



Friends of
ACADIA

Winter 2003
Volume 8 No.3

Journal

A Magazine of Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

George DeWolfe photo

THE PARK PASS PRESENT

Give the gift of Acadia.

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

The Acadia National Park seven-day (\$10.00) and annual passes (\$20.00) are available this winter at

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Telephone 207-288-3338

Park pass fees make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

photo: Thunder Hole, Park Loop Road

Partners

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



Many species of birds live in the Mount Desert Island area



Acadia FRIENDS OF ACADIA

Island Explorer

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Join us in protecting our national parks.



Jordan Pond and the twin curves of the Bubbles

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



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

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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



MULTIPLYING ACADIA'S REVENUES

In September, I testified before the U.S. Senate in support of a bill to make permanent the National Park Service's fee demonstration program ("fee demo"), which began in 1997. Previously, Acadia National Park sent most visitor fees to Washington and was reimbursed at about 20%. With fee demo, however, the park has retained about 80% of collections, or \$11 million in new money.

The revenues have helped offset the general underfunding of Acadia, which operates on 47 percent of what the park needs annually to satisfy management mandates issued by Congress since 1916. In Friends' view, the fee program must complement, not replace, Congress's basic obligation to appropriate sufficient operating funds. Maine Senators Snowe and Collins and Representatives Allen and Michaud have helped in that quest.

Acadia's fee demo is making possible myriad projects through 2005 — road, campground and trail rehabs, repairs to historic structures, visitor and ranger facilities, and much more.

Beyond 2005, fees will be yet more critical, which is why the program must be made permanent. Preliminary estimates put the replacement cost of the park's 600-plus assets at hundreds of millions and the maintenance backlog at tens of millions. This does not include roads, bridges, or resources other than facilities.

An exciting feature of the Acadia fee program is revenue multiplication. Two recent examples stand out.

One, Friends of Acadia — meaning you, our members — matched \$4 million in park fees with \$9.2 million in private gifts, to fix trails through Acadia Trails Forever. Park users are receiving an immediate 2-for-1 return. As the Friends endowment pays out in perpetuity, the return will multiply. Acadia is the first national park with a privately endowed trail system. Without the fee match, the park and Friends of Acadia could not have launched this history-making project.

The second example of revenue multiplication is the award winning Island Explorer, which has carried 1,195,000 passengers in just five seasons of operation and removed 424,000 vehicles from roads. L. L. Bean's \$1-million grant to Friends of Acadia matches various park fee expenditures for the propane bus system, supplemented by other federal commitments and state, municipal, and business contributions.

Discussing park funding, a veteran Acadia official said, "The fee demo program is the greatest thing we've got." That's because it's reliable, flexible cash, allowing multiyear planning and making possible highest priority improvements that otherwise would await special funding and cost more as a result.

If you want to help ensure that national parks like Acadia continue to benefit from the "user pays" model, please ask your U.S. Senators and Representatives to support S. 1107, the Recreational Fee Authority Act, introduced by Senator Craig Thomas of Wyoming.

Next summer, Acadia's basic entry fee will go from \$10 to \$20, matching those of Yellowstone, Grand Canyon, and Yosemite, for example. By law, the extra \$10 in Acadia fees will fund alternative transportation, i.e., the Island Explorer. This will help move the bus system toward financial sustainability.

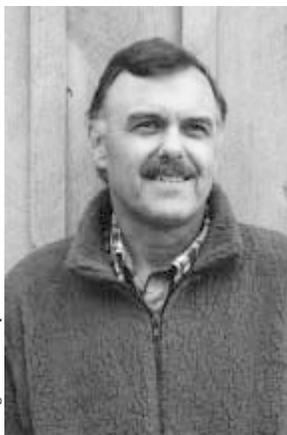
Meanwhile, the park, Friends of Acadia, and partners are working to establish an off-island bus center to intercept day traffic before it reaches Mount Desert Island. You can help the process along by paying the park fee and explaining to visitors that it's required. Twenty dollars is a small sum to pay to help protect the glories of this magnificent national park.

Thank you for supporting Friends of Acadia the revenue-multiplying philanthropy, and Friends of Acadia the policy advocate.

Ken Olson

— W. Kent Olson, *President*

George DeWolfe photo



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TOOLS

Acadia National Park's General Management Plan states that the "Park receives nearly 2.7 million visits annually, with most of that occurring from Memorial Day to Labor Day... on the Mount Desert Island part of the park and visitor use and capacity issues are large and complex. Many people seem to be concerned with the high level of visitation to the park and the effects of this visitation on resources, visitor experiences, park infrastructure, and the quality of life in the local communities."

Managing large numbers of visitors and any resulting negative impacts is a growing challenge for park managers. Managing visitor use is essential to serve the dual National Park Service mission of protecting natural and cultural resources for the long term while making them available for public use and enjoyment. In short, this means eliminating avoidable impacts, reducing the unavoidable ones, and maintaining or enhancing the quality of the visitor experience.

To accomplish these two important goals, park managers have a number of tools to draw upon, including facility design, maintenance, policy formulation, regulations and enforcement, information and education, carrying capacity, and services such as alternative transportation systems (e.g. Island Explorer). No one tool will be the total solution—we will need to draw upon them all to meet our goals of preserving park resources and assuring a quality visitor experience.

Facility design. Design of park facilities can take into account large numbers of visitors and dictate appropriate construction materials to reduce negative impacts. For instance, the boardwalk along the east side of Jordon Pond is designed to accommodate large numbers of people while eliminating negative impacts to wetlands and vegetation.

Maintenance. The amount of maintenance applied to park facilities can reduce or eliminate impacts. People tend to litter less when no litter is present and they care more for facilities that are well maintained. More frequent litter pick up at Cadillac Mountain parking lot and trail this fall resulted in a better appearance (and visitor experience) and likely discouraged additional litter.

Policy formulation. Acadia's General Management Plan, with appropriate public involvement, specifies that "no new parking will be constructed along the Park Loop Road, and no existing parking areas will be expanded...." This is an example of the adoption of park policies to limit the impact of automobiles in certain areas of the park.

Regulations and enforcement. Each spring, park management has instituted a temporary closure on the very popular Precipice Trail to protect nesting Peregrine Falcons on the ledges above. Volunteers and staff tell visitors about the Peregrine's near extinction and provide spotting scopes for viewing the birds in and around the nests. As a result, the falcons are better protected and many visitors now enjoy this rare opportunity to see Peregrines in their natural environment.

Information/education. Acadia uses visitor services staff, literature, exhibits, and the internet to provide basic information to park visitors. Through this information, we can encourage park visitors to enjoy less crowded parts of the park, come at off peak times, or otherwise plan their activities to help us reduce negative impacts and enhance their experience. New exhibits in the Cadillac Mountain Gift Shop address some of the problems associated with large numbers of visitors on Cadillac and encourage users to modify behaviors to reduce human impacts. The Leave No Trace program is another example of an education program used to better protect park resources and the quality of experience for all park visitors.

Carrying Capacities. Research and visitor survey work are underway to better understand resident and visitor uses of the park, their perspectives about congestion and resource impacts, and the degree to which they support alternative management actions to address these issues in specific areas of the park where crowding is a particular problem.

(continued on page 4)



Peter Travers photo

Notes from Friends

Correction

In the last issue, we mistakenly included Father James Gower's name in our "In Memoriam" list. We regret distressing his friends, and are pleased to report that a donation actually was made "in honor" of Father Gower and his very positive influence on Mount Desert Island.

A penny for *someone's* thoughts...

Suggested Annual Membership Categories

\$1,000 Acadia Society \$500 Patron \$250 Contributor \$100 Family \$65 Dual \$35 Individual

Donation amount \$ 1.01 New Member Renewing Member

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Credit card # _____ In honor of: Kew Olsen

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(The Superintendent's View, continued from page 3)

Alternative Transportation System. The Island Explorer is a great example of a new visitor service that can be a major part of the solution to reduce negative impacts of large numbers of vehicles. Reducing the number of automobiles in the park, on the loop road, in parking lots, etc will reduce air pollution, crowding, traffic jams and otherwise protect park resources and enhance visitor experiences. Encouraging more people to use bicycles and connecting trails to enter the park, rather than autos, will also help.

The National Park Service looks forward to working with local communities, visitors, and various interest groups to provide park users with a high quality experience while protecting the resources they come to enjoy. We will need to use all of the available tools and a large measure of cooperation to achieve the best results for all concerned.

Sheridan Steele

— Sheridan Steele, Acadia National Park Superintendent

Friends of ACADIA Journal

A Magazine of Acadia National Park
and Surrounding Communities

Friends of Acadia is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby ensuring a high quality experience for visitors and residents.

The *Journal* is published three times a year. Submissions are welcome.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Otter Cliffs at Sunset

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ACADIA REFLECTIONS

Reflecting on my 35th summer in and around Acadia National Park has left me overflowing with gratitude. This park and island have given our family innumerable hours of recreation and quiet contemplation — runs along the carriage roads in a breaking dawn, cross-country skis up “the Mountain” to gaze down upon a frozen Somes Sound, crisp autumn gallops around the Amphitheatre, sails along the shores of Mt. Desert, Schoodic, or Isle au Haut from where we look back and marvel at all this place bestows upon us. Acadia has challenged our bodies, soothed our minds, lifted our spirits, and contributed to our joy in life.

What has this extraordinary place done for you? Perhaps you would take a moment to reflect on Acadia and how it has enhanced your life. Then close your eyes and recall *your* last experience in the park.

Every day Friends of Acadia works on preserving and protecting all that Acadia and the surrounding communities hold for you. We call this Project Tranquility. Related objectives include:

- d Reducing automobile congestion by establishing an off-island Transit Hub/Visitor Center to intercept day visitors and commuters so they can visit MDI and Acadia National Park on board a low-emission Island Explorer bus. *FOA is the only nonprofit advocacy group working to reduce traffic congestion;*
- d Adding buses to the propane-powered Island Explorer fleet, and extending service into the fall;
- d Helping the park set science-based carrying capacities for motor vehicles;
- d Helping pass stringent national legislation to cut air pollution coming into Acadia from out-of-state power plants to clear up views, preserve biotic resources, and protect human health;
- d Developing, with park staff, a fair entry fee system that increases revenues to protect Acadia's natural and cultural resources;
- d Supplementing park funds for annual maintenance of the carriage roads and trails;
- d Organizing, equipping, and deploying a volunteer maintenance corps;
- d Making grants for community initiatives that complement park values (such as MDI Tomorrow, Village Connector Trails, and the Earth Day Roadside Clean Up);
- d Supporting efforts to control commercial sprawl outside the park;
- d Lobbying Congress to fix Acadia's \$7 million annual budget shortfall.

Direct actions like these require large amounts of staff time and effort. Over the next three years, we estimate that Friends of Acadia will need \$1.2 million for Project Tranquility (\$400,000/year).

Efforts to secure this funding include a challenge grant from a Friends of Acadia trustee to find three other donors who will contribute \$25,000, \$50,000, or even \$100,000 per year for three years, which he will match.

This challenge notwithstanding, I hope you will agree that Project Tranquility is a program worth supporting with an increase in your annual giving. If you are also in a position to contribute to our capital-needs endowment or transit hub land purchase, we would certainly welcome your gift, pledge, or bequest. As a donor incentive, photorealist artist Richard Estes has generously contributed his magnificent painting of a view from Cadillac. Donors of \$25,000 per year or more will be given the opportunity to bid on the painting, which is featured on the back cover of this issue.

Project Tranquility and its initiatives must succeed in order for the quality of experience we all enjoy in and around Acadia to continue. If Friends of Acadia doesn't assume this responsibility — and that includes our members as part of the team — no one will.

Thank you for caring deeply about, and for participating in the protection of, one of the Earth's most magnificent places.

Dianna Emory
— Dianna Emory, Board Chairman



Bethany Savage photo





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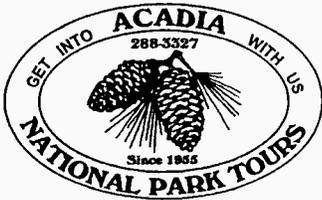
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2004 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize



George DeWolfe photo

Trees along Wonderland Trail

NATURE POETRY COMPETITION

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

— *Kate Barnes, former Maine Poet Laureate*

Submissions are invited to the 2004 *Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize*.
The three poems judged to be best of submissions will be published
in the *Friends of Acadia Journal* (print and online),
and awarded cash prizes by category.

GUIDELINES:

Nature-based poems of 30 lines or fewer, double-spaced.
Include cover sheet stating author's name and address and poem title.

Do not include author's name on manuscript(s).

Submissions are limited to three per author.

Entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted elsewhere.

There is no fee to enter.

Deadline is January 30, 2004.

Send entries to:

Editor

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P.O. Box 45

Bar Harbor, Maine 04609

or editor@friendsofacadia.org

Poems will not be returned.

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WAYS OF GIVING



Dorothy Kerper Monnelly photo

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

Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities

Gifts may be restricted to a designated program or applied to FOA's general purposes.

Gift of Life Insurance

Name FOA as policy owner and beneficiary, and receive immediate tax deductions on your premium payments.

Gift of Property

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

Named Endowment Fund

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

Charitable Remainder Trust / Charitable Lead Trust

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

Bequest

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

*For more information about any of these suggested methods of giving to Friends of Acadia,
please contact us at 207-288-3340.*

FROGTOWN MOUNTAIN PUPPETEERS

What do a bird named “Captain Cutie,” a knight named “Sir Dance-a-lot,” and a sausage that spices up dinner every night by taking a dip in the stew have in common? They are all characters in *Tales from the Nest*, one of the many imaginative puppet shows crafted by the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers – Erik,

Brian, and Robin Torbeck. The Torbecks staged *Tales* twice this summer with a portion of the proceeds directed to Friends of Acadia.

“Our puppet shows have different themes,” said Robin. “Some focus on human characters, and others have more of a nature-based theme. *Tales from the Nest* features three birds just beginning their way in the world, so it seemed like a good match for Friends of Acadia. Brian added, “We like to support local charities, and we all enjoy hiking, biking, and kayaking in and around the Park. It’s one of the main reasons we live here.”

This talented trio of siblings bought a house together and, while the deepest days of winter might find them elsewhere, they have called Hulls Cove home since 1999. They’ve performed puppet shows jointly for three years, although each has performed at various times individually or with one other sibling.

All three Torbecks agreed that the process of creating a puppet show is intense. They estimated that it takes them about three months from conception to the stage production. “We start with the idea for a show and build the characters and script around the idea,” said Erik. “Then we rehearse the show with just our hands to see if the mechanics will work. We only have six hands, and a 14-foot stage to cover, so sometimes we have to adjust character locations and timing. After that, we decide who will take on which character, learn our lines, and perform the show with the puppets.” Erik and Brian are primarily responsible for creating the puppets and set development, while Robin handles booking, financial arrangements, painting, marketing, and props.

Robin is quick to credit the Criterion Theater with enabling the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers to carry on their charitable work. The theater pays the puppeteers for their performances and adds a portion of the concession sales to the Puppeteers’ donation. The Criterion allowed Friends of Acadia to put up a display in the lobby at each of the benefit performances, and Friends’ staff was given the opportunity to speak directly to the audience about the organization.

When asked if they had advice for other donors, Erik replied, “Don’t wait to contribute. Most people wait to start making donations until they feel more financially stable, but we wanted to do something that we enjoy and to give back to the local communities and to Acadia. If we waited to start contributing, there’d always be an excuse, so why not start now?”

Erik, Robin, and Brian, you have contributed greatly not only to Friends of Acadia, but also to the enjoyment of countless Mount Desert Island residents and visitors. We thank you for your wit, creativity, and for your thoughtful generosity.

For information on booking the Frogtown Mountain Puppeteers, contact the Torbecks at frogtownpuppets@hotmail.com or 207-288-0169. — *Stephanie Clement*



Torbeck family photo

Frogtown Puppeteers
Brian, Robin, and Erik Torbeck

Michael Bank

MERCURY AND ACADIA STREAM SALAMANDERS

Mercury is a naturally occurring element in the environment. Sources include volcanoes, geothermal areas, soils, marine salt spray, and forest fires. Inputs to the atmosphere from these natural sources can be significant for localized areas; however, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency reports that an estimated 60%-75% of all mercury emissions are from human sources, mainly from fossil fuel combustion (coal-fired plants) and solid waste incineration. In the United States these human sources emit an estimated 150 tons of mercury annually.

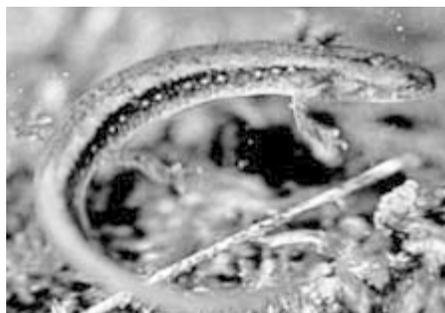
Mercury is emitted into the atmosphere in a gaseous form and can be carried by wind currents far from its original source. The long-range transport potential of pollutants, including mercury, has led to widespread pollution in adjacent environments, and in even the most remote ecosystems. Mercury enters aquatic ecosystems via atmospheric deposition and is biologically and chemically converted to methylmercury, the biologically active form that also is toxic to animals, including humans. Understanding the health effects of mercury is critical to humans, and protecting women and children is of primary importance.

Each year 60,000 children are born at a high risk of adverse neurological effects from mercury exposure. Currently, approximately seven million women (about 8% of American females) have enough mercury in their blood to pose a threat to a developing fetus. Therefore, mercury contamination can be considered to be both a public health and environmental issue creating a strong justification for long-term, broad-scale mercury research and monitoring of watersheds and aquatic ecosystems.

National parks provide great field laboratories for tracking the health of park resources, and serve as important monitor-

ing sites for comparing aquatic ecosystems located adjacent or close to mercury emission sites.

Freshwater ecosystems with high temperatures, acidity, and dissolved organic carbon levels facilitate methylmercury bioaccumulation and biomagnification. This form of mercury can be highly toxic to aquatic organisms, impairing productivity, growth and development, and potentially causing death in some cases. Even in areas that appear pristine and remote or are far removed from emission sources, fish and their long-lived predators commonly have elevated mercury concentrations. Acadia National Park is a perfect example. The park is situated in the extreme northeastern United States and receives deposition of atmospheric mercury, as well as other pollutants, originating from sources far away, including mid-western and northeastern metropolitan areas.



Salamander Larvae

Christopher J. Leary photo

Mercury contamination of amphibians has received little attention despite worldwide population declines. These toxic chemicals may interact synergistically with other stressors such as habitat degradation, UV-B radiation, and global climate change to affect amphibian populations. Because of these population declines, the United States Geological Survey's Amphibian Research and Monitoring Initiative, the Declining Amphibian Population Task Force, the University of

Maine, and the Eastern National Parks and Monuments Association are sponsoring research in both Acadia and Shenandoah National Parks to determine population abundance and mercury concentration levels in two-lined salamanders (*Eurycea bislineata*), an amphibian commonly found in headwater stream ecosystems.

These stream-dwelling salamanders serve as both predators of small invertebrates and as prey for larger animals in stream ecosystems. Unlike their larval counterparts who are strictly aquatic, adult two-lined salamanders are often found at the stream channel edge under partially submerged rocks. Adults breathe through their moist skin and through membranes found in their mouth and throat, whereas larvae rely solely on gills for breathing.

In contrast to vernal pool amphibian species, most stream salamanders have a long, slow-growing larval period of two or more years. This characteristic, in addition to their abundant, stable populations, make stream salamander communities ideal candidates for monitoring water quality and riparian and watershed degradation, especially in areas where fish populations are rare or absent.

The research project was designed to compare mercury contamination and population abundance of two-lined salamanders among streams with different fire histories in Acadia. Streams located in the relatively undisturbed coniferous forests (spruce-fir woodlands) of the park's western sector were surveyed for stream salamanders, as were streams flowing through the birch and aspen dominated stands of northeastern MDI that were burned by the 1947 fire that swept Bar Harbor. By studying streams and conducting chemical analyses of salamanders from the burned and unburned regions of

the park we hope to gain a further understanding of the habitats used by two-lined salamanders and how disturbances from the past influence mercury bioaccumulation and habitat use patterns in this species.

We have found that mercury levels were relatively high considering the small size (<1 gram) and young age (generally 1-2 years) of the larvae that we collected and analyzed. Our data also show that, on average, mercury concentrations in salamander larvae were higher in streams located in unburned watersheds compared to those in watersheds burned by the 1947 Fire, presumably because the fire reduced the amount of mercury available to the animals. We also found that populations were larger in the burned watersheds suggesting that these streams are likely more productive for salamanders, potentially as a result of more food made available by more leaves—a critical energy source for streams—from these deciduous dominated watersheds.



Salamander Adult

Robin E. Jung photo

This project is currently in its final stages, and the investigation's findings have gained considerable attention from both federal and academic scientists. The findings also have persuaded the National Park Service that this species may be a good

eco-indicator for long-term amphibian population monitoring programs, and for evaluating bioaccumulation of mercury in stream ecosystems for northeastern parks where they are found.

Mercury contamination continues to be a daunting challenge for policymakers, natural resource managers, and scientists alike. The mercury pollution issue at Acadia is no exception. Currently it is unknown what the future has in store for air and water quality at Acadia, especially as the Clean Air Act undergoes review for potential changes by policymakers.

Amphibian population declines on a worldwide basis may suggest serious environmental degradation, especially considering that these declines have been shown to be outside natural population fluctuations and appear to be greater than other vertebrate species. Monitoring population trends with regard to the degree and extent of contamination by mercury might aid in evaluating amphibian responses to certain stressors. However, monitoring will only track the degree of the contamination problem. Direct reductions of mercury accumulation in the environment likely depend on improvements in air quality emissions from other regions. This is especially true for areas like Acadia National Park that are highly susceptible to mercury contamination. Sound environmental policies that reduce pollutant emissions must be adopted in order to meet these challenging goals. ♪

Michael Bank is a Ph.D. candidate in the Ecology and Environmental Sciences Program at the University of Maine. He may be reached via electronic mail at Michael_Bank@umit.maine.edu.

THE HEART OF THE MATTER

Saint George killed the last dragon, and he was called a hero for it. I've never seen a dragon, and I wish he would have left at least one. Saint Patrick made a name for himself by running the snakes out of Ireland, leaving the place vulnerable to rodent infestation. This business of making saints out of men who exterminate their fellow creatures has got to stop. All I'm saying is, it's starting to get a little lonely up here at the top of the food chain.

— from *The Big Picture*, by *A. Whitney Brown*,
American comedian and author

The Burning Tree

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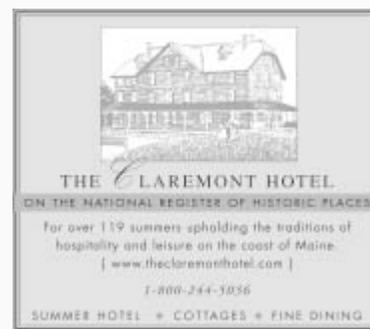
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Stephanie Clement

THE RIDGE RUNNERS OF ACADIA



Cashion family photo

President Bill Clinton, South Africa President Nelson Mandela, and Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton surround Joe Cashion, a 1999 Ridge Runner and 2000 Recreation Intern.

My first assignment when I joined the Friends of Acadia staff in 1997 was to accompany the Ridge Runners on a hike up Acadia Mountain and St. Sauveur to witness the new field program at work. Emily Davis and Dana Gross just about killed me as they sprinted up the steep slopes to maximize visitor contacts before lunchtime. A sandwich and an afternoon back in the office were never so welcomed.

Since that time, it has been my pleasure to hire a new class of Ridge Runners and a Recreation Intern every spring. The Ridge Runners spend time hiking park trails, speaking with visitors about Leave No Trace principles, repairing cairns, handing out water and maps, and conducting trail and carriage road research. The Recreation Intern performs many of those tasks, but also schedules volunteers for park surveys and other recreation management research. The work of these important park stewards is directed by Charlie Jacobi, recreation specialist at Acadia National Park, and funded by generous donors who have endowed the program through Acadia Trails Forever.

Recently, we tracked down twenty of Friends' former Ridge Runners and Recreation Interns to find out about their experi-

ences post-internship. These talented former employees have taken diverse career paths, ranging from biomedical research to backcountry education.

Several have initiated careers with the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service. Chris Bishop is working as a recreation and trails technician for the Davy Crockett National Forest in Texas, and Brian Malone has just returned to Maine after working seasonally as a dispatcher at Denali National Park. Tara Jeffers spent two summers on Acadia's trail crew and joined



1998 Ridge Runners at Schoodic. Left to right: Josh Fogg, Cammee Campbell, Christy Nuss, and Becca Edson.

Yellowstone National Park's trail crew this season. Christy Nuss also e-mailed that she worked as a wilderness ranger at the Pike

San Isabel National Forest in Colorado after taking several environmental education positions in New Hampshire and Maine.

Others are also involved in public service, although not dedicated specifically to natural resources management. Matt Barrett wrote from Washington, D.C. where he is Communications Coordinator for Congressman Kleckza, an 11th term Congressman from Wisconsin. Joe Cashion was fortunate to land a job with President Clinton's office in New York City.

Many former Ridge Runners and Recreation Interns have continued their career paths with non-profit organizations. Josh Fogg recently served as a hut caretaker, naturalist, and backcountry education assistant with the Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC), where he met up with Alex DeLucia who was working as an AMC backcountry trail crew leader and coordinator of volunteer trail crew projects. Alex led the AMC work team that assisted Friends of Acadia in constructing the Great Meadow Loop. Petra Koppova, who volunteered with the Ridge Runners for a summer, wrote that she is now director of an environmental education center in her native country, the Czech Republic. Cammee Campbell completed several

internships with environmental non-profits before taking a job as a research assistant at an educational non-profit in Cambridge, MA.

But perhaps what is most interesting are the employees who find unique niches not directly related to national parks. Jakob Bueche wrote from Southeast Alaska that he has been working on a 58-foot commercial fishing boat in pursuit of salmon. Jim Cavanaugh is also on the West Coast working as a sales representative in Oregon for UnumProvident. Kim Nathane is about to finish her degree at College of the Atlantic where she has been studying Buddhism and women's rights issues in India. Becca Edson is with an architecture firm in Brooklyn, NY and is designing an environmentally friendly retirement home for her parents on Mount Desert Island (MDI). Tim Foley conducted air quality testing around the country for an environmental firm and ran the inaugural MDI Marathon in 2002. Brian Hiester has



1999 Ridge Runner, Brian Hiester, cleans trash from Baker Island.

been studying Alzheimer's disease as a research assistant in Boston and at the University of Colorado. Stewart Strawbridge spent several years working in marketing and investment relations for a biotechnology firm and is now working in Pennsylvania as an Equity Analyst for Acorn Capital Management. Alex Wilke has dedicated herself to field ornithology and is researching American Oystercatchers to complete her masters degree program at the College of William and Mary.

What's clear from many of the responses I received from former Ridge Runners and Recreation Interns is that they all enjoyed their time in Acadia and have maintained a passion for outdoor activities. Becca Edson



Scott Pierce, a 2002-2003 Ridge Runner, adds the "pointer rock" to a Bates cairn in the park.

wrote, "I returned to school that fall [after the internship] feeling really confident and in touch with the outdoor side of me that makes me so happy." Others, such as Petra Koppova, Matt Barrett, and Alex DeLucia, took time to tour other national parks and rock climb, hike, and learn about how other parks operate.

Besides simply reconnecting with former Friends, it was extremely rewarding to hear that everyone found their Acadia experiences valuable to their lives and careers. Tara Jeffers credited her Ridge Runner experience with giving her a "foot in the door" with the National Park Service, and Brian Malone said that the internships FOA offers are important as "hands-on" experiences for students in the parks and recreation field. Josh Fogg added that he gained perspective on how parks are operated — everything from visitor interactions, to resource management, to politics.

Alex DeLucia summarized his experience, "My job as a Ridge Runner with Friends of Acadia prepared me for nearly everything I have been doing since then... [it] gave me a foundation in trail work skills, visitor services, and interconnections with the National Park Service and Friends of Acadia, which I have been proud to utilize since then. No matter where I go, I seem to always fall back to Acadia. That is a connection I hope never to lose."

Alex, we hope that you never lose that, too — that's the stuff of lifelong Friends. Many thanks to all who have participated in and supported the Ridge Runner and Recreation Internship programs. We wish all our former interns continued success. 

Ridge Runners and Recreation Interns

Class of 1996

Britta Hiester

Class of 1997

Jim Cavanaugh

Emily Davis

Dana Gross

Stewart Strawbridge

Alex Wilke

Class of 1998

Cammee Campbell

Peter Diachun

Becca Edson

Josh Fogg

Christy Nuss

Class of 1999

Joe Cashion

Ali Davis

Molly Dodge

Tim Foley

Brian Hiester

Christy Nuss

Class of 2000

Chris Bishop

Joe Cashion

Lindsey Cotter

Alex DeLucia

Tara Jeffers

Petra Koppova

Class of 2001

Matt Barrett

Jakob Bueche

Lindsay Madeira

Brian Malone

Kim Nathane

Class of 2002

Mike Daubenspeck

Brian Malone

Scott Pierce

Patti Reidman

Kate Tanski

Class of 2003

Will Dominie

Lyrica Hammann

Don Lenahan

Scott Pierce

Max Coolidge-Gillmor

ST. CROIX, 1604

For John J. Pullen, 1913–2003

The colony at St. Croix Island, led by Pierre du Gua, sieur de Monts, and Samuel de Champlain, was the first attempt since the Vikings at permanent European settlement north of Florida. In 1604, two ships brought 79 men — nobles, artisans, priests, sailors, and servants who intended to build a new life in a new world. Coming from the overcrowded and increasingly polluted conditions of the cities of 17th century Europe, arriving in Acadia in the summer must have seemed like entering Paradise. “This was June,” writes Dorothy Simpson, in *The Maine Islands in Story and Legend* (1960), “the sun was warm, the sea was blue, the views enchanting. Men must have talked among themselves of sending for their wives and children, of beginning a new life far more abundant than anything they had known in crowded France.”

Plans for the colony seemed too good to be true. This wonderful place, supreme in its beauty and excellent in its strategic location, might have become the political and commercial center of New France, but the promising colony never became a permanent settlement; it was destroyed in its first year by a powerful enemy. While the colonists were on good terms with the Indians and safely hidden from attack by the English, they did not suspect nor prepare for an attack by one of the most deadly forces in North America — winter.

The summer treated the colonists well as they went about the chores of daily life in the new world. During that first season they planted the seeds of a town. They put up simple dwellings with timber they brought from France, and made plans for agriculture and trade. The settlement plans were elaborate and called for a bakery, a foundry, and all manner of shops and houses. The island afforded the colonists a safe place to live, but they depended upon the bounty



Illustration courtesy of the National Park Service

of the riverbanks for their livelihood. As there was no good source of fresh water on the island, they collected water from a spring on one of the riverbanks. The island’s soil was sandy and ill-suited for growing crops, so they grew their crops on the mainland.

The winter of 1604 struck early, and hard. Snow fell in late October. That winter on St. Croix Island was hard and long. All told 35 men died, many others became ill, and only 11 remained in good health. Their regular errands on the mainland proved unpleasant and increasingly dangerous as the weather turned colder. On the very coldest days of the season, the river froze over. To their horror, the colonists found that the soft salt ice did not support the weight of a man nor yield to the wake of a canoe. They were trapped on the island, barred from their only source of fresh water, and left with nothing to drink but melted snow.

Cold entered every part of their lives. Anything that could freeze did, including their supply of cider, which had to be served as a meal in a one-pound block. Lack

of exercise and poor nutrition led to scurvy, the main cause of death for the majority who perished that winter. The tragedy of those who died reminds us of the power of nature to alter the course of men’s lives and ultimately the course of history.

After the terrible winter at St. Croix, the remaining colonists moved their settlement south across the bay of Fundy to Port Royal, where they spent the next two years. Port Royal, however, was more open to attack by the English than the protected and hidden St. Croix Island. Had the colony at St. Croix been successful, perhaps the English would have had a harder time driving out the French in the late 17th century. One can only speculate as to what the maps would look like today had the French fortified the mouth of the St. Croix River.

St. Croix Island will be remembered in 2004 for events of 400 years ago. May we remember this place as a landmark, a place where the history of Acadia could be said to have begun.

Max Coolidge-Gillmor is a student at College of the Atlantic.

THE OSPREY

Roxana Robinson

I've been coming to Mount Desert Island with my family for over twenty-five years. My mother and my grandmother spent time near here in the 1930s, and my husband came up here as a boy. We're drawn to this place by the wooded mountains, the granite cliffs, the icy waters, the silence, and the clear, pellucid light....

Down by the cove, late afternoon, low tide. This tidal cove is ringed by sea grass, pink granite boulders, and dark firs. The cove is small and secluded, with a shallow mud bottom. It's dead low tide now, but the water is moving. Tidal water is always moving, there is never a moment of stillness, equilibrium. There's always a tiny trickle of glitter, threading its way across the flats.

The tide has just turned, and the water is slowly filling up the cove, moving in across the flats and forming wide shallow pools. Erratic jets of water shoot up suddenly and sporadically from the mud, in syncopated rhythms: buried clams, feeling suddenly festive, or greedy, or who knows what.

An osprey comes in, flying low over the water. They like low tide better than high: the prey is visible, and close to the surface. This one flaps up to the top of a dead tree on the far side of the cove. Ospreys flap their wings more often than gulls do. They have shorter necks, and they look down as they fly. This means that gulls, those loud, common scavengers of offal, actually are more stately in flight, with their long necks, high heads, and slow, majestic movements.

The osprey (male, I think) settles onto the dead tree at the mouth of the cove. The tree is tall and silvery, stripped of all its bark. It shines in the afternoon light, and it makes a perfect camouflage for the osprey, whose white chest looks like the tree, and whose dark back blends into the dark firs behind him.



Bar Harbor Times photo

The osprey spreads his wings, revealing the pale undersides, showing off. He closes them again and settles down, moving about on his perch. He looks around at the cove, on the alert. He shifts from foot to foot, then suddenly leans forward, raising his tail high and releasing a white liquid ribbon from beneath it, which slides down through the dark air.

The osprey looks about boldly, his head now high. His eyes are fierce and piratical, with low intolerant brows. On his cheek is a black racing stripe. His chest is white, his wings and back mottled black. He lowers his head, reaching down to the branch he's on. The top of his head is patterned with two white diamonds, side by side, meeting

at the middle, surrounded by black. Very elegant, and rather Venetian. He's got something there, on the branch, or held in his claws. His head lowers to it, and then his head twists, neatly and precisely, as though he were opening a bottle. He raises his head again, looks around, then lowers it for another neat, ruthless swivel. There's something at his feet, though it's too far away to make out—something mauled and bloody. The osprey sits still, lowering his dominoed head for another twist, then raising it again to survey his territory with a fierce stare.

In the cove below, the water moves silently, swirling in on the incoming tide, deepening the pools. A huge dragonfly, backlit by the lowering sun, rises suddenly and swiftly over the water, then wheels, drops again, and vanishes into the glowing transparent darkness.



Caitlin Tunney photo, courtesy of the Mount Desert Islander

Roxana Robinson is the author of six books, most recently the novel *Sweetwater*, from Random House. Her fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper's*, and *Best American Short Stories*. She has received fellowships from the NEA, the MacDowell Colony, and the Guggenheim Foundation. She often sets her fiction on Mount Desert Island.

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THE ROAD TO SCHOODIC

Photos from Acadia National Park Archives



*Before and after road construction, looking north along the section of park loop road
near the southern tip of Schoodic Point, 1935. Schoodic Naval Station was built in woods at left.*

ONE MILLION AND COUNTING

When the Island Explorer began service five summers ago, planners had hoped that the system would carry an average of a thousand passengers per day. Within the first week of operations that year the bus system had readily surpassed that goal, and the growth has not stopped since.

Fall Service — The 2003 Island Explorer operating season came to a close on Columbus Day, October 13th. Total ridership reached 340,336 — a 21% increase over 2002 figures. Much of this increase was due to fall service, which was offered for the first time after Labor Day thanks to a \$1 million grant to Friends of Acadia from outdoor retailer L.L.Bean.

“We were extremely pleased with ridership this year, and are thankful for the partnership with L.L.Bean,” remarked Ken Olson, President of Friends of Acadia. “Bean’s support of the Island Explorer not only kept additional polluting automobiles from Acadia’s roads through the fall, but also reached millions of people with park stewardship messages on the buses, at the Bar Harbor Village Green information center, and in the L.L.Bean catalogues.”

Visitor Response — Visitors also applauded L.L.Bean for its support of Friends of Acadia and the Island Explorer. In the August 2003 passenger survey, Island Explorer riders were asked to comment upon the L.L.Bean partnership. Most visitors offered general thanks and congratulations to the company, and one survey respondent from North Carolina labeled L.L.Bean as “a model for more ethical corporate behavior.”

Riders were also asked to express their thoughts generally about Island Explorer service. Once again, the comments were very positive. A citizen from Ohio remarked, “Great idea. Parks can be used to introduce many Americans to good public transportation. May grow nationwide in many communities.” A resident from California

added, “Transportation system very well conceived and executed. I live in a resort area, North Lake Tahoe, and the Island Explorer puts our system to shame.”

In addition to these supportive comments, the Island Explorer partners also received constructive comments. Many people called for more frequent bus service, expansion of the service area, and other improvements, such as additional bike racks. A visitor from New Hampshire succinctly stated, “Increase frequency to lower the number of people standing like sardines.”

The sardine comment is not unexpected, given that Island Explorer ridership through Labor Day was up 5% over last year, despite no increase in equipment. Recreational park visits were down by approximately 5% over the same time period. As word spreads about the convenience of the bus system, additional residents and visitors are showing interest.



Dianna Emory (left), Friends of Acadia Board Chair, greets millionth passengers.

Millionth Passenger — In July of this summer, the Island Explorer passed a major milestone when the Jenni and Crump families from Montana and the Taft family from Washington, D.C. were named the bus system’s millionth passengers. The group was

visiting relatives on the Schoodic Peninsula and had taken the ferry from Winter Harbor to connect with the Island Explorer for a day together on Mount Desert Island. The travelers were greeted at the Bar Harbor Village Green by Friends of Acadia President Ken Olson, Board Chairperson Dianna Emory, Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele, and representatives from the Maine Department of Transportation, the Acadia Corporation, Downeast Transportation, the press, and visiting public. The Jennis, Crumps, and Tafts were presented with gift memberships to Friends of Acadia, dinner at the Jordan Pond House, and a \$250 gift certificate from L.L.Bean.

Schoodic Service — The millionth passengers were not alone in traveling back and forth between Bar Harbor and the Schoodic Peninsula without use of individual automobiles. Over 1,900 passengers rode the newest Island Explorer route, a loop through Winter Harbor, Prospect Harbor, and the Schoodic portion of Acadia National Park. Friends of Acadia contributed \$1,000 to Downeast Transportation to help cover operating costs associated with this experimental route. The bus stop at the Winter Harbor terminus of the private ferry to Bar Harbor was the most popular stop, followed closely by Schoodic Point in the park. Planners will evaluate the effectiveness of this experimental route over the winter.

The success of the Island Explorer has demonstrated that vacationers are willing to leave their cars behind if convenient, clean, and free alternative transportation is provided. As the passenger population multiplies, the challenge for Island Explorer planners is to meet the demand, grow financial and capital resources, and continue to plan for the future. Stay tuned for Phase 3 of the bus system, including an off-island transit hub and visitor center. 

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STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEERS



Volunteers spread gravel at Jordan Pond.

We can't let the year close without saying thank you to the more than 2,000 volunteers who contributed 7,600 hours to the upkeep of Acadia. Among their many accomplishments, volunteers: • *cleaned* drainages and *removed* vegetation from more than 21 miles of carriage roads, • *cut back* vegetation on more than 10 miles of trail, • *built* 440 feet of new bogwalk (an all-time volunteer record), • *removed* over five tons of scrap material from work sites, • *graveled* 150 feet of wheelchair accessible trail, and • *maintained* cairns on Cadillac and Penobscot Mountain trails.



It takes many hands (and rakes) to prepare the carriage roads for winter.

Elizabeth Weston photo

TAKING PRIDE IN ACADIA

The first Saturday of this past November more than 300 volunteers gathered for Take Pride in Acadia Day, and raked 15 miles of Acadia's carriage roads, clearing the drainages to reduce erosion from winter snow and spring runoff. Their efforts provide tangible benefits to the park, and to all who enjoy the carriage roads.

Take Pride in Acadia Day is sponsored by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park with support from local businesses and individuals. See page 20 for a complete list of our Take Pride in Acadia Day sponsors.



Peter Travers photo

Crystal Hall, from Bar Harbor, enjoys the view from the Jordan Pond shore on the newly accessible trail.

A TRAIL FOR ALL

New opportunities exist for visitors in wheelchairs to experience the splendor of Jordan Pond and the surrounding mountains. With funding from Acadia Trails Forever, the Island Foundation, and the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, park trail crew and volunteers are reconstructing sections of the Jordan Pond Trail to provide trail loops that are easily accessible for the first time to visitors with physical disabilities. When completed next year, the accessible trails will provide routes from the Jordan Pond House to the pond, the nature trail, and Jordan Pond's north parking lot.

Book Review

THE NATURE OF PLACE

Frankie's Place: A Love Story

by Jim Sterba

Published by Grove Press, New York, 2003

273 pages, \$23, hardbound

Frankie is Frances FitzGerald, winner of a Pulitzer Prize and a National Book Award for *Fire in the Lake*. Her place is a rustic cottage on Somes Sound. Her husband, Jim Sterba (a *Wall Street Journal* reporter), loves Frankie, the cabin, and Mount Desert Island, and his affectionate memoir celebrates all three. It's a charming story of mushroom hunts, skinny dips, weather watching, writing, and inventive cooking. The book plumbs questions of friendship, family, social class, the meaning of summer idylls, and the most ethical means to battle house mice. An old-style camp in an upscaling community, Frankie's place seems an anachronism. That's part of the warmth of this felicitous tribute to retained values amid change that's rushing in like a storm off the Sound. —*Arnica Mollis*

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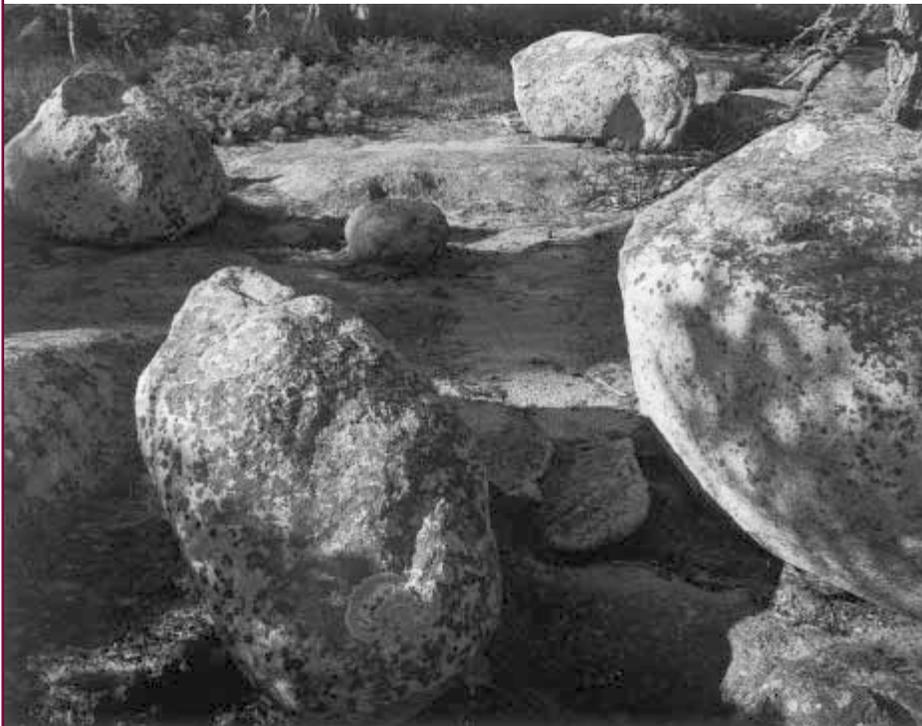
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ACADIA FOREVER



Rock Circle, St. Sauveur Mountain

George DeWolfe photo

Put Friends of Acadia in Your Will

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.

Please call us at 207-288-3340 for more information.

This poem is based on the legend of the 1740 shipwreck of the passenger ship *Grand Design*, which ran aground in a storm near Seawall and Ship Harbor on the southwestern corner of Mount Desert Island. Of the more than 200 passengers that made it ashore, only six survived the harsh winter.

THE WRECK OF THE GRAND DESIGN

From Dublin they sailed aboard the Grand Design,
a mass of Scotch-Irish,
a people born in Scotland and on a journey,
with their bonnets and their fiddles,
boots wet with Ireland,
clothes damp from the Atlantic air.

They were bound for Philadelphia,
as most had kin already in Pennsylvania,
who would wait patiently
for a ship that never came.

*At this place
green fir trees cut a jagged outline against
a sky filled with north Atlantic clarity,
an outline so pronounced
that you could take the trees away
and the sky would stay put,
not daring to fill the space
the trees left behind.*

Weeks into the voyage
a great storm rose up,
and they lost their bearings,
or were called ashore,
either way, the ship met its fate
that October day
as it crashed on the rocks
of this place.

Most of the passengers survived
but shivered out of the water
onto a shore that was equally cold
and provided no shelter, no food,
and soon most were dying.
A group of them left, looking for help,
and were never heard from again.
Only six survived the winter.

That's what happened here.

*At this place
where there is a break in the trees
you see the rocks, not your everyday rocks,
but what must be the very royalty of rocks,
sitting there together, enjoying a view
that they made their own a long time ago,
a view we share only because they let us.*

So this is our world,
today someone's ship is wrecked,
tomorrow someone has a picnic
on the same beautiful coastline,
eventually no trace remains
of either.

*At this place,
beyond the rocks, an ocean
you don't have to touch to know is cold,
and blue as another sky,
as if you could pull and stretch the sky
over the parts of the earth you didn't like.*

Maybe we should assume this is true
of wherever we stand,
that at every place something terrible
and something wonderful
has happened, or will happen,

and every place,
if you give it enough time,
can speak to you about both.

*At this place,
the ocean and the rocks,
friends, enemies, who knows,
keep colliding in an endless white spray,
and the sound that white spray makes
is heard everywhere.*

—Douglas M. Bill

Douglas M. Bill lives in Pittsburgh and works as a computer programmer. He writes poetry and short fiction, and travels to MDI whenever possible. His poetry has been published in *Poetry Motel*.



Friends of Acadia

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.



Cadillac Mountain from Schoodic Point

George DeWolfe photo

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 membership in Friends of Acadia to a friend or relative. A special gift membership package is available for \$40 during the holiday season. The recipient will receive:

- An attractive card bearing a message of your choice
- A one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal* (three issues)
- A Friends of Acadia window decal
- A map of Acadia National Park
- *The Rusticator's Journal*, a lovely book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park

Family memberships that include Friends of Acadia baseball caps are also available for \$100.

To participate in this offer, call Friends of Acadia at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321.

Snowy morning, Wonderland

5th Annual

EARTH DAY ROADSIDE CLEAN UP



Saturday, April 24, 2004
9:00 am — 12:00 pm

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

There are rewards...

- d Fame for collecting lots of unique and disgusting trash,
- d Fun outdoors on a spring morning, making your community better,
- d Free t-shirts,

And you never know what you'll find!

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

*This volunteer project is sponsored by
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Friends of Acadia



View from Cadillac, a painting by Richard Estes (see page 5).

Mission

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.