Saturday, April 26, 2003
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Collect and bag trash from along Mount Desert Island and Trenton roadsides.

Gain fame for collecting unique and voluminous trash.

Think of the fun you'll have outdoors on an early spring morning with your nearest and dearest, making your community better. (And there'll be free t-shirts.)

For more information, check our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/events.shtml or contact Marla at 207-288-3340.

Friends of Acadia

This volunteer project is sponsored by Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, the Maine Department of Transportation, and local MDI businesses.
“A CRUCIAL POINT OR PLACE”

When requesting donations, I try to minimize use of terms like “fragile ecosystem,” or claims that Acadia National Park is being “loved to death,” for example. Hackneyed expressions bore and insult the solicited. The phrase “environmental crossroads” occupies the same low denominator. Too many fundraising letters have inflated too many middling environmental transitions to the bloated status of a crossroads—once we pass through, things will get worse and never be the same. So I apologize for using the word now, but unfortunately it is factually warranted—the area has hit a crossroads, which the dictionary defines as “a crucial point or place.”

The Mount Desert Island area is experiencing more than mere transition. The area is undergoing a transformation as significant as the park’s founding. That act of visionary generosity converted private lands into a natural, cultural, economic, and aesthetic asset legally accessible to all. This is proper because national parks are owned by all. When it includes today’s tidal wave of automobiles, however, the “all” is getting to be too many at once. The conversion of MDI to a culture of congestion is well along and could become irreversible. Surely you have seen it coming.

For at least two decades, many who love Acadia have watched the makeover develop. Visitation doubled in that time. Left unchecked it may grow from the present 2.5-3 million visits to over 5 million by 2022, with most people still arriving in cars and RVs. Summer traffic is already creating unprecedented congestion and adding emissions that make people sick and harm plants and animals. Parking is harder to find, especially in villages and at popular trailheads. The situation is compromising public safety and destroying island ambience. At some point it will erode property values. Opportunities for solitude and natural quiet, once the guaranteed essences of MDI life, are measurably vanishing. The withering patterns will continue unless boldly addressed now.

Friends of Acadia has begun the Tranquility Project. Its main objectives are to reduce traffic overall, limit the number of vehicles inside the park, and expand the Island Explorer propane bus system. The most important innovation will be a bus center to intercept day traffic on the mainland and move more travelers onto the Explorer for transit to MDI. These direct actions will restore a measure of islandness.

Friends is the only private conservation organization focusing on transportation issues within and outside Acadia. We work faster than governments can, with no red tape. Our funds and staff often help drive the partnerships needed to carry off complex conservation projects. Because Friends’ role is critical, yours is too.

Many values you cherish are at stake, including the matchless qualities of the Acadia National Park experience. Bringing automobile use into reasonable proportion with the magnificent surroundings will take several years. Do not doubt that powerful forces will fight rational reductions in traffic. Friends of Acadia will need your philosophical support, and your financial help at even greater annual levels than now.

Acadia and MDI are at a crucial point. It’s time for direct action to ensure the kind of place you wish to leave to others. When the Tranquility Project knocks, please answer generously. Thank you.

— W. Kent Olson, President
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A few years ago in an address to superintendents from around the country, former National Park Service Director Russ Dickinson talked about his hopes for, and interactions with, his five-year old grandson.

Russ had spent an illustrious career with the National Park Service and had retired some years before. He and his wife, Maxine, had been caring for their in-every-way-typical young grandson. Russ had heard of subliminal messaging and thought he ought to give it a try. So, in the evenings when the stories were done and his grandson was barely asleep, Russ whispered into the boy’s ear, “I want to be a ranger.”

This went on for several nights to no apparent effect. Then one morning at breakfast his grandson said, “Grandpa, what’s a ranger?” Score one for Grandpa! What a chance to share with his young grandson stories from a lifetime of grand adventures, and the value of a life well lived.

We’ll probably have to wait twenty years to know the results of this experiment. In the meantime, let’s hope this young lad someday chooses to follow in his grandfather’s footsteps. For those who want it, and are willing to live it, there isn’t a better career.

My parting request, and advice, would be to spread the word. This outfit needs the best people possible. The rewards are to be found in doing good work, and knowing it. It helps, too, to spend your life working with true professionals while living in some of the most beautiful and interesting places in this country. And it helps to know that you are not alone. People care about their national parks—none more than the Friends of Acadia.

My wife, Margot, and I have been blessed with more than our share of wonderful experiences and close friendships. We, too, have volumes of memories and stories—and four grandsons.

To all who have made the sum of my career possible—thanks.

— Paul Haertel, Acadia National Park Superintendent, 1994-2002
I thought I’d send some photos from our recent wedding up in Acadia. Meghan and I got married in June and thought you might enjoy seeing what a wonderful day we had . . .

Thanks and we look forward to seeing you in November for Take Pride in Acadia Day.

—John & Meghan Khairallah
Vernon, Connecticut

Just arrived back from seven days on Mt. Desert Island, the color was so outstanding this fall, and weather just perfect.

Looking forward to next October to be able to use the shuttle buses. We will be able to walk trails we have never walked before and not have to worry about getting back to our parked car. Thanks to you and L.L. Bean.

Also we were very impressed with the work being done on the Jordan Pond Trail. Haven’t taken that trail in a number of years. Talked with the crew working there and it was interesting to find out how materials are brought into the area. Wonderful job!

With all our traveling throughout the years, Acadia is still the most beautiful spot on this earth. There is always someplace to walk to find peace, beauty, and tranquility. Looking forward to our 29th year in 2003.

— The O. M. Seagrists
Bethania, North Carolina

Notes from Friends

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Bethania, North Carolina

Book Forthcoming

Since the Winter 2000 issue, Journal covers have featured magnificent photographs by Tom Blagden, Jr., who has published several books about extraordinary natural areas in America. Blagden’s *First Light: Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island*, with text by Charles R. Tyson, Jr. and foreword by W. Kent Olson, will be published in 2003 by Westcliffe Publishers and Friends of Acadia.

Correction

We would like to apologize for the incorrect listing of Michael H. Graves Antiques and Art in the 2002 Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala Catalogue. Michael H. Graves Antiques and Art specializes in Mount Desert Island maps, books, old souvenirs, and ephemera. For more about the Benefit Gala, see pages 16 and 20.
Poem

2002 Friends of Acadia Poetry Award

— 2nd Prize —

packrat

big green food (hits sky so tall) rest hide
must find things take rock-hole safe-dark nest
bright glint pretty must have stop
look up (sky-claws catch) look down (fur-fangs rip)
clear run quick safe-path food-shade rest
move fast catch pretty chew hard run back safe-path
run dark-safe nest breathe store pretty mine.

gut pain need food look up (no sky-claws)
run food fast eat food fast bites look quick (no fur-fangs)
take food back (store nest-food) chew hard run back
hear crunch look back big glint-eye fur-fang come ear-run
drop food dark-safe close fur-fang breathe hot run fast
run hard more fast (no fangs no fangs) yank back jerk stop
big paw slam tail (big fangs big fangs) claw paw move up
(hits sky so tall) fast down rip back (no hurt no hurt) squeal
pull hard tear off skin-tail leave tail run fast run hard more fast
rock-safe small fur-fang big no catch here now safe
claws no rip safe bare-bone
rest hurt
soft-drip dark cool
lay-soft sleep.

— Heidi Kieffer LaMoreaux

Heidi Kieffer LaMoreaux teaches Field-Oriented Physical Geography at the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies at Sonoma State University. She has published poetry, creative nonfiction, and a short play.
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.

Pooled Income Fund
Gifts from many donors are managed as combined assets. Earned income is paid to you or a designated beneficiary. Upon death, principal goes to FOA.

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.

Bequests
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.
The streams of Acadia were white with foam on November fifteenth. They cascaded over every ledge and outcropping that ever hinted of water, making false promises of a drought-free August. As I ran along the trail, I delighted in the abundance of water, reveled in this blue and gold day, and gave thanks for having this extraordinary island in my life.

My gratitude extends to the foresight of our park’s founders, the generosity of its donors, and to those who have toiled countless hours to create the access paths and carriage roads that wind through Acadia. I give thanks to those who love this place so much that they stretch way beyond the limits of time and energy in order to care for Acadia. The staff members of Acadia National Park are remarkable. With them the employees of Friends of Acadia, our community members, donors, and volunteers from across the nation tirelessly work in partnership on behalf of this gem of a park.

The dedicated and talented individuals who comprise the staff of Friends of Acadia are the focus of this article. President Ken Olson, who has led FOA since 1995, sets the direction and the tone of the organization. He is responsible for the execution of all programs — conservation, stewardship, development, and general operations. He chairs the staff Core Management Group. Ken works with the Superintendent of Acadia, the National Park Service, the board of FOA, and numerous Washington, state, and local officials.

Director of Operations Diana McDowell handles all financial matters and manages Friends’ accounting, the general ledger, spreadsheet analysis, leading indicators, and the yearly audit. She develops the annual budget, works with staff members to ensure on-budget performance in program areas, and is a member of the Investment and Finance Committee and Core Management Group.

Marla Major, Stewardship Director, manages many of Friends’ in-park programs such as Acadia Trails Forever implementation, village connector trails development, wheelchair accessibility, the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and the volunteer program. Marla edits the Friends of Acadia Journal, and develops and manages the organization’s website. She also serves on the Core Management Group.

Friends Conservation Director, Stephanie Clement, develops and executes conservation programs in advocacy, policy, and planning. She is the primary contact person with the park staff regarding many Friends of Acadia park policy initiatives and is the principal liaison with community officials. Stephanie lobbies Congress, the state legislature, federal, and state officials. She coordinates the Ridge Runner and Intern programs. Her current projects include public transit, the Schoodic Unit transfer, and air and water quality issues.

Director of Development Kelly S. Dickson works with the president and board of directors to build financial support for special capital needs in Acadia. She coordinates membership building and renewal mailings, and is the liaison for foundation and business giving.

Theresa Sosa, Development Associate, coordinates many of Friends’ events, including the Benefit Gala, the annual meeting, Take Pride in Acadia Day, National Trails Day, and the Earth Day Roadside Clean-up. She provides logistical support for meetings, conferences, and awards presentations. Terry works with the Development Director on membership recruitment, renewal, database management, membership mailings, and assists the President with correspondence.

Administrative Assistant Mike Staggs handles general office tasks, typing, filing, computer system support, and office upkeep. He provides direct assistance to the Conservation Director, Stewardship Director, and Director of Operations. Mike works with the development staff on events and data entry. Mike directs incoming phone calls and welcomes office visitors.

This outstanding team is responsible for developing Friends of Acadia into one of the premierFriends groups in the country — one to which others turn for a role model. Many, many thanks to the members of our fine staff. It is a pleasure to know each of them, personally as well as professionally.

— Dianna Emory, Chairman of the Board
The National Archives contains a little known document of great significance to the Friends of Acadia. Legislative bill H.R.11935, May 30, 1918, sought to elevate Sieur de Monts National Monument to national park status. The bill refers to Mount Desert National Park, but national park status was given to Lafayette National Park in 1919, which was renamed Acadia National Park in 1929.

The full testimony before the House Subcommittee of the Committee of Public Lands overlaps with contemporary convictions about the importance of the park, yet in many ways the aesthetic, environmental, scientific, and recreational goals depart from current values.

The experts, selected from more than twenty authorities marshaled by then Sieur de Monts National Monument custodian George B. Dorr (1853-1941) to testify on behalf of the bill, stress the scientific potential of the new park.

Dorr’s autobiographical *Story of Acadia National Park* contains only five brief paragraphs from over thirty-five pages of Congressional testimony. The testimony given on behalf of national park status included the following champions who articulated their vision for the park with uncommon eloquence.

Edward L. Rand (1859-1924) is best known for his *Flora of Mount Desert*. He became involved in nature studies when he and Charles Eliot summered on MDI with Harvard College associates. In his testimony, Rand said, “Nowhere else on the Atlantic coast is there such a wonderful combination of natural scenery as this island possesses; nowhere is there another spot where shore and mountain are so grandly blended. For years it has been renowned as the crowning glory of the beautiful, countless-harbored coast of Maine.

“The forests of Mount Desert Island were once full of wealth, and full of wealth they would still be if the lumbermen had not done their work so well. .. The importance of preserving the woods which still remain no lover of Nature can question. They are infinitely precious as a part of the wild scenery of the place and for their
spot can be thus preserved, for the perfection of this ideal? A detailed knowledge of the geography, the flora, and to some extent the soil conditions of eastern North America . . . brings several regions to mind; but as a single area . . . Mount Desert, with its adjacent islets and headlands, stands out as offering the greatest natural diversity.

Ornithologist Edward H. Forbush (1858-1929) was a founder of the Massachusetts Audubon Society. His Birds of Massachusetts and Other New England States was regarded as definitive. His statements submitted at the hearing include: “No northern situation was ever better fitted to grow a great variety of fruiting plants for bird food. The remarkable horticultural qualities of the island have long been recognized, and both wild and cultivated shrubs fruit there in extraordinary profusion. In the broad heath which extends from the Bar Harbor region southward to the mountains; in the wild gorge beyond with bottom tarn which makes a natural highway for men and birds alike between the island’s northern and southern shores; and around the old beaver-pool ground out by the ice-sheet at the northern foot of Newport Mountain, there are wonderful opportunities for natural bird gardens.”

In his personal testimony, George Dorr offered glimpses of his vision as he reiterated themes developed in the Steur de Monts Publications (1916-1919). “To establish on the island . . . a permanent exhibit of this [Acadian] forest growing under original conditions has been from the first a constant aim with those who sought the park’s creation. . . . Longfellow sets the Acadian scene for us in ‘Evangeline’ with ‘This is the forest primeval, the mumuring pines and the hemlocks,’ and far out to sea in early, long-voayed days the approaching sailor welcomed with delight the pungent forest fragrance . . .

“Everywhere there is life, spreading mats of crowberry and the beautiful coast juniper where they are deluged by the ocean spray in winter storms. . . . Few forests in the world, indeed, outside the rainy tropics, clothe themselves with such abundant life, and there is none that bring one more directly into touch with nature, its wildness and its charm.

“[The] park is like a great Rock Garden set by nature on the ocean verge and needing only to be made accessible by entrance roads and paths . . . to be made . . . a safe refuge for the region’s native life . . . handing it down . . . to future generations for their delight and profit . . .

“The area is unique; there is no other like it. The problem is to preserve in the midst of a great annual flood of summer visitors the wild, primeval beauty and untamed elemental character which makes it so and combine with the cool summer climate and the presence of the sea to draw men to it.”

Finally, Secretary of the Interior Frederick K. Lane (1864-1921) identified the distinctive qualities that brought the area into conformity with evolving standards for park status. “Mount Desert Island has important historic value. It is the place where Champlain first landed on this coast, and the French had a station here years before the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers.

“Second: Scenically its impressive headlands give Mount Desert the distinction of combining sea and mountain. These headlands are by far the loftiest on our Atlantic coast. Their high, rounded summits, often craggy, and their splendid granite shelves form a background for a rugged shore line and an island-dotted harbor which is one of the finest that even the Maine coast can present . . .

“Third: From the point of view of conservation, the value of the proposed park can hardly be overestimated . . . There are few spots, if any, which can combine the variety and luxuriance of the eastern forests in such small compass. The rocks also have their distinction. This was the first part of the continent to emerge from the prehistoric sea . . .

“Fourth: From a recreational standpoint, the Mount Desert Park would be capable of giving pleasure . . . to all the people . . . [and] become one of the greatest of our public assets.”

Ronald Epp is Director of Shapiro Library and Associate Professor of Philosophy at the Southern New Hampshire University. He is working on a full-length biography of George B. Dorr.
Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear—our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mt. 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.
Special Person

ACADIA SUPERINTENDENT
HAERTEL RETIRES

On September 30, 2002, Paul Haertel retired after 40 years in the National Park Service (NPS), the last eight as Acadia National Park Superintendent. Friends of Acadia salutes him for an outstanding record.

“Paul is a professional bred in the bone,” said Ken Olson, president of Friends of Acadia. “He consistently kept natural and cultural resource protection uppermost. He was a good leader and delegator, a great agency partner, and a distributor of credit to others. Paul leaves on a high plane of achievement and we will surely miss him.”

Said Haertel, “Acadia has the exceptional combination of a rich history, superb natural and cultural resources, and a constituency that cares very deeply about this place, most notably Friends of Acadia. It is an honor to have served as this park’s superintendent.”

Acadia Deputy Superintendent Len Bobinchock has been named Acting Superintendent. “Paul was great to work with,” said Bobinchock, “and he provided leadership and guidance leading to many important accomplishments during his eight years at Acadia.”

Olson said, “Len Bobinchock is an experienced leader who has had a strong hand in the park’s major accomplishments. The progress made so far will continue uninterrupted, and Friends of Acadia looks forward to extending the very effective relationship with Len and his staff.”

Superintendent Haertel led Acadia National Park in completing the carriage road restoration, developing the fee demonstration and transportation demonstration programs, launching Acadia Trails Forever, creating the Island Explorer bus system, and formulating a commercial services plan, as well as in the accession of Schoodic Naval Base. He forged strong relationships with nonprofits and for-profits as well, such as with L.L. Bean. He also worked closely with the Maine Congressional delegation and the legislatively established Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, involving it in a broad array of park issues, including the crux matter of park carrying capacities. Haertel’s staff is highly regarded for its professionalism.

Before becoming Acadia’s superintendent, Haertel served at Isle Royale National Park, Sequoia & Kings Canyon N.P., Mount Ranier N.P., Fort Clatsop National Memorial, Lava Beds National Monument, Kenai Fjords & Lake Clark N.P., and in the NPS Alaska Regional Office.

Paul and his wife, Margot, will continue to live on Mount Desert Island. Margot is a Park Service alumna, a former teacher, and works as a librarian at the Southwest Harbor Public Library. The Haertels have three children and four grandchildren.

National Park Service Director Fran Mainella and Regional Director Marie Rust have pledged a vigorous open search for Acadia’s next Superintendent. After a faltering start, the NPS nationwide hiring process was re-opened. “The Acadia National Park superintendency is a coveted, plum assignment and deserves the very best National Park Service leader to work in the special circumstances of this complex park that is interwoven with local communities,” Olson said. “That means a full, fair and transparent process involving the top candidates from across America. Acadia operates according to a vital tradition of deep public involvement and strong private philanthropic support not characteristic of all national parks.” The job description was posted through December 27 at www.usajobs.opm.gov, the web site of the federal Office of Policy Management.
Guilty? Me?

Well yes, I am a transgressor. With fewer excuses than most, since I should have known. So, no more wallowing in the “Why didn’t anybody tell me?” swamp—I now count myself as a convert to the proper view: Everyone who uses Acadia National Park must have a park pass!

A little history. My grandfather, John D. Rockefeller, Jr., helped create Acadia National Park, over a period of 30 years. From 1910 when he bought “The Eyrie” on Barr Hill, to 1940 when the last carriage road was completed, he and many others donated funds plus certain lands that became the core of this great natural and cultural asset. His children and grandchildren have continued to be deeply involved with the park and the carriage roads ever since. And we have watched with admiration as millions of Americans have supported the national parks in so many ways as volunteers or as park personnel or from their own pocketbooks.

But somewhere along the line, the parks began to suffer a shortage in Congressional funding. Acadia’s annual budget, for example, is 53% underfunded. As an independent charity, Friends of Acadia makes substantial grants to the park but cannot replace funds due from public sources. Congress alone is obligated to produce basic revenues. This is where entry passes come in.

In 1997 Congress authorized some parks to experiment, allowing them to retain up to 80% of entry fees. Acadia has since collected $13.3 million, retaining $10.6 million for important projects. But nobody knows exactly how many users don’t pay. Many of us somehow escaped the obligation, including me. What an embarrassment.

Like many other Mount Desert Island residents and visitors, I assumed that funds collected at the park’s Sand Beach station were a toll for the Loop Road. In reality, the visitor pass is required no matter where one enters. All park users must have one whether they bike in, walk, drive a private vehicle, or ride the fare-free Island Explorer buses. Fee revenues underwrite trail rehabilitation, the Island Explorer, and other important conservation projects. Friends of Acadia often matches these fees with private con-
tributions, making possible even greater protection for this incomparable landscape.

So, as you can see the fees are really a simple and direct way for us who so enjoy the amazing gifts of this national preserve to give back for what we receive. Our use and enjoyment inevitably deplete the resource. The fees received allow the park to be restored and maintained for the future.

Indeed, Acadia’s fees are very low. Entry costs $10 for up to seven days per carload no matter how many are in the car, while a two-hour movie in Ellsworth can cost $32 for a family of four, a big disparity. Many national parks have fees, and these fees make the difference in the quality of maintenance possible in them. It is up to us who call Acadia home, whether year round or for the summer, to lead in supporting the idea and also to inform our guests of the requirement if they plan to use the park.

My gentle comeuppance on this matter happened at a recent Friends of Acadia board meeting. Many board members, including myself, did not understand that fees are mandatory, but we do now. The board is supporting park efforts to develop a comprehensive program to educate the public about the entry pass requirement and has pledged to help get the word out.

I think of Acadia and the 387 other national park units as glorious American birthrights. But they cannot survive without our support. We who use our parks have the privilege along with the obligation to care for these treasures that sustain our deepest life pleasures.

As someone with long ties to Mount Desert Island who only recently educated herself to what it takes to preserve our beloved Acadia for all time, I invite you to join me in paying the entry fee gladly and to ask your families and friends to do likewise. Let’s lay claim to the profound satisfaction of doing right by this great national park. I know my grandfather would rejoice that this park, which is the result of the passionate work of so many, is being cherished and honored by our present day participation.

Ann Rockefeller Roberts, a seasonal resident of Mount Desert Island, is author of Mr. Rockefeller’s Roads: The Untold Story of Acadia’s Carriage Roads & Their Creator. She serves on FOA’s board of directors.

Visitor Fees Fund Important Projects in Acadia.

Fee-funded projects in 2002 included...

- Major trails rehabilitation, which included reconstructing the abandoned Homans Path, rehabilitating 6,900 feet of Jordan Pond Trail, reconstructing 2,343 feet of Ship Harbor Trail (adding 1,343 feet of wheelchair accessibility), repairing drainage on 50 trail miles, blazing 12 miles, constructing 1,000 feet of bogwalk on Isle au Haut.
- Constructed Wildwood Stables stalls, sewer line, and concessioner employee RV pads
- Restored 50 historic vistas (15 acres)
- Re-pointed three motor road bridges
- Improved Seal Cove Road
- Re-roofed Baker Island Lightkeeper’s House
- Started Jordan Pond site circulation planning
- Installed a fire protection system
- Participated in establishment of Downeast Heritage Center
- Re-striped roads and parking areas
- Completed designs for several reconstruction projects: Sand Beach entrance station; Thompson Island and Visitor Center exhibits; Visitor Center heating, cooling, and energy efficiency improvements. Contracts awarded.

Reconstructing the abandoned Homans Path (left and right).
In the Sieur de Monts area, on the east side of Dorr Mountain, is the Homans Path. A memorial path which until recently had been hidden from the unsuspecting hiker. First shown to me in the early 90s, the unanswered questions surrounding Homans fascinate me. Why would so much granite work be laid to rest and forgotten for more than 50 years? Who were the builders that cut, shaped and set all those blocks? Why do the stone stairs stop in the middle of an open ledge, not connecting to another path or leading to the summit of Dorr Mountain?

History of the trail is scant. We know the Homans Path was built around 1916. It was named for Mrs. Eliza Homans in honor of her donations of large tracts of land to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (the original holders of land that later became Acadia National Park).
The trail first appears on the “1916 Path Map of Mount Desert Island” and disappeared from maps in 1941.

At its peak Acadia’s hiking trail system contained about 230 miles of trail. Approximately 100 miles are now abandoned, which means they are not marked, mapped, or maintained. Acadia’s General Management Plan, its Hiking Trails Management Plan, and the Olmsted Center for Landscape Preservation’s detailed Historic Hiking Trails System of Mount Desert Island guide park staff in its decisions about abandoned trails. When an abandoned trail is deemed appropriate for re-opening, funding is available through the Acadia Trails Forever initiative, a partnership of the National Park Service and Friends of Acadia committed to the rehabilitation of Acadia’s trails.

The future of the Homans Path raised difficult questions for Acadia. Should it remain abandoned, preserving the unique experience of discovering an obscure, unmarked trail? Being so near the Emery Path, with a nearly parallel route why add a redundant path? With 130 miles of existing trail in the park that need maintenance or rehabilitation, should we be adding to the list? On the other hand, would we lose an important part of trail history by not maintaining this impressive memorial stone-step trail? As these decisions were being made, comments were invited from the community and park staff.

In creating the Hiking Trails Management Plan, park staff used criteria to assign trails a numerical score indicating their relative value to the trail system. The Homans Path scored high. The high cultural value of the trail tipped the scales, determining that it would be maintained. A cultural asset this spectacular on public land should be open and available to all.

In September, Homans was connected to the Emery Path by a new short segment near open ledge that provides views and will require little work to maintain.

The base of the path ended at an abandoned section of the Hemlock Road, also near to an abandoned section of the Stratheden Path. Either route would have been an additional challenge to open, requiring high levels of rehabilitation as well as the construction of several bridges. Instead, a new gravel-surfaced segment was constructed that connects the base of the Homans Path to an open section of the Hemlock Road, near the Jesup Path.

All told, in about twenty weeks of work, Acadia National Park put back on the maps one of its most unique and highly crafted trails. It’s only appropriate that this trail, named for one who donated the first lands that were to become Acadia, is preserved, maintained, and open for all to enjoy.

Keith Johnston is a trail crew supervisor at Acadia National Park. He has worked on Acadia’s trails since 1990.
The Friends of Acadia 13th Annual Benefit Gala, held August 10 at Wildwood Stables, took in $235,000 in winning bids, ticket sales, cash donations and sponsorships.

“This is a wonderful financial result, especially in difficult economic times,” said Dianna K. Emory, chairman of Friends of Acadia, the Bar Harbor-based philanthropy and advocacy organization. “People participated with great spirit. We are so grateful for their outstanding support of our mission.”

More than 300 invited guests mingled under spacious tents in the pleasantly cool evening, alternately conversing and bidding competitively for 77 silent-auction items, and enjoying food and cocktails. The action then moved to live bids in a unique setting suggesting a pointillist celestial scene of pendent stars above an Acadian grove. The lighted native trees were reminiscent of a forest scene in Shakespeare’s Midsummer Night’s Dream.

The twelve live-bid items included a week in Cabo San Lucas, which netted $8,500; a painting by Richard Estes, the New York and Maine artist, for $9,000; and four seats in the owner’s suite at Fenway Park at a 2003 Red Sox-Yankees game, donated by Senator George J. Mitchell, honorary trustee of Friends of Acadia and a co-owner of the Red Sox. The offering, which sold for $11,000 in a sizzling round of bids, came with a behind-the-scenes pre-game Fenway tour and a photo of Ted Williams and Mickey Mantle, signed by both sluggers.

The Gala was chaired by Lainie Lincoln, of Northeast Harbor, and managed by an administrative committee that, in addition to Dianna Emory, included Malinda Crain, Dianna Hambleton, Laura Hamilton, Lydia Kimball, Debby Lash, Story Litchfield, Diana Mahaney, Julia Merck, and Lynda Tyson. Fifty-two other volunteers served as well. Terry Sosa and other Friends of Acadia staff assisted.

The underwriting sponsor was Sotheby’s. Atlantic Landscape and Quirk SAAB at Quirk Auto Park donated as Corporate Patrons, and Bar Harbor Banking & Trust, First National Bank, Hinckley Insurance Group, Morgan Stanley, and Union Trust Company were Corporate Friends. More than 200 individuals sponsored the event or underwrote purchases of the native trees for planting along village connector trails and in the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

“This annual event is a charitable undertaking by selfless volunteers and donors,” said Ken Olson, president of Friends of Acadia, adding that the benefit has raised $1.25 million for conservation projects since 1998.

“Our auctions have helped pay for the Island Explorer system, for example,” Olson said, “and the 2002 event will also underwrite conservation and stewardship projects, especially Friends’ continuing role in helping reduce traffic volume on Mount Desert Island. We thank all who enable so much direct protection for Acadia and the surrounding communities.”

If you would like an invitation to the Gala, or have an item to donate, please contact Terry Sosa at terrys@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.
GOOD NEIGHBOR TREES

Friends of Acadia volunteers (left to right) Alan King, Howard Solomon, and Marilyn Wiberley working with ANP botanist Linda Gregory (kneeling).

Trees purchased through the sponsorship of donors to Friends of Acadia's Benefit Gala hit the ground – gently – this past fall. Friends volunteers worked with Acadia National Park staff to plant more than 70 trees along the Great Meadow Loop in Bar Harbor. As time passes, the native trees will provide a shady buffer strip between the village connector trail and the Kebo Valley Club golf course.

Development and management of village connector trails are part of the $13-million Acadia Trails Forever project of Friends and the park. Residents from Bar Harbor, Southwest Harbor, and Town Hill currently are working with Friends to research and plan trails in their communities. For more information, contact Marla Major at 288-3340.

AMERICANS FOR NATIONAL PARKS CAMPAIGN HELP

This fall, Friends of Acadia welcomed College of the Atlantic graduate student Leah Stetson to work on the Americans for National Parks/Acadia full-funding campaign. Leah was one of 12 field organizers contracted by the National Parks Conservation Association. She worked out of the FOA offices with Friends Conservation Director Stephanie Clement. Leah’s duties included raising public awareness of national park funding issues, particularly at Acadia.

Acadia’s recent business plan showed that the park’s operational needs are approximately 53% underfunded by Congress. This translates to a $7.3 million annual operating deficit. Leah organized meetings and sent information to all candidates for the Second District Congressional race, Senate race, and Governor’s race in Maine. She also organized a roundtable discussion about park and environmental issues at College of the Atlantic to follow Take Pride in Acadia Day efforts, and handed out information on college campuses and in the park. Our thanks to Leah for all her good work.
The inaugural Mount Desert Island Marathon, held October 20, 2002, was by all accounts a great success. Organized by Cranberry Islander Gary Allen and other local runners, nearly 400 people—from as far away as Alaska and Japan—finished the hilly 26.2-mile course race. Friends of Acadia was a beneficiary of the race and Friends president Ken Olson set the tone, if not the pace, in his address to the runners before the starting gun.

**Riding Smart**

The Island Explorer bus system had another banner year, with ridership exceeding 281,000 passengers. This represents a 107% increase over the first year’s ridership and an 18% increase over last year. New to the buses this year was an information technology system that included geo-locating devices, automatic passenger counters, automated stop announcements on the buses, and electronic departure signs at the Bar Harbor Village Green and Hulls Cove Visitor Center.

Friends of Acadia continues to participate in all planning and strategy sessions related to the bus system, and most recently secured a $1-million donation from outdoor retailer L.L.Bean to help extend next year’s bus operations into the fall.

### Island Explorer Ridership and Pollution Reduction Statistics 1999–2002

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Days of Operation</th>
<th>Total Ridership</th>
<th>Average Daily Ridership</th>
<th>Increase from Initial Year</th>
<th>Automobile Visits Eliminated¹</th>
<th>Pollutants Reduced³</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>142,260</td>
<td>1,872</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>54,715</td>
<td>4.0 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>193,057</td>
<td>2,609</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>77,223</td>
<td>5.5 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>239,971</td>
<td>3,287</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>79,990</td>
<td>6.8 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>281,142</td>
<td>3,905</td>
<td>107%</td>
<td>104,127</td>
<td>8.1 tons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Totals</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>856,430</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>316,055</td>
<td>24.4 tons</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

¹ Ridership divided by the average group size for the year.

² Nitrogen oxides and volatile organic compounds, which are components of smog; carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide were not included in this figure. Data source: Tracy Perez, Office of Passenger Transportation, Maine Department of Transportation

³ The methods for calculating ridership switched this year from a paper format to an automated passenger counting system associated with a field experiment of transportation technologies in the Park.
L.L. BEAN WORKDAY

Above: L.L. Bean employees spent a day in September with Friends of Acadia working on Acadia National Park carriage roads, cutting brush and raking drainage-ways. Their efforts will reduce erosion from water runoff on these historic roads. Conservation, stewardship, and responsible outdoor recreation have long been L. L. Bean’s focus, and the company’s volunteer efforts followed its extraordinary donation of $1 million to Friends of Acadia for the Island Explorer bus system.

Below: Secretary of the Interior, Gale Norton, took time from National Park Foundation annual meetings to visit the L.L. Bean volunteers, and tour Acadia’s carriage roads. L.L. Bean CEO Chris McCormick (center) and Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson look on.

Acadia
by the numbers

Trails Census 2002

On August 6 and 7, park staff and volunteers counted hikers at 72 trails. Although not considered a scientific study, the results provide a snapshot of trail usage during the most popular hiking season. Hikers counted included those at trails, listed east to west:

- Great Head 476
- Champlain system 1,007
  (w/o Precipice) 388
- Precipice 388
- Dorr Mountain and Sieur de Monts area 439
- Cadillac system 561
- Jordan Pond Loop 594
- South Bubble trails 528
- Pemetic Mountain trails 133
- Sargent system 426
- Acadia Mountain system 539
- Beech Mountain trails 569
- Wonderland 267
- Ship Harbor 401
- Bass Harbor Lighthouse 744
- Western Mountains system 86
- Hikers counted on 50 east-side trails 5,225
- Hikers counted on 22 west-side trails 2,717
- Total hikers counted on 72 trails 7,942

Beaver lodge below Cadillac Cliffs
We are grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their generous support of Friends’ programs and events:

**Trail & Carriage Road Volunteer Crew Leaders**
Bucky and Maureen Brooks
George and Anna Buck
Betsy Champlin
Charles Edwards
Rod Fox
Vesta Kowalski
Bob Sanderson
Julia Schloss
Dee and Howard Solomon

**In Kind Donations**
Tom Blagden cover photographs
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**2002 Benefit Gala**
*Underwriting Sponsor*
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*Operations:*
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Lynne & Allen Wheat  
Diana and William Wister  
Wolf's Crag Sculpture  
Wooden Boat School

**Take Pride in Acadia Day Volunteers**

*Our thanks to the more than 250 volunteers who raked out 12 miles of Acadia National Park carriage road ditches and culverts on Saturday, November 2. This annual volunteer project helps reduce erosion from winter snow runoff and spring rains.*

**Take Pride in Acadia Day Supporters**

Acadia Corporation  
Machias Savings Bank  
Union Trust Company  
Wolf's Crag Sculpture  
Wooden Boat School  
**Other Volunteers**

Ben Beverly  
Nina Gormley  
Mike Hays  
Noreen Hogan  
Harriet Mitchell
Friends’ Accomplishments

January 1, 2002 — December 31, 2002

• Obtained $1-million L.L. Bean grant for Island Explorer propane bus system.
• Co-funded and co-managed 17-bus Island Explorer system, which carried 281,142 passengers, prevented 8.1 tons of toxic emissions. 316,055 vehicles removed from island roads since 1999.
• Leveraged, with Acadia Trails Forever moneys, park entry fees that paid 59 trail crew, who reconstructed the abandoned Homans Path, rehabilitated 6,900 feet of Jordan Pond Trail, reconstructed 2,343 feet of Ship Harbor Trail (adding 1,343 feet of wheelchair accessibility), repaired drainage on 50 trail miles, blazed 12 miles, constructed 1,000 feet of bogwalk on Isle au Haut.
• Contributed $220,000 for park carriage road maintenance — $1,480,000 since 1995.
• Contributed $175,459 to park and communities for trails, other conservation projects — $1,674,247 since 1989.
• Donated wages of 42 in-park workers, about 20% of park’s seasonal workforce, including interns, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Ridge Runners, field crew leaders, carriage road maintainers — up from 16 in 1995.
• Fielded four Ridge Runners and one Recreation Intern, who contacted 994 visitors regarding Leave No Trace principles, constructed 251 cairns, dismantled 496 others, administered 400 visitor surveys, conducted 362 hours of censuses, helped install ecological exclosures at Cadillac, mapped bootleg trails between Sand Beach and Otter Point.
• Contributed 6,300 volunteer hours of trail & carriage road maintenance, which constructed 424 feet of bogwalk and graveled 4,000 feet at Jordan Pond Trail, cleared 6.3 miles of drainage along carriage roads, cleared 11 vistas, marked several miles of park boundary.
• Organized Earth Day clean up — 350 volunteers removed 500 bags of trash from 50 miles of Mount Desert Island and Trenton roadsides.
• Sponsored Take Pride in Acadia Day — 260 volunteers raked 12 miles of Acadia’s carriage roads to reduce erosion from winter runoff and spring rains.
• Initiated multi-year program to create off-island bus hub to relieve congestion by intercepting summer day traffic before it reaches MDI.
• Maintained low five-year fundraising cost per dollar of revenue competitive with the very best in the American conservation movement.
NEGLECTING AMERICA’S BEST IDEA

Will LaPage

Several months ago, I shelved my copy of Acadia’s Business Plan somewhere between outrage and despair. Returning to it last week, and getting beyond the obvious facts that Acadia is not a business and the “Plan” is not really a plan, I experienced something akin to a Eureka Moment.

The Acadia business plan speaks of unfunded mandates in the field of personnel management, totaling $386,859, as one of the many factors driving up the costs of operation. But, what about the original unfunded mandate: “…to leave [the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife] unimpaired for future generations.” In the government world of unfunded mandates, stewardship stands at the end of the line. The epiphany came when I began massaging the figures within Acadia’s 53% budget shortfall, and realized that herein lies the stuff of successful class-action suits.

It turns out that a 47% funding level overall at Acadia is the good news. The bad news is that the very reason for the park’s existence, resource protection, is the lowest funded category at 34% of needs. Acadia’s administration and management, come in at 45% of needs funded; visitor services at 58% and park operations at 65% are veritable “good” news.

For those of us who consider the “unimpaired” mandate akin to a sacred trust, we may have finally reached the trigger point where underfunding and deferrals provoke legal action. If 34% funding of resource protection needs doesn’t get your blood stirring, add in park maintenance at 38% of needs, for a total annual deficit of $3.6 million in the park’s primary mission. Finally, add to this an estimated $36 million in deferred maintenance and it is easy to see how the National Park Service, nationwide, has accrued a deferred maintenance bill of over $6 billion.

Forcing the parks into federal court receivership is not an appealing prospect. But, neither is standing by and watching a 34% level of unimpaired funding dwindle even further. A class-action suit on behalf of generations to come at this time seems less like an extreme action than a case of patience and tolerance lasting too long.

Congress might want to consider declaring a success with its “fee experiment” and start requiring the parks to creatively fund shortfalls in visitor services, while it recommits itself to fully funding the “unimpaired” mandate. If the data in the Acadia business plan is correct, then balancing the books at Acadia is suddenly in the realm of the possible. Full funding of resource protection, maintenance, and park administration would mean an additional $5.7 million in Acadia’s budget (exclusive of the current deferred maintenance). Subtracted from the total shortfall, this leaves only $1.6 million to be creatively generated in support of visitor services and enjoyment. Interestingly, Acadia’s non-appropriated revenue (e.g. concession fees, Friends of Acadia grants, etc.) is reported as $1.76 million. Further, Acadia’s current revenue figure of 30% of its budget can be viewed as a good beginning with 40% of its 2.5 million visitors still not paying a dime. Major additional sources of revenue are currently untapped, such as Cadillac Mountain, and under-tapped such as the Park’s fair share of concessionaire gross income.

David Orr, in Earth in Mind, makes a powerful case that “complete human beings” (and by inference complete human organizations) are those “who know, who care, and who do.” We have known for years, as has the Park Service, that our park assets are being passed on to future generations not only impaired but accompanied by a huge bill for the repairs. For equally as long, we have cared. And that caring has led to massive volunteerism and fundraising for park projects. But, it hasn’t been enough. The underfunding and the deferrals have grown apace with the giving.

Congress underfunds its own unimpaired mandate because it can get away with it. The slumbering stewardship of these sacred sites must stop — by court directive if necessary. Let us challenge the Congress to fully fund the Parks’ future, and collectively and creatively we will fund the present.

Will LaPage, teaches Issues and Ethics of Park Management at the University of Maine. A member of President Reagan’s Commission on Americans Outdoors, he was the director of New Hampshire’s self-funded state parks and historic sites from 1984 to 1994.
**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.
QUESTION:  
What’s the perfect gift for the person who is impossible to shop for?

ANSWER:  
A gift membership in Friends of Acadia!

Share your love of Acadia by giving a special gift membership in Friends of Acadia.  
For a limited time, we’re giving a special gift membership package for only $40.  
Here’s what the recipient will receive:

*The Rusticators’s Journal*, a lovely book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park

* A one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*

* A Friends of Acadia window decal

* A Friends of Acadia lapel pin

* The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park

We will send gift memberships with a card noting that the gift is from you.  
Think of all the people you know who would enjoy being a part of the only nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting Acadia National Park and its surrounding communities!

Yes! I would like to buy a gift membership for:

---

**GIFT RECIPIENT #1**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

Check one:

☐ Winter Special — Individual Membership  $40  
☐ Winter Special — Family Membership  $105

---

**GIFT RECIPIENT #2**

**ADDRESS**

**CITY/STATE/ZIP**

Check one:

☐ Winter Special — Individual Membership  $40  
☐ Winter Special — Family Membership  $105

*Be sure to fill in your name and address on the return envelope.*

*For more information about gift memberships, call Kelly Dickson or Terry Sosa at 800-625-0321 or e-mail: membership@friendsofacadia.org.*
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.