eco-resort” facilities.

Other detriments to the park visitor experience could also be anticipated—everything from increased traffic and visitation at key park destinations like Schoodic Point to deterioration of natural soundscapes with the addition of lawn mowing, leaf blowing, car horns, and other activities at the “eco-resort.”

In early spring, Friends contracted the Island Astronomy Institute to measure the quality of the night sky at Schoodic Head. Using National Park Service equipment and methods, the Institute found some existing light pollution from the villages of Winter Harbor and Birch Harbor, but characterized the starlit skies directly overhead as some of the most pristine found in Acadia National Park. Friends is concerned that development adjacent to the park could degrade this valuable resource that has all but disappeared on the East Coast.

Because of these concerns and the lack of answers related to housing, long-term ecological protection, and other aspects of the “eco-resort,” Friends began publicly raising questions about the proposed development. The questions include: Will a habitat corridor that is interspersed with trails and electric trams transporting visitors promote or deter wildlife movement? Will a habitat corridor be protected from development over the long-term? With possible development of as many as a thousand housing units, will this parcel of land meet land trust criteria for long-term conservation of the “eco-
portion of the plan? What is the logic behind destroying natural habitats for the purpose of building ecological centers to interpret what naturally existed in the first place?

Through opinion editorial pieces in local and regional newspapers, public listening sessions, and kitchen meetings, Friends began the process of engaging community members in discussions about the proposal and their desires for the future of their peninsula communities. On May 14, the landowners’ consultants held a public meeting on the Schoodic Peninsula to present the “eco-resort” concept to residents and to solicit feedback. Friends encouraged Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor residents to attend the meeting, ask questions, and decide for themselves whether this large-scale development fit the values of their communities and was appropriate for the boundaries of a national resource like Acadia National Park.

The May 14 public meeting was attended by approximately 250 people. The consultants discussed the elements of the proposed development that they viewed to be environmentally-friendly but did not address specific details about when the development would be built, how much and what type of housing would be provided, nor the market they looked to for such an ambitious development.

Some residents expressed interest in the short-term economic benefits presented by construction of the resort, but a large number of attendees that spoke expressed skepticism and concern about the feasibility and ecological-soundness of the plan. Many residents commented that the educational purposes of the environmental centers included in the plan seem to duplicate the efforts of the existing Schoodic Education and Research Center at Acadia.

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia have identified this proposal as the single biggest threat to the park. The consultants presented the public feedback on the proposed “eco-resort” to the landowners in late May. Friends secured two promises from the developers’ consultants prior to this meeting— that they would present as an option the possibility of a purchase of the property by conservation buyers, and that they would deliver Friends’ request to meet directly with the landowners. Friends believes that the consultants followed through with both promises, but to date has not been able to meet with the landowners and does not know if the “eco-resort” plan will be pursued, abandoned, or revised.

Friends continues to reach out to community members in partnership with conservation colleagues to understand community ideas for economic development, to listen to their concerns or support for the “eco-resort,” and to share the important conservation and park values associated with the 3,200 acres adjacent to the park. Friends maintains an open and respectful relationship with the project consultants and continues to hope for a direct meeting with the landowners.

Friends recognizes that the large-scale development being explored at Schoodic has national implications because of its location on the boundary of one of America’s most popular national parks. This proposal merits regional and national scrutiny, so Friends is partnering with state and national organizations, such as the National Parks Conservation Association, the Sierra Club, Downeast Audubon, and the Natural Resources Council of Maine, to raise the profile of this proposal and to engage a larger audience in the analysis of the proposal.

If and when the consultants submit applications, or pre-applications, for review before the planning boards in Winter Harbor and Gouldsboro and before Maine’s Department of Environmental Protection, Friends of Acadia will review the plans and take further appropriate action in an effort to preserve the precious conservation values of the Schoodic Peninsula.

ERIN HITCHCOCK FOGG is the former communications coordinator and editor at Friends of Acadia.

RESOURCE VALUES OF THE SCHOODIC PENINSULA

Adapted from information provided by the National Park Service

The following resource values have been identified on the Schoodic Peninsula:

- Habitat connection between the park and interior lands, which helps prevent the isolation of vegetative communities and wildlife populations
- Approximately 1.1 mile of shoreline is state-mapped wildlife habitat of significance for waterfowl and wading birds
- Bald eagle nesting territory
- Possible archeological sites, as well as other cultural resources
- Undeveloped entire islands: Sargents (15 acres) and Thrumbcap (2 acres)
- Undeveloped gateway corridor along Moore Road from the village of Winter Harbor to the park
- Undeveloped landscape that dominates the middle ground viewshed from points on the peninsula and Mount Desert Island
All friends of Acadia National Park revere Charles W. Eliot, George B. Dorr, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., the visionary founders of the heritage we serve today. In 2008, all who love Acadia also honor thousands of young men mustered from across Maine to work in the park and the surrounding communities as the Civilian Conservation Corps, whose 75th anniversary is observed this year. The park still benefits from the good works of those who came here in hard times to serve family, community, and nation.

When Franklin Roosevelt became president in March of 1933, America had endured nearly four years of the Great Depression. Thirteen million were unemployed, a quarter of the national workforce. Throughout Maine, families suffered as towns struggled to provide relief. In mills from Biddeford to Millinocket, at the Bath shipyard, and in canneries along the coast, workers lost jobs or took deep pay cuts. The County suffered most: St. John Valley potatoes sold for half their pre-WWI price if they sold at all; pay and jobs in the woods fell. Towns took farm produce and firewood as payment for taxes and gave them to their destitute.

Hard times had also come to our own island. By 1933, more than 700 unemployed men from Bar Harbor alone had registered their need for work.

FDR acted swiftly on many fronts to provide relief and inspire hope. Of all the New Deal proposals passed by Congress during the Hundred Days, none helped families as quickly nor changed the American landscape as deeply as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), enacted on March 31, 1933.

The “CCs,” as it was fondly called by enrollees, gave jobless young men new skills, basic education, and healthy bodies through employment in conservation work. Men 18-25 years old from families in need could enroll for periods of six months. They went to CCC camps run by the army to perform projects overseen primarily by the U.S. Forest Service and National Park Service (NPS). Enrollees earned $30 a month of which $25 was sent home to their families. The letter of one Maine mother speaks for most parents with a boy in the CCs: “If you didn’t send home $25 a month, we couldn’t get by.”

Superintendent George B. Dorr, ever politically-agile, quickly brought the CCC to Acadia. By Memorial Day, when Mr. Dorr hosted Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes and National Park Service Director Horace Albright at Old Farm, two CCC camps were under construction on Mount Desert Island. The first was on MacFarland Mountain at the current site of park headquarters on Eagle Lake Road. The second occupied privately-owned property just south of Long Pond. (A third camp was established near Ellsworth in June.)

During the next nine years, thousands of young men came to these camps for six months or more to work, learn, and grow. Most were sons of Maine farmers, woodsmen, mill workers, and quarrymen. Some were high school graduates, more were not. Some had labored in fields and woods but few came with employable skills, so they were eager to learn. As the superintendent of the MacFarland camp said, “They eat, sleep, work, and think as any other healthy Maine-raised boys do and they are just as interested in their homes and families as you would expect any Maine man to be.” Dorr would
write that they “furnished the park with all the labor it has had, road construction apart ... and have enabled it to carry on, uninterrupted, important work.”

The important work of the CCC enrollees endures throughout Acadia. In 1933, once they built their year-round camps, they cleared brush and deadfall for fire control. But from 1934 on, the CCC men maintained and improved the established trails within the park and built new ones. Their labor built most of the trails in the rapidly expanding “park extension” on the western side of MDI. CCCers made many short connector paths to the Park LoopRoad and the growing system of carriage roads steadily advanced by Rockefeller crews. Some 14 truck trails for fire and recreational access were built by the boys. They constructed campgrounds and picnic areas, built 27 foot bridges, and planted thousands of trees and shrubs to help reclaim areas temporarily disturbed by road and trail development. All of their projects met established NPS design standards and, from 1935 on, were conducted under the careful supervision of park landscape architects.

The surrounding communities welcomed the CCC boys. They donated furniture and books for the camps. (Atwater Kent provided a top-of-the-line radio.) Towns hosted baseball, hockey, basketball, boxing, plays, and, most important of all, dances. A few CCCers married island women and stayed. When other New Deal programs employed island men with quarry and road-building skills, they occasionally taught CCC boys, as did the local hands of the Rockefeller road crews, when their work converged with CCC projects, as they did on the Ocean Drive during 1933-1937.

The CCC work still serves. A family visiting Acadia today might camp at Blackwoods, greet the sun with a walk along the Ocean Drive, and enjoy the mid-morning views from Beech Cliff... every step of their passage through Acadia would have been opened for them a long lifetime ago by the CCCs.”

“A family visiting Acadia today might camp at Blackwoods, greet the sun with a walk along the Ocean Drive, and enjoy the mid-morning views from Beech Cliff... every step of their passage through Acadia would have been opened for them a long lifetime ago by the CCCs.”

JACK RUSSELL and his wife, Sandy Wilcox, live at the north end of Echo Lake. When not volunteering on Acadia’s trails, he flies away to advise regional economic development organizations on strategic planning and political communication.
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

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Ira Weissman and Sally Healey
Kimberly Whitney
Eileen Wukitch
Karen and Chris Zimmerman

March 1 – May 31, 2008
Each summer, a whole new crop descends upon Acadia National Park, spreading out over every inch of the park. It’s not the black flies, seasonal employees, or the more than 1.5 million people who visit the park from June to October each year. Instead, it is researchers—scientists who come to the park to study its animals, plants, history, and more. This year is no different; seven researchers, recipients of the park’s research fellowships, will be out in the field searching, counting, studying, and learning. Everything these researchers discover will add to our understanding about the park and help park management make informed decisions.

Several of these researchers will be studying wildlife. Chris DeSorbo and Christian Niven of the BioDiversity Research Institute and Charles Todd of Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife will begin an inventory of woodland raptors (birds of prey like Cooper’s hawks and sharp-shinned hawks). They will collect information about territories, nest sites, and preferred habitats, and will use the results to make recommendations for protecting and monitoring nesting raptors.

Shifting the scale from big animals to small, Bryan Windmiller of Hyla Ecological Services, Inc., and Glen Mittelhauser of the Maine Natural History Observatory will look at insects found in the park’s freshwater sources. They will compare the results of their search for predaceous diving beetles, whirligig beetles, and backswimmers (those active insects you see along the shores of lakes and ponds) with a 1928–1944 field collection of invertebrates to determine the changes that have taken place over the last 60+ years.

While the next study also focuses on smaller animals, the implications of the study are huge. Colleen Teerling of the Maine Forest Service will evaluate the risk of emerald ash borer beetle infestations in the park. This non-native insect attacks and completely kills all types of ash trees. While not yet found in Maine, emerald ash borers have spread rapidly since their 2002 discovery in Michigan, largely through the transportation of infected firewood. The researchers will assess the potential for introduction by contacting campers in park and private campgrounds to find out if they brought their own firewood. With Acadia being a primary destination for campers from many states, it’s essential that we learn more about the park and help park management make informed decisions.

Other researchers will study the park’s plant life. Jeffrey Johansen of John Carroll University (Ohio) will look for algae species in streams, wetlands, and lakes. Because the presence—or absence—of certain species indicates water quality, the results of this study will help park management determine how best to manage its freshwater resources.

Of the seven research projects funded for 2008, one will begin an inventory of woodland raptors, birds of prey like the Cooper’s hawk pictured here.

Wendy Norden and Doug McNaulty of the University of Maine at Machias will turn their attention to saltwater in a study of eelgrass habitat, and the fish and invertebrates that live in those areas, at the Schoodic Peninsula. Increasing our understanding of these habitats can help Acadia make decisions about habitat protection.

Physical science, rather than biological, is the focus of Sarah Nelson of the Senator George J. Mitchell Center for Environmental and Watershed Research at the University of Maine. She will measure the mercury concentration in Schoodic Peninsula soils throughout the year to determine why winter soils have greater concentrations than soils collected in the summer. This study will add to the substantial body of work surrounding mercury in the park environment.

Cultural resources will also be studied this summer, as Franklin Price and students from East Carolina University (North Carolina) will take a look at ships wrecked near or in the park. They will create a map of possible locations of submerged shipwrecks after interviewing fisherman and divers and studying historic records.

These seven researchers are working in the park because of two research fellowship programs. The L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowship, created through a grant from L.L.Bean to Friends of Acadia, provided $25,000 in 2008 to support research in the park. The Schoodic Research Fellowship was created by Acadia Partners for Science and Learning to augment the L.L.Bean grant and provided $10,000 in 2008 for research in the Schoodic section of the park. Thanks to these generous donations and the hard work of these researchers (and many others), we’re learning more about the park every day. And everything we learn will help managers make decisions that keep Acadia National Park the special place we know today.

GINNY REAMS is writer-editor at Acadia National Park.
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Add Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary in your will.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/join.
Acadia Mountain Conservation is Complete
A long-term plan for the conservation and protection of 25 acres on Acadia Mountain abutting Acadia National Park is now complete. Friends of Acadia purchased the parcel last fall and this spring offered the property to Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), a land trust partner with land management expertise and resources. MCHT took ownership of the property in early June.

Friends purchased the 25 acres on the north slope of Acadia Mountain last September, immediately protecting it from a proposed development that would have degraded water quality and permanently changed the scenic views from Somes Sound, Sargent Drive, and many of Acadia National Park’s trails and mountain summits.

Friends donated the land to MCHT because of its outstanding and well-established record for stewarding conserved lands. Because the original property owner had left unfinished drives and septic systems eroding on the property, part of MCHT’s stewardship challenge will be to stabilize and restore these habitats.

Friends of Acadia is grateful for MCHT’s partnership and for the exceptional generosity of the individual donors who made the purchase possible. With a long-term conservation solution in place, a significant step has been taken to ensure that a beloved landmark on the border of Acadia National Park is protected and that the unique character of Somes Sound and the surrounding communities will remain intact.

Acadia Gateway Center Update
Planning and design for the Acadia Gateway Center is underway. Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) contractors have prepared a draft preliminary design for the Downeast Transportation maintenance facilities and offices at the site. This will be vetted by partners such as the National Park Service and Friends of Acadia and will be considered by the public at an open meeting in Trenton in August. Barring significant changes suggested by the public, MDOT anticipates that construction of the maintenance facilities will begin in the spring of 2009. The transit and welcome center at the Acadia Gateway Center will be planned, designed, and constructed thereafter, with completion anticipated by 2012.

The First Visit
Every year, Mrs. Laura Bush and her friends visit a national park to go hiking. This year in late June, they came to Acadia. Mrs. Bush and her friends joined Acadia and Friends staff for a quiet evening after a day in the park. Pictured above with Mrs. Bush is Friends Chairman Lili Pew (right), President Marla O’Byrne, and Acadia Superintendent Sheridan Steele.
Acadia Quest Starts Strong
Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia launched Acadia Quest in April, in response to growing concerns that school-aged children are spending less time engaging in outdoor activities. Acadia Quest encourages Maine's young people and their families to get outdoors and into the park.

So far, 45 teams consisting of 167 individuals are competing in the Quest. They are participating in a series of activities that encourage young people to explore, learn about and protect Acadia and other conserved lands. The program runs from April to November. Teams that fulfill all program requirements will be eligible for the grand prize drawings on November 1 at the annual Take Pride in Acadia Day. The three grand prizes will include hiking, boating, and camping packages.

Two Acadia Quest teams fulfill one of their “explore” requirements by participating in the hike up Beech Mountain on National Trails Day.

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps Announced
This spring, 15 Maine teens were hired as the 2008 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps. For eight weeks this summer, these teens will pile into park vehicles and travel to various locations in Acadia to work on refurbishing trails, building fences, cleaning campgrounds, and maintaining facilities. The AYCC members are park employees, but Friends purchases work boots and tee-shirts and
makes a grant to the park to fund student and leader salaries. The park provides leadership and training for the program.

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members work hard during their eight-week session. Among their many tasks, these teens learn how to move hundred-pound rocks with a cable and pulley system between trees when building and refurbishing trails.

Member of the 2008 AYCC include: Daniel Hales, Keegan Howie, Eric McQuinn, and Anthony Picard II of Bar Harbor; Gavin Willow of Blue Hill; Timothy Fitzgerald of Bucksport; Luc-Oliver Gagnon-Victor of Ellsworth; Catherine Sharp of Mount Desert; Sam West of Penobscot; and James Freedman, Matthew Hallett, Bonnie McCarthy, and Ryann Rourk of Trenton.

AYCC work is integrated with the trail crew's summer work plan and greatly increases the number of projects that can be completed during the short summer months. AYCC is also an integral part of Friends of Acadia and the park's efforts to engage future generations with the park and with nature. For more information about AYCC, contact Mike Staggs at mikestaggs@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up

Nearly 400 volunteers participated in the 9th Annual Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up on Saturday, April 26. The sunny spring weather provided the perfect backdrop for this annual event that brings community members together in the spirit of keeping area roadsides clean.

Scouring shoulders and ditches, the volunteers collected more than 8,500 pounds of trash on approximately 150 miles of roadside. The amount of trash collected is down by approximately 3,000 pounds, indicating that the annual clean-up is making a significant difference.

Friends thanks the individuals who participated, the many local businesses who recruited volunteers, and Hannaford Supermarket and the Trenton Marketplace for the water and

Heart of the Matter

"Who will gainsay that the parks contain the highest potentialities of national pride, national contentment, and national health? A visit inspires love of country; begets contentment; engenders pride of possession; contains the antidote for national restlessness... He is a better citizen with a keener appreciation of the privilege of living here who has toured the national parks."

Stephen T. Mather
NPS Director, 1917-1929
snacks that fueled the volunteers. Friends also thanks the Maine Department of Transportation for picking up the bagged trash and Bar Harbor Bank & Trust and The Knowles Company for their corporate sponsorship. This event is successful because of the ongoing support of local businesses and generous community members.

**Clyde Butcher Exhibit of National Park Photographs**

This summer, Friends sponsored a gallery showing of the large-format, black and white photos of Clyde Butcher. Called “Americas National Parks: A Monumental Vision,” the show ran through the month of July, hosted by College of the Atlantic at its Ethel H. Blum Gallery. The exhibit commenced with a book signing and public lecture on July 6.

An artist and an environmentalist, Clyde has been photographing America’s most beautiful and complex ecosystems, including national parks, for more than 30 years. His outsize enlargements create the sense of walking into the image, becoming part of his diorama-like spaces. These images are created through a deliberate, nearly heroic process of hauling his huge, cumbersome camera, along with its associated equipment, into the wilderness to take these large-format photographs.

With the centennial of Acadia and the National Park Service approaching in 2016, Friends sponsored the event to celebrate Clydes monumental vision behind the lens and the monumental vision of conservation that enabled the creation of Americas national parks. Clydes photographs capture the very essence of what conservation protects for all to enjoy. To learn more about Clyde Butcher and his work, visit www.clydebutcher.com.

**National Trails Day**

National Trails Day kicked off the summer volunteer season Saturday, June 7. Approximately 50 community members celebrated National Trails Day at Schoodic and on Mount Desert Island.

Some participants raked a section of carriage roads or did a shoreline clean-up, and others helped with trail work on the Schooner Head Path and the Alder Trail. Additional participants, including some young people and families participating in Acadia Quest, ventured on a hike with Acadia National Park trail crew to tour the historic Beech Mountain fire tower. The chance to tour the tower provided a rare aerial view of the park.

Friends thanks Acadia National Park trail crew and rangers, as well as our volunteers and trail crew leaders, for hosting the National Trails Day volunteers and hikers. This annual celebration of Acadia’s historic trails would not be possible without the support of our generous corporate sponsors, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust and The First and The Knowles Company.

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**In Gratitude**

**VOLUNTEER FIELD CREW LEADERS**
- Len Berkowitz
- Bruce Blake
- Bucky Brooks
- Jenn Donaldson
- Rod Fox
- Mike Hays
- Heidi Hershberger
- Jack Hirschenhofer
- Cookie Horner
- Steve Johnson
- Alan King
- Don Lenahan
- Jim Linnane
- Mark and Georgia Munsell
- Betsy Roberts
- Bob Sanderson
- Julia Schloss
- Howard Solomon
- Al and Marilyn Wiberley

**MEMBERSHIP TABLE VOLUNTEERS**
- Maureen Brooks
- David Evans
- Jean Evans
- Priscilla Hirschenhofer
- Marycarol Lenahan
- Eileen and Jim Linnane
- Georgia Munsell
- Beatrice Pisani
- Dee and Howard Solomon

**OTHER VOLUNTEERS**
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- Pat Hayes
- Carol Lindsey
- Jean Smith
- Jill York
- Bert Zbar
- Suzi Zbar

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**NATIONAL TRAILS DAY**

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*Members of the Schoodic Committee prepare for a morning of work on National Trails Day.*
Acadia Advocacy Network members have been wonderfully responsive to opportunities and threats facing national parks. In early June, Friends of Acadia sent out an alert regarding proposed changes to the firearms regulations in national parks. Presently, the regulations [36 CFR 2.4 (a) (2-3)] allow loaded firearms in designated times and locations in national parks, such as at firing ranges, permanent dwellings, and in locations where hunting is allowed. These regulations also allow possession of firearms generally in national parks, as long as they are unloaded and not easily accessible.

The Department of the Interior has proposed deferring to state firearms laws. If a state allows possession of loaded and concealed firearms at state parks, then the national park’s regulations would be changed to reflect these rules. Friends is very concerned about these proposed changes because the firearms regulations in Maine differ for Baxter State Park and the state parks in general, so it is unclear which rules would apply to Acadia National Park. National parks are tranquil and iconic places that deserve special consideration as places of solitude. State laws may not respect these values.

The present firearms regulations adequately protect Acadia’s visitors and wildlife. Hunting is not allowed in Acadia, but visitors and residents may transport their guns across park lands if the guns are unloaded and broken down or not easily accessible. Acadia’s rangers are assured relative safety when making law enforcement stops and visitors generally know what to expect given that National Park Service regulations are standard (with only a few exceptions) across all parks.

Acadia Advocacy Network members responded to the call to action by sending comments to the Department of the Interior via the regulations website. Comments were due by June 30.

Acadia Advocacy Network members also contacted members of the House of Representatives in support of H.R. 3094, the National Park Centennial Fund Act. This bill authorizes the Centennial Challenge and could result in an additional $100 million being appropriated by Congress each year through 2017 to be matched by $100 million in private donations. The bill passed through the House Natural Resources Committee with amendments and is awaiting action on the House floor. Advocacy Network members requested that representatives encourage the bill to be considered and passed quickly by the House.

And finally, the Advocacy Network scored a great victory this spring. After a valiant attempt by the Maine delegation in the 109th Congress and dogged pursuit in the 110th Congress, the Acadia National Park Improvement Act finally passed both houses as part of a larger omnibus national parks bill and was signed by President Bush on May 8. This bill extended the life of the Acadia Advisory Commission through 2026, authorized (but didn’t appropriate) an additional $10 million for land acquisition at the park, and permitted the park to participate in the planning, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Acadia Gateway Center.

—Stephanie Clement

If you are interested in participating as a member of the Acadia Advocacy Network, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.
**Wide Wonders**

**Acadia Panorama: Images of Maine's National Park**

by Alan Nyiri, Down East Books, 2008, 92 pp., $18.95, paperback.

As the saying goes, if you don’t like the weather in Maine, wait a minute and it will change. Alan Nyiri has captured the rewards of waiting for a change of conditions along the Maine coast in his book, Acadia Panorama: Images of Maine's National Park. According to Nyiri, waiting is sometimes what it takes to capture an unexpected shot of Acadia's dynamic landscape.

Nyiri shares a story about a time he was exploring Otter Cliffs. While he was busy looking for something interesting in his foreground, he was surprised by a sudden shower that had been approaching in the distance. While other visitors scrambled to their cars, Nyiri waited, covering his camera, and anticipated what panoramic shot might present itself. He goes on to explain that as he was waiting he discovered that the most interesting shot wasn’t in the foreground. Instead it was the ocean and the surrounding clouds.

Nyiri captures the vast beauty of Acadia in his stunning panoramic (and non-panoramic) shots. From commonly-visited spots, like Sand Beach (there is a 52-inch fold-out spread), Jordan Pond, and Otter Cliffs to areas less traveled like the Schoodic Peninsula, Nyiri brings readers from grand vistas to close-up views of lush landscape.

A resident of Vermont, Nyiri describes Mount Desert Island as one of the most inspiring places to photograph. He finds the landscapes and seascapes especially well-suited for his wide format interpretation. Anyone who loves the grandeur and details of Acadia will certainly find inspiration and joy in the pages of Nyiri’s work.

— Scott Page

**A Taste of Maine**

**Cooking in the Moment**

by Kyra Alex, Short Circuit Press, Deer Isle, ME, 2005, 128 pp., $18.95, paperback.

I knew this cookbook was for me when I noticed that the table of contents listed recipes by season instead of the common categories of appetizers, entrees, and desserts. In New England, a home-cooked meal is, after all, most influenced by the mood and available ingredients that are driven by whatever season you happen to be experiencing.

A quick glance through the index of recipes and my initial attraction to the book only grew stronger. With heart-warming recipes for delectable treats like a blueberry layer cake with cream cheese frosting, end of summer soup, and lobster spring rolls, there was no turning back—this book quickly became a staple of my kitchen.

Author Kyra Alex works and lives on the coast of Maine. She is the owner of Lily’s Café in Stonington, where she has served visitors and residents alike for more than nine years. And, it’s not just the ingredients that feel like Maine. The anecdotes from Alex's day-to-day island life that introduce each recipe give each list of ingredients and instructions meaning, allowing readers to feel the moment.

“Seven different regulars grace my doorstep between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m.,” Alex writes, as she introduces her Quick Dough Cinnamon Rolls. “We discuss movies, politics, hair stylists, the weather, who’s getting some and who isn’t and whatever else comes to our minds... These cinnamon rolls are one of their most favorite things to find on the counter to go with their coffee.”

What’s more, the recipes are simply explained and the ingredients are readily available. It is a perfect cookbook to have on hand to keep all of those summer guests happy, full, and feeling like they’ve had a taste of Maine.

— Shelly Connors

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**Book Review**

**WINE & CHEESE**

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WINE & CHEESE

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Skepticism at Schoodic

This winter, when I wrote the article that appeared in the last issue of the Friends of Acadia Journal, I had next anticipated doing a piece celebrating the amazing rebirth that is spring in the park. I was planning to write about walking the Schoodic loop road and being inspired by the many foreshadowings of summer’s arrival in Maine.

I wanted to describe the kaleidoscope of greens that is the trees and wildflowers, grasses and ferns coming back to life—conveying the vast spectrum from deep, dark, almost inky olive to pale, fluorescent almost shimmering lime. I would note the brilliant bursts of colors of spring flora awakening from the winter, playing hide-and-seek among the greenery, giving impressionistic hints of what is to come. I would write about the Jack Pines, tipped with new growth—tiny nuggets of brown preparing to release silken scarves of yellow pollen.

I was going to celebrate the return of the Great Blue Heron. I thought I would try to portray the bird’s beauty as it strutted in the marshy areas just off the loop road, taking careful, measured steps. I was hoping to describe the sea, noting warmer shades of blue, different angles of refraction and reflection, softer lapping at the shore. I anticipated traces of wildlife young, the scent of rebirth, the lilt of new life and the sweet taste of spring air serving as muses for my writing.

And so, on one of those perfect late May Maine days, Rosemary, Lucky, and I headed to Schoodic. As we made the turn from Rte. 186 and headed up the hill, I realized that I couldn’t write the column I wanted... I knew I had to address the most significant issue faced by the Schoodic District, Acadia National Park, and the Schoodic Peninsula in recent times— the recently proposal to build an eco-resort.

Like so many others, our initial reaction was that the eco-resort would be a travesty. Also like so many others, Rosemary and I tried to be open-minded. We followed the coverage in the Ellsworth American and Bangor Daily News, attended the public meetings, listened to the proposals that were presented, considered the assurances that were been offered, and weighed the diverse opinions and viewpoints expressed by members of the community.

The proposal is seductively appealing. The ideas appear well-meaning and sophisticated. They are presented in a professional, scientifically researched cloak. The green, eco-friendly, environmentally-supportive technologies and language are timely, cutting-edge, and sexy. The possibilities for exciting educational, artistic, social, and community opportunities are interesting. And the new tax revenues, jobs, housing, and for local small business owners like us, expanded customer base are a potential economic boon for the peninsula.

Rosemary and I, however, have a hard time getting beyond the oxymoron that the proposed eco-resort represents. We find the concept of ensuring the preservation of habitat through development incomprehensive. We can’t make sense of how building a community of hotels, lodges, cottage homes, clustered housing, multi-family mixed use housing, golf courses, environmental centers, and outposts can enhance the environment. We have difficulty understanding how identifying a natural corridor among all this deconstructed, man-made habitat maintains the integrity of the peninsula’s ecosystem, especially when it is crisscrossed with vehicular roads for automobiles and carriage roads built to support electric cars and trams. We can’t quite get a grasp on clearing and cultivating land to create a nursery for native plants on terrain that is the natural home to an amazingly divergent variety of local flora.

And while Rosemary and I know that we will always be able to visit the Schoodic District of Acadia to enjoy the wonder of spring, as well as summer, fall, and winter, we are extremely concerned that the creation of an exclusive, private community at its gateway. We fear that it will impact public access to the Schoodic District. We know from experience that there are subtle ways for property owners and managers, developers, and homeowners to discourage use by creating a perception of exclusion. We are aware that there are myriad techniques to convey the idea that public property is off-limits, communicate the sense that public transit is akin to trespass, and make people feel uncomfortable and unwanted.

Rosemary and I understand that it is possible to create an ecologically-sound, environmentally-friendly community that complements the environment in which it is located. We are, however, not at all confident that such a community is, or, more importantly, should be what is proposed for this specific portion of the Schoodic Peninsula.

We remain wary of the eco-resort proposal, to say the least.

GARRY LEVIN and his wife, Rosemary, live in the village of Corea on the Schoodic Peninsula.
GIVING AS A WAY OF LIFE

Giving as a way of life has always been the spirit of my soul. From my earliest days, I learned the lessons of giving back from my family, in daily life at home, in our community, and in the larger venue of social responsibility—striving to leave the world with solutions, not add to problems. My father and mother took the time to share stories of the great work that people can do when focused on giving back, as generations of Pews have done.

Words I heard approaching my first volunteer efforts still hold true today, “the gift of giving back, in any manner you can through volunteer action, leadership, and philanthropic gifts, will be the greatest gift you can give to life.” Investing my hopes, values, and entrepreneurial spirit in support of a great community need or resource, just as generations of my family have done, helped bring me back to Acadia National Park and to Friends of Acadia to pursue giving as a way of life.

A spirit of giving is important but vision and planning are key to effecting long term change. The following statement from a charitable organization my family is deeply involved with particularly resonates with me: “Strategic philanthropic planning must first select the right ideas for investment—ideas that are visionary, significant and feasible. Next is building the capacity with organizations, people and resources in concert with the designing projects that will most effectively execute the ideas to produce the best results.”

Over the past few years, Friends has worked on developing a strategic plan that will be the roadmap for our collective efforts through 2016, the centennial anniversary of Acadia and the National Park Service. Let me share with each you, stewards and stakeholders of our precious Acadia National Park, ways to join Friends of Acadia on a giving journey to 2016!

Volunteer in Acadia

There is no better way to build a connection to Friends of Acadia and the park than to join a volunteer activity. We have many opportunities for our friends to be part of critically important projects, such as working on the carriage roads, hiking trails, Acadia Wild Gardens, or helping with a species count (called a “bio-blitz”) as part of a park inventory program. Friends also helps coordinate several large events in the park, the success of which largely depends on volunteers. Volunteers help us with our Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up, National Trails Day, Family Fun Day, and Take Pride in Acadia.

Another great activity for volunteering is the membership tables at several locations in the park. Last summer, these volunteers welcomed many new members and were tremendous ambassadors for Friends of Acadia to new visitors in the park. With training and confidence flowing strong, Friends helps volunteers of all kinds have a great experience giving back to the park.

Join the Advocacy Network

Friends is a strong advocate for the park on the local, regional, and national levels. The expertise that Friends and our partnering organizations have enables us to have a voice of reason in advocating for initiatives, legislation, and regulations that will help the park and the surrounding communities. Through the simple but vital role of becoming a member of our Acadia Advocacy Network, you will become informed on these issues, and your voice will be heard by policy makers. Just as each of us has a choice to be part of the democracy by voting in an election, Friends asks you to choose to share your voice through its advocacy network.

Join Friends of Acadia as a Member and Donor

Making a financial gift to Friends builds our capacity to execute new ideas to produce the best results. Our strategic planning process has mapped out an ambitious, yet achievable, set of goals to pursue, all of which need financial support to succeed. Just as the gift of volunteer time is priceless and the gift of your voice is crucial in advocacy, the gift of a financial donation supports programs and staff to efficiently and effectively reach the highest standards of excellence that have set Friends of Acadia as the model for other Friends groups nationwide. We have a proven track record for producing results that add value and longevity to our beloved Acadia National Park.

— Lili Pew

Chairman’s Letter

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

— Margaret Mead

Lili spends a day last summer working with a group of first-time park volunteers from Chicago. This was the first lesson in giving back and the first experience in nature for many of the students.
Each year, volunteers contribute thousands of hours to Acadia National Park. Visitors, residents, families, and groups of all ages help care for the trails and carriage roads of Acadia. The park needs your help and volunteering is a tangible way to say “thank you” for the beauty of Acadia.

Volunteers meet at Park Headquarters on Route 233 each Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday morning, June through October, weather permitting.

Wear sturdy shoes and bring water, insect repellent, snack, and lunch.

For more information, call 207-288-3340
Friends of Acadia

Mission

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