Purchase Your Park Pass!

Whether walking, driving, or skiing through the park, all must pay the entrance fee. The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) and $40 annual pass are available at the following locations in Maine:

YEAR-ROUND
ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS
(on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

MAY – NOVEMBER
HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER
SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION
ISLAND EXPLORER/ACADIA NATIONAL PARK
INFORMATION CENTER
SEAWALL CAMPGROUND
BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND

Park pass fees make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

Partners

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

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

Acadia National Park with approximately 35,000 acres, includes 41 miles of coastline, 16 islands, more than 200 species of birds, and numerous historic buildings and trails. Join us in protecting our national parks.

Acadia National Park

Preserve

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

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

Participate

Buy a park pass
Your contribution helps:
• rebuild trails and carriage roads
• protect natural and cultural resources
• support the fare-free Island Explorer

Acadia’s coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking and kayaking.
KEEPING ONE’S HEART: A SHORT MEDITATION ON GENEROSITY

In world-scale events, the year 2005 was worse than the cruelest April. People suffered hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, suicide bombings, wars, insurgencies. Fortunately, the misery toll has called forth record outpourings of charity, as with 9/11 and other wholesale tragedies. Philanthropy, which means “love of humankind generally,” continuously affirms the best of human character.

We have also witnessed generosity’s opposite — venality and epic greed — particularly in the business and government sectors. “The world is too much with us; late and soon, / Getting and spending, we lay waste our powers,” Wordsworth wrote. “Little we see in Nature that is ours; / We have given our hearts away, a sordid boon!” Which is to say you can’t function in a charitable enterprise like Friends of Acadia unless you are a natural optimist.

Our staff and board see generosity every day in the form of monetary gifts and volunteerism. This is all the more remarkable because we sell nothing tangible. Friends sells an idea: “Help us protect an asset you can’t take home.” Yes, you receive a journal that explains how your donations are used, gins you up with beautiful photographs, and reminds you of the outstanding resources at stake in Acadia. But we send few gewgaws or fancy premiums, and no stock certificates. Mostly we send more funding requests. Yet you give.

From thirty-one years in nonprofits, I have learned that a person’s impulse to contribute involves fine subsurface calibrations. When awful things happen globally or domestically that knock you dumb, the charitable impulse goes for stability, like roiled water finding its place of natural repose. Thus an ordinary individual answers colossal tragedy with immediate giving from a modest pool of resources, but the same person calmly remembers the claim of the future. In conservation, such generosity extends a public land and water legacy left by prior foresight.

In his book How Good People Make Tough Choices (1995), ethicist Rushworth M. Kidder, founder of The Institute for Global Ethics, in Camden, Maine, wrote: “No other species is gifted with such capacity for rational foresight and long-range planning. To defer immediate gratification for the sake of offspring we will never see is an intensely human act: To plant oaks beside your house on the frontier, knowing that a century later they will shade your great-grandchildren, is to show conscious respect for an environmental future in ways no other species can.” If all philanthropy were drawn urgently and massively to humanity’s greatest single need until that need was utterly erased, we’d have a worse world than before. That’s because problems don’t queue up in serial fashion, one solved, ten thousand to go. The ten thousand would fester and multiply. So ethics cannot be serial, either. The brainwaves that drive charitable impulse are always multi-tasking the issues, calculating a rapid response to mercy missions while not forsaking longer-haul causes. That is charity’s three-point equilibrium: a donor recognizes the abject suffering of people in crisis, the wisdom to keep self-enrichment from becoming overweening, and the value of social investments that may not be repaid in one’s lifetime except as psychic income. Giving is a means by which one remains rooted, balanced, and full hearted on a planet that sometimes seems to have no stable axis.

Despite the upheavals of 2005 that might reasonably have called your generosity completely away from Friends of Acadia, you — our members, donors, and volunteers — have kept us within your charitable compass, to the benefit of a magnificent national park. All of us here thank you. You exemplify the optimism of Kidder’s words: “Conservation…is not simply a luxury we can overlook if we choose. It is part and parcel of our very humanity.” You see much in nature that is yours, and much that belongs to unknown others.

— W. Kent Olson
FEATURE ARTICLES

6 Acadia's Elusive Creatures
Ginny Reams

Biologists study the status of Acadia’s amphibians and reptiles.

7 Why I Live Here
Gunnar Hansen

A Maine author reflects on the power of community.

8 Six Years into Forever
Marla S. O’Byrne

Acadia Trails Forever has enabled impressive accomplishments on park and community trails.

11 The Compleat Catalogue
Ginny Reams

Updating a century-old classic study of Acadia’s plants.

“ACADIA IN AUTUMN” FROM NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ACTIVITIES/HIGHLIGHTS

5 Memorial — Leila Bright

10 Summer Work
Stephanie Clement

18 Updates

21 Book Reviews

DEPARTMENTS

1 President’s Column  Keeping One’s Heart  W. Kent Olson
12 Poem — From: The Wren Notebook II  Rick Smith
13 Superintendent’s View  Future Visitors: Will There Be Any?  Sheridan Steele
14 Special People  Harriette Mitchell and Janet Anker  Terry Begley
23 Friends of Schoodic  Schoodic Education and Research Center  Garry Levin
24 Chairman’s Letter  Lessons Learned  Dianna Emory
It appears that Acadia National Park’s 2005 visitation numbers will be down 5% from 2004. This decrease follows a 9% reduction in 2004 compared to 2003. What is going on here? Is this a trend or a short-term reaction to gasoline prices, weather, concerns over national security, or some unknown factor? Or is it a change in where people are going or how they utilize their leisure time?

I recently read that the 18- to 28-year-old population spends on average 44 hours per week using electronic media — including computer games, instant messaging, MP3 players, and other electronic gadgetry — in non-work hours. If true, that could be up to 44 hours that they are not enjoying the outdoors, i.e., parks. I say “could be” because these activities are not always mutually exclusive — I have seen people on the carriage roads listening to their headsets — but they often are.

When I was that age, I spent a significant portion of my free time camping, canoeing, or otherwise enjoying outdoor pursuits. In my younger years, I remember spending many hours playing in the woods or along the creek near our house. It was always a special treat to find a salamander or other critter in its natural environment. I am sure that these early experiences shaped my interest in the value of preserved lands.

Some people believe that at least some national parks have too many visitors, and therefore a decline in visitation may be welcome. I am not one of them. I might agree that there are sometimes too many people in the same place at the same time, but in general I want more Americans to enjoy and appreciate their national parks. I would rather focus on accomplishing the dual mission of the parks (preservation and use) while accommodating larger numbers of visitors. Therefore, rather than limiting visitors, I believe we should concentrate on minimizing the negative impacts on park resources from those visitors, and we should also work to maintain a high quality experience for all who come. This is why park managers spend enormous amounts of time managing people and seeking ways to accommodate both use and preservation. At Acadia, we have park regulations, visitor orientation and education, ranger-guided programs, signs and fencing, the Island Explorer, and many other means to channel visitor use in ways that will reduce impacts and improve the overall visitor experience.

We also are conducting research in the park to look at crowding issues and related visitor perceptions.

The future of the national parks, at least the public support for them, may depend on how today’s youth come to view the vast array of natural and cultural resources that make up our collective heritage. My love for the national parks is a direct result of early family travels to many of the national parks in the west. I met a visitor recently who learned to experience nature by going on a three-day backpacking trip with a national park ranger as part of an official park program that taught her skills and fostered an appreciation for our National Park System. She told me that this began a lifelong love of the outdoors. I doubt similar opportunities exist today, as education and interpretation staff in the parks has declined. We need to find other ways to introduce youth to the important values associated with national parks.

At Acadia, despite our best efforts, the number of ranger-presented programs is declining. The Junior Ranger program, summer family programs, Acadia Ridge Runners, Student Conservation Association, and Schoodic Education Adventure (for grades 5 – 8) are all very important efforts to serve youth and build future support for these national treasures. Having parks well preserved but not enjoyed by people would only accomplish part of our mission, which over the long term would also raise doubt about our ability to accomplish even that one part. If fewer and fewer people use the parks, it is doubtful the National Park System will survive a second hundred years.

“The future of the national parks, at least the public support for them, may depend on how today’s youth come to view the vast array of natural and cultural resources that make up our collective heritage.”

— Sheridan Steele
Acadia Advocacy Primer
I spent two weeks this [past] summer visiting Yellowstone Park and the Grand Tetons. I summer in Northeast Harbor and use the park trails almost every day. I am a huge fan of the National Park System and fret over its budgetary problems. Therefore, I was very interested in the articles in the summer issue [2005] of your Journal that addressed Acadia’s budget situation. I would like to know what I can do to help get more money to the Parks through government funding....The “President’s Column” and “Superintendent’s View” gave me useful information. How can I use it?

— Caren Sturges
New Jersey and Maine

Stephanie Clement, FOA conservation director, responds: Friends has established the Acadia Advocacy Network, a group of self-identified volunteers who are interested in lobbying for Acadia’s needs, fighting threats to the Park, or participating in planning sessions. We send occasional email alerts to the Network participants about opportunities to weigh in on behalf of Acadia.... To join, send an email to stephanie@friendsofacadia.org with the words “Subscribe Advocacy Network” in the subject line.

We also welcome your letters and phone calls during the annual appropriations process in Congress. The President’s budget is usually released early in the calendar year, so it’s best to write letters of support for increased appropriations at Acadia to him during the fall. It might also help to copy Fran Mainella, National Park Service director, and Gale Norton, Secretary of the Interior.

Usually by February or March we know more specific details on the President’s budget, and we write or visit the Maine Congressional delegation with Acadia’s needs. Fortunately, Maine’s delegation has been very supportive of Acadia (even under tight budgetary constraints). I’m sure they would appreciate hearing your thanks and your interest in increased funding for Acadia.

National Parks Conservation Association has an activist network, as well, that would keep you informed about national issues facing various parks. You can sign up on their web page at www.npca.org.

Working for Acadia
Each year my wife and I spend a week in Acadia National Park driving the magnificent carriage roads. In exchange for income tax preparation services for family and friends, I have requested that they contribute the fee as a small token of gratitude for our use of the system.

—James H. Vaiz and Eileen M. Peterson
VP Business Services
New Hampshire
LEILA BRIGHT 1921-2005
GIFT IN MEMORY BENEFITS SKIERS

When Acadia Winter Trail Association (AWTA) volunteers groom the park’s many miles of carriage roads for cross-country skiing this winter, they will be backed by a permanent fund to pay for state-of-the-art grooming equipment and supplies, thanks to the family of the late Elizabeth “Leila” Bright of Northeast Harbor.

The Brights have generously created a $255,000 fund to honor Leila Bright. The Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment will fund annual grants to support grooming activities in perpetuity, benefiting Acadia’s winter users for a long time to come.

The fund will underwrite the purchase and maintenance of grooming equipment, fuel, safety training and equipment, volunteer and staff training and support, and other annual and capital needs of cross-country trail grooming in the park. With the additional equipment and program support, volunteers will be able to groom more of the ski routes — including Aunt Betty’s Pond, Eagle Lake, and Witch Hole carriage roads — sooner, taking full advantage of Mount Desert Island’s unpredictable snow season. The family’s inspired idea to remember Leila means that Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteers can continue to care for the ski trails she used and loved.

Leila Bright grew up splitting her time between her family’s homes in Haverford, Pennsylvania and Pretty Marsh. In 1942, she married Stanley Bright Jr. and together they raised their ten children in Rosemont, Pennsylvania, during the school year, and on Islesford for the three summer months. In the 1970s, Mr. and Mrs. Bright moved to the area full-time, living at their home on Islesford and also in Northeast Harbor in later years. Mrs. Bright died at her Northeast Harbor home on May 25.

Regardless of the season, Mrs. Bright loved Acadia. She enjoyed hiking the trails, climbing the mountains, sailing the protected islands, and cross-country skiing on the groomed carriage roads. The family’s gift to Friends of Acadia recognizes her affection for Acadia and especially skiing within the park.

Acadia National Park has a long history of cross-country skiing. Many years ago, a small group of skiers, led by Dr. Robert Massucco, a 2003 Friends of Acadia Excellence in Volunteerism Award winner, started grooming ten miles of carriage roads within the park. Over the years, this group of dedicated volunteers has acquired specialized equipment, increased the number of miles of groomed carriage roads, recruited more groomers to the program, and became known as the Acadia Winter Trails Association, a committee of Friends of Acadia.

In the last several months, Friends and AWTA volunteers have researched and purchased new machines and track setting equipment. In addition, they have recruited new AWTA volunteers to assist with grooming on the Witch Hole, Eagle Lake, and Aunt Betty carriage roads.

Leila’s son James R. Bright said, “I think Mother would be a little embarrassed by this gift but also thrilled that she would not have to recruit someone to break trail for her when she wanted to go around the mountain. Mother skied into her 80s and delighted in ignoring medical advice that maybe she should give it up. I hope others will get half the enjoyment out of the winter trails that she did.”

Friends of Acadia Journal
Research in Acadia

ACADIA’S ELUSIVE CREATURES

When you explore Acadia National Park, some animals are noticeable — deer browsing along the road, squirrels darting through the woods, gulls calling overhead. Others are more subtle. Unless you search for them, you may not see Acadia’s reptiles and amphibians at all — if you do, you’ll probably only see a few individuals. But they are here. A 2001 inventory set out to discover the species found in the park and where they live. In an era where reptile and amphibian species are in decline worldwide due to numerous stressors, it is important for managers of protected areas like Acadia to understand the condition and status of the animals within their boundaries.

From March through September 2001, biologists from the Wildlife Conservation Society and Cape Cod National Seashore used seven different sampling methods, as well as incidental encounters, to locate, identify, and count reptiles and amphibians within park boundaries on Mount Desert Island and Isle au Haut. They found a total of 5,055 individuals within 18 species — eleven amphibian and seven reptile (see sidebar for species list). Eighty-eight percent (nearly 4,500) of these individuals were amphibians.

The inventory provided the first full assessment of amphibian and reptile species and their distribution across park lands in Acadia’s history. Findings from the inventory provided an information baseline that park managers can use in the future to track and evaluate the status and condition of reptile and amphibian species.

The authors were also interested in learning how the findings compared with historical records and research investigations. They found that four species, all reported to be at least moderately common before 1960, were missing. They also found that the range of another species had decreased greatly. The disappearance of the northern leopard frog and the northern dusky salamander is cause for concern. Of equal concern are the few numbers and small range of the American toad, once found in wetlands throughout Mount Desert Island. While there is not enough information at this time to pinpoint the exact cause, multiple pollutant stressors and physical changes to habitat likely have played, and continue to play, a role in the decline of these species.

The disappearance or decline of species since the park was established — particularly in the last few decades — underscores the importance of this baseline information and the need for a monitoring program that tracks reptile and amphibian species and their habitats, as well as potential threats. While many of the stressors are out of Acadia’s control, because their origins are far from Maine (for instance, mercury deposition), a monitoring program would alert park staff to possible problems and help them manage the stressors that are closer to home. In the future, Acadia will be working to develop long-term monitoring protocols as part of the National Park Service Vital Signs Monitoring Program.

“IN AN ERA WHERE REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN SPECIES ARE IN DECLINE WORLDWIDE, IT IS IMPORTANT FOR MANAGERS OF PROTECTED AREAS LIKE ACADIA TO UNDERSTAND THE STATUS OF THE ANIMALS WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES.”

GINNY REAMS is the writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

FOUND IN ACADIA

Frogs
- Spring Peeper
- Northern Green Frog
- Pickerel Frog
- American Bullfrog
- Wood Frog
- American Toad

Salamanders
- Spotted Salamander
- Eastern Red-Backed Salamander
- Red-Spotted Newt
- Four-Toed Salamander
- Northern Two-Lined Salamander

Turtles
- Painted Turtle
- Snapping Turtle

Snakes
- Common Garter Snake
- Smooth Green Snake
- Northern Red-Bellied Snake
- Eastern Milk Snake
- Northern Ring-Necked Snake

A female wood frog in Acadia.
When I first came to Mount Desert Island, in 1969, I came looking for a summer job. I found a home. I knew immediately that this was where I wanted to live.

I fell in love with all those things that have always drawn visitors here: the mountains, the ponds, the spruce trees, the ocean spreading open to the east. There was more: the park’s peaceful carriage roads and trails, and its granite bridges. The scent of balsam, especially walking through the woods toward Hunter’s Beach, the sound of the wind sighing high in the trees, and the way the sun shone through them. Then came the sound of the brook running down to the beach, soon overwhelmed by the slow rote of the sea washing in. There was the smell of the sea itself, and the smell of tidal flats and, particularly on the fishing docks, the more redolent stench of bait, which I also loved. And most of all, on foggy nights there was the sound of a gong somewhere out there, drifting ashore on the still air.

And there was Northeast Harbor itself, where I had come to roost. I knew nothing of the dynamics of the summer community, but I liked the look of the village and its condensed Main Street.

All of this was very nice. But I almost immediately saw something else that drew me in and made this my home. This place was a community. There were real people living in the village and walking on the streets. These people looked me in the eye and said hello — so different from the suburban city life I had grown up in, where you might know your neighbor well enough to nod in his direction, but maybe not.

Here postmaster Dick Smith called out a greeting every day when I came to collect my mail. Dave Stanley, who ran the fish market, greeted me with a loud, “Hi, Gunnar!” And I quickly learned that summer was starting when I saw Dave’s market door open and smelled that rich scent of fresh fish when I walked by.

The pharmacist knew me. And every day, at about 9:00 a.m., when the mail had come in, some men would gather for a cup of coffee at the drug store’s old soda fountain and trade stories. I was lucky enough to sit there and listen.

Then came a presidential election. In Texas, in 1968, members of my precinct had tried to exclude me from the Democratic caucus because my politics were too far to the left for them. I was an outsider, they had said, and I should go back to where I came from. And then, four years later, here in Maine, I walked into the Northeast Harbor elementary school gym on a November night, a hippy from away, an outsider if there ever was one, to vote. I wondered how I would be received. I was greeted by John Purvear, a solid man whose politics could not have much resembled mine. But he greeted me warmly and seemed pleased that I had come to vote.

Northeast Harbor was a real place, with real people who lived here. People who talked to each other and, I suspected, knew each other’s failings. It was a place where people seemed to accept you for who — and what — you were. There was room in this village for all of us.

It is still that way today. Some of the people I first met have passed on now, and many of the faces are different. But Dave Stanley is still here with his “Hi, Gunnar!” And my sense of the village and its community is the same. And that is why I live here.

—Gunnar Hansen

That land is a community is the basic concept of ecology, but that land is to be loved and respected is an extension of ethics.

Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*
Acadia Trails Forever is the $13-million partnership initiated by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park to restore and maintain the park's 130-mile trail system, making Acadia the first national park with an endowed trail system. It inspired the then largest private donation to a Maine conservation organization of $5 million from Ruth and Tris Colket. Acadia Trails Forever goals are to: rehabilitate the 130-mile footpath system over ten years, restore 11 miles of lost or unmarked trails, create five “village connectors” (footpaths to link adjacent communities and their park), and endow the system’s cyclic maintenance in perpetuity.

The Acadia Trails Forever partnership effort has been working on the ground for six years, and the accomplishments are extensive and impressive. A summary of work completed since 1999 appears in the column on the left. The work was accomplished by the park’s trail crew, with the assistance of Friends volunteers, the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Maine Conservation Corps, and Appalachian Mountain Club.

To monitor the progress of Acadia Trails Forever, Friends created an implementation committee — three board members and two staff. Between spring and fall, the committee visits trail project sites in Acadia. The hikes provide an invaluable opportunity for the trail crew to describe the history of the trail, the research involved in deciding techniques used, and the scope of the trail work undertaken in any one season. These learning sessions enhance the committee’s understanding of the scope of the Acadia Trails Forever reconstruction effort.

Each winter, the implementation committee meets with park staff to review the previous year’s trail work and discuss project plans for the next year. Acadia’s trail crew prepares a written report that provides a great snapshot of the variety of work being done as part of Acadia Trails Forever. The captions on these two pages include excerpts from the park’s reports.

Many people are involved in the success of partnership efforts like this. We thank the more than 1,100 Acadia Trails Forever donors, whose $9 million in gifts leveraged $4 million in park entry fees for this historic partnership, with special thanks to Ruth and Tris Colket for their vision, generosity, and faith in Friends and park staff.

— Marla S. O’Byrne

PENOBSCOT MOUNTAIN TRAIL (2005 report)

“This newly opened trail runs from the Asticou Trail at Harbor Brook northward to connect with the Spring Trail and on to the summit of Penobscot. We incorporated [Acadia Youth Conservation Corps] crews to haul tools; FOA volunteers to brush, excavate, and spread gravel; [Appalachian Mtn. Club] workers to excavate and construct trail bench; and [Acadia’s trail] crew to do the stone work. In all, the newly opened section of trail totals 1.2 miles, and includes 163 stone steps, the rehab of several historic stair sections, two stone culverts, 96 square feet of retaining wall, numerous drain dips, 50 or so cairns, 15 trail signs at five spots, and about a quarter-mile of benching and other tread construction.”

CONNECTOR TRAILS (2000 report)

“Continued work with Friends of Acadia on connector trails with the local communities. Technical knowledge, tools, equipment, material, and time went into the efforts on the Western Mountain Connector and the Great Meadow Loop. The Loop continues to grow in popularity, and use will go up as the final stages are completed.”

Winter hikers on the Great Meadow Loop, a village connector trail providing a walking and cross-country ski route between the village of Bar Harbor and Acadia’s Sieur de Monts area.
ACADIA TRAILS FOREVER ACCOMPLISHMENTS
1999–2005

DRAINAGE AND GENERAL MAINTENANCE — over 1,600 crew days, on portions of all 130 miles of trail (Includes establishing drainage swales, tread delineation, and minor rehabilitative and safety endeavors on the entire trail system on MDI, Isle au Haut, and at Schoodic.)

GRAVEL — over 16,200 feet of tread

TREAD — 5,600 feet (Highly reconstructed surface in severely eroded areas.)

ROCK WALLS —10,400 sq. feet

TRAIL MARKING (Blue blazes) — 77 miles (65% of the trail system)

CONNECTOR TRAILS OPENED — 3 trails, totaling 3 miles

ABANDONED TRAILS REOPENED — 1.4 miles: 3 hiking trails and 7 carriage road access trails

WHEELCHAIR-ACCESSIBLE TRAILS CREATED — 1.4 miles on 2 trails

CEDAR BOGWALKS — 5,900 feet

FOOT BRIDGES — 15 over 15- to 36-feet long, and numerous small foot bridges under 15-feet long.

STEPS — more than 1,900
(Setting rock stepping stones, including a few wooden steps and paving stones.)

CULVERTS — 140

REVEGETATION — 440 crew days
(Devoted to planting in eroded areas throughout the park.)

DEVELOPMENT OF A HIGHLY SKILLED TRAIL CREW
— Funding has allowed training and retention of a professional team
— Management staff has a total of 62 years of park and trails experience.
— Field leadership staff averages over 8 years of park and trails experience.
— In 2005, only 10% of the trail crew had no prior trail experience.

ASSORTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS
— Completion of a thorough history of the trails, trails management plan, and maintenance guidelines.

Friends’ Acadia Trails Forever Implementation Committee visited the work site on Sargent East Cliffs Trail (highlighted on this Journal cover) in June 2004. From left: Michelle Braley, trail crew; Stan MacDonald, committee member; Ed Samek, FOA board treasurer; Dianna Emory, committee member; Gary Stellpflug, trails foreman; and Avi Gabel-Richards, trail crew.

SARGENT EAST CLIFF (2004 report)
“This trail was formerly known as the north end of the Jordan Cliffs Trail, but its historical name is the Sargent East Cliff. This trail was closed in 1997 due to extreme erosion and unsafe conditions. In one section, and the main reason for closure, the trail ascended a slope of 60% grade and had become a four-foot-deep gully for 130 feet, a sliding surface of loose and rolling rocks. [2004] was the third season crews worked on this project. The trail was opened for public use in September 2004.

“Constructed during 18 weeks were 134 stone steps, 626 square feet of retaining wall, 8 stone checks, 55 log checks, 1 open stone culvert, 7 water dips, 1 log water bar, 3 stone water bars, 48 linear feet of stone paving (approx. 2-ft. wide), 137 linear feet of elevated stone lined causeway. We estimate the crews moved 60 tons of rock for the walls, stairs, and tread.”
Acadia Interns

Summer Work

Each year, Friends of Acadia donors make possible the employment of about 115 individuals in Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Of these employees, three — the Peregrine Falcon/Hawkwatch intern, the lands assistant, and the Wild Gardens of Acadia intern — assist the park in visitor education, resource stewardship, and park maintenance.

Thousands of visitors stop by the base of the Precipice Trail every year to see the peregrine falcons that nest on the cliffs above. For the past eight years, Friends of Acadia has provided funding for the Peregrine Falcon/Hawkwatch intern, who sets up spotting scopes, interprets the life history of the falcons, and answers questions. During a busy summer morning, as many as 200 people may stop by the Precipice to learn about and watch Acadia’s falcons.

Last summer’s Peregrine Falcon/Hawkwatch intern, Todd Larsen, graduated from Bishop’s University in Quebec. A native of Ontario, Todd developed an interest in birds while studying for his undergraduate degree in biology. When he wasn’t at the Precipice site or staffing the Hulls Cove visitor center, Todd worked with park wildlife biologist Bruce Connery, monitoring nesting loon populations and three other peregrine nesting locations in the park. In the fall, Todd was at the summit of Cadillac, assisting visitors with hawk identification and species counts during the migration south.

For the better part of 2005, Hope Rowan worked as a lands assistant with the park’s planning and land resources staff. Her primary duties included updating the park’s files on conservation easements and parcels on Acadia’s Congressionally-approved land acquisition list. Acadia is unique because it was founded on donations of private lands, and it holds the largest number of conservation easements of any national park. Hope’s work helps the park respond more quickly to donors and willing sellers of parcels on the park’s land acquisition list. She mapped parcels of interest using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and assisted on the field checks of the park’s conservation easements.

Hope holds an undergraduate degree in music from Colby College and a Masters of Philosophy in human ecology from College of the Atlantic. Following graduation, Hope worked for several land trusts in Massachusetts and for Maine Coast Heritage Trust. For MDI Tomorrow, she updated build-out projections for the island, using current zoning and developable lands. Overall, Hope said that she enjoys pursuing land conservation from a public agency perspective, and recognizes that the park faces unique challenges — specifically, the lack of park operating funds and limited Congressional appropriations for land acquisition. Hope will return this spring as lands assistant at Acadia.

Bhupendra “Bhupi” Nagpure joined the team at the Wild Gardens of Acadia through the end of August. A native of India, Bhupi is a Davis Scholar in his senior year at College of the Atlantic. His summer internship was funded by a grant from the Wild Gardens of Acadia and the generosity of family and friends of Betty Meiklejohn.

Over the summer, Bhupi spoke with visitors about the Wild Gardens, which demonstrate many of the habitats and native flora species found at Acadia. He maintained the gardens by weeding, composting, cleaning the bogs and waterways, and raking the paths. Bhupi noted that while formally he was responsible for ensuring that visitors didn’t harm the “displays” by wandering off the paths or picking vegetation, most visitors were fascinated by the diversity of habitats and the exposure to new plants.

Bhupi attributed the knowledge and skills he gained over the summer to the volunteers responsible for overseeing the various habitats in the garden. Most of his collegiate studies have been in biophysics, so the internship was a good opportunity to gain practical lifetime skills while relating to the natural environment. “The Wild Gardens inspire normal people,” Bhupi said, “who get a good sense of native flowers without having to go all over the Island to find them. The gardens are an encyclopedia.”

These internships demonstrate the quiet power of philanthropy in action. Friends extends thanks to Todd, Hope, and Bhupi for devoting their time and talents to the protection and interpretation of Acadia’s resources. They enhanced Acadia’s programs and management capabilities. And, as always, we are grateful to the donors who made possible these Acadian interns.

— Stephanie Clement
In the late 1980s, College of the Atlantic (COA) professor Dr. Craig W. Greene and three student interns spent several summers traversing the rugged areas of Acadia National Park in search of rare vascular plants. With the hot summer sun overhead, they assembled in the field to locate rarities and collect voucher specimens of more common species. When rainy weather interfered, they headed indoors to the COA herbarium to identify their finds.

Although probably not envisioned at the time, this study was the beginning of a much larger project, spanning 25 years, to update the first catalogue of the area’s plant life, published in 1894 by Rand and Redfield. The project is now complete: “Vascular Flora of the Acadia National Park Region, Maine” was published in the spring 2005 issue of Rhodora, the New England Botanical Club journal, 110 years after Rand and Redfield’s original catalogue. This collaboration between the late Dr. Greene and botanists from Acadia National Park and the Maine Natural History Observatory uncovered the diversity and changing nature of Acadia’s vascular plants and laid the groundwork for future discovery.

The authors, two of whom started on the project as student interns, provide a thorough look at the vascular plants of Mount Desert Island (MDI), Isle au Haut, the Schoodic Peninsula, and nearby islands by combining information from the results of field and collection efforts since 1980, a compilation of published historic records, and verification of historic vouchers. Traveling to herbariums throughout New England to personally examine nearly 9,000 vouchers collected from these areas, the authors documented 1,135 plant taxa: 1,055 species and 448 genera in 110 families. (Note: As used in this study, taxa indicates a combination of species and subspecies.) The area’s diversity is striking: more than half of the plant species found in Maine were found on MDI and nine adjacent islands, which comprise less than 1% of the state’s land. Of 1,135 taxa, 14 are listed as endangered or threatened in Maine. Twenty-five percent (290 species) are non-native; 24 of these are considered invasive or potentially invasive.

The numbers alone don’t reflect the changes that have occurred over time. We may never see some of the plants enjoyed by our predecessors: 241 species reportedly present in the past have not been found recently. The showy lady’s slipper, a beautiful white and pink orchid once found here, is one such plant. Despite years of searching every bog and wet cedar swamp in the park, botanists have been unable to locate a single plant. While some species like the showy lady’s slipper have disappeared, other previously undocumented species are now present. What accounts for these changes? The answer is a complex combination of many factors, including loss of habitat, changing environmental conditions, changing chemical and physical climate patterns, disturbance (or lack thereof), and decreasing agricultural activity.

This comprehensive update to Rand and Redfield’s 1894 catalogue of vascular plants is essentially complete — for now. New species may arrive, while others may go the way of the showy lady’s slipper. The authors hope that the study will inspire researchers to seek answers to new questions about the region’s flora. In addition, the authors are currently seeking funding to develop a pictorial field guide of the flora to help teach others about the region’s plant life — a fitting final product for a project that spanned nearly a quarter century and involved so much discovery along the way.

For more information, contact Linda Gregory, Acadia National Park botanist, at linda_gregory@nps.gov, (207) 288-8725 or Glen Mittelhauser, at the Maine Natural History Observatory, glenm@acadia.net, (207) 963-2012.

GINNY REAMS is the writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

(From left): Dr. Craig W. Greene, late COA professor of botany, with student interns Glen Mittelhauser, Smoot Major, and Linda Gregory on Western Head, Isle au Haut.
Poem

FROM: THE WREN NOTEBOOK II

The caribou won’t believe it
until humility no longer matters.
He is undaunted by any
Yukon Pacific chemin de fer
wandering all jerky and loud
hauling lumber or oil
through his private outback,
like a common pack mule
working for oats.

And so he stands his ground
confident and in no hurry.
(this smoke spitting piece of junk metal
isn’t shrewd like brother wolf
who comes with running buddies
and a plan.)
The noise, though,
the howl and rhythm,
does reach an impressive din
and that tiny head
behind a black window,
a suddenly blazing light…
and every thing gets huge.

The recognition of possibilities
crosses his mind
in dead heat
with his flank.

9000 feet high in The Little Belt Mountains
(he didn’t get there by himself),
Wren watches a caribou
hit by an American made engine.
Wren does nothing,
can do nothing
to prevent the kill.
Caribou never listened to any word from Wren.
They didn’t have that kind
of relationship.

Snowy box cars
rumble by,
clicking and clacking.
Nothing
ever happened.

— Rick Smith

RICK SMITH is a clinical psychologist, director of the Back
in the Saddle head injury program (thesaddle.com), and
blues harpist with Hangan Brothers. His most recent book
of poetry is The Wren Notebook. He lives in California.
In Gratitude

Trail & Carriage Road Volunteer Crew Leaders
Bruce Blake
Bucky and Maureen Brooks
George and Anna Buck, ex officio
Betsy Champlin
Rod Fox
Mike Hays
Stephen and Yvonne Johnson
Alan King
Vesta Kowalski
Mark Munsell
Bob Sanderson
Julia Schloss
Dee and Howard Solomon
Al and Marilyn Wiberley

Walk In The Park Sponsor and In-Kind Donors
EBS Building Supplies — sponsor
Back Bay Farm Botanicals
Classic Touch Massage
Dartha Farm
Down East Deli
Dunkin’ Donuts
Far Point Farm
Grindstone Neck Golf Course
Hannaford Supermarket
Harbour Treasures
JM Gerrish Provisions
Mandala Farm
Mermaid’s Purse Farm
Oceanside Meadows Inn

Painted Pepper Farm
Shaw’s Supermarket
Smith’s Smokehouse
Udderview Farm
Waldron Enterprises
Winter Harbor 5 & 10
You Name It

Take Pride In Acadia Day In-Kind Donors
Acadia Bike & Coastal Kayaking Tours
Acadia National Park Tours
Janet Anker
Darlings Auto Mall
Graves’ Supermarkets
The Jackson Laboratory
Morrison Chevrolet
Mount Desert Spring Water
National Park Foundation & Ocean Spray Cranberries
National Park Sea Kayak & Maine State Sea Kayak
The Screenprintery
Wal-Mart

Other In-Kind Donors
Acadia Corporation
Alternative Market
Tom Blagden
George DeWolfe
Joe Pagan
Windswept House Publishers

Last November, 280 Take Pride in Acadia Day volunteers and 14 local business sponsors helped clear more than 15 miles of drainage along Acadia’s carriage roads.
Special People

HARRIETTE MITCHELL AND JANET ANKER

Each year hundreds of volunteers join Take Pride in Acadia Day to “winterize” Acadia National Park’s carriage roads. Part of the charm of the day is raking side by side with friends and neighbors and gathering afterward for chili, cornbread, and cake at park headquarters. Most volunteers rake, but a few work behind the scenes. We are grateful to two behind-the-scenes volunteers who make Take Pride in Acadia Day even more special for all of us.

Harriette Mitchell

Harriette has been part of the Take Pride in Acadia Day team since the event began in 1991. Her what-can-I-do-to-help attitude has made her an invaluable volunteer as Friends and park staff prepare lunch for hundreds of volunteers. When the rakers show up cold and hungry, Harriette is ready at the cake table to make their volunteer achievements even sweeter.

Originally from Thomaston, Harriette moved to Bar Harbor in 1961 with her husband Dennis. In addition to raising three children, Harriette worked as a nurse for MDI Hospital and stayed active in Acadia as a hiker and volunteer.

An avid hiker, Harriette (with her family in tow) has explored just about every trail in Acadia. Her personal favorites are the Cannon Brook Trail, trails in the Otter Creek area, and long hikes from Bar Harbor to the Jordan Pond House for popovers. Not all hikes were aimless rambles. Harriette fondly recalls turning a large patch of blackberry bramble into what is now the Wild Gardens of Acadia. She and her friend Betty Owens hiked island-wide, (with the permission of landowners), searching for native plants to divide and plant in the gardens. It was a labor of love. Harriette and Betty lugged buckets slung on a pole carried lengthwise between them as they collected various native plants, battling bugs and weather and taking special care not to damage or stress the plants.

In addition to her volunteer work in the park, Harriette has volunteered in the local communities for more than 40 years. She has donated her time to the Bar Harbor Food Pantry, Abbe Museum, Maine Sea Coast Mission, and Island Connections. Harriette continues to volunteer for Take Pride in Acadia Day because, as she said, “I like being a part of Friends. They protect Acadia and generate interest in the park through volunteering. For a long time it seemed like there wasn’t much interest in Acadia, now there is and that’s a good thing, I like to see so many people coming to our park. Friends helps people see what a treasure we have.” Needless to say Friends is grateful for the treasure we have in Harriette.

Janet Anker

What better way to reward hundreds of hard-working volunteers than by feeding them cake — cake with crushed walnut carriage roads, candy cobblestone bridges, and frosting-filled autumn leaves. These cakes, as delicious as they are beautiful, are donated by Janet Anker, FOA member and volunteer. Being an active volunteer and resident of Mount Desert Island is something Janet says she has been planning for a long time, “It took me over 20 years to get here and I am still amazed that this particular life plan worked out!”

Janet’s family started vacationing on Mount Desert Island when she was three years old. A hike from Penobscot Mountain to Jordan Pond House was a favorite family event. “I never forgot those popovers,” Janet said, “they stuck in my imagination. I worked in the Jordan Pond House kitchen in the fall of 1977. I must have been one of the last people to work in the original kitchen before the Jordan Pond House burned in the spring of 1978.”
Twenty years later, Janet started work at the Jackson Laboratory and moved to Mount Desert Island. She included Friends of Acadia in her work plans. “After so many years of enjoying Acadia,” Janet said, “I wanted to give something back, so I started volunteering for Friends’ Take Pride in Acadia Day and Earth Day. I think that Friends is truly vital for the existence of the Acadia that we know and love.” said Janet. “It’s very satisfying to go for a walk along the same stretch of carriage road that one just raked. It’s also great to see so many kids at these volunteer events and to know that the next generation is getting hooked on Acadia, too, so that the future is in good hands.”

Janet says she has always been an avid cook and baker thanks to her mother, who taught her to cook from scratch and appreciate good food. Janet’s early job at the Jordan Pond House helped, too, giving her experience in preparing food for hundreds of people. We are grateful that Janet’s life plan not only led her to Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island but to Friends of Acadia, as well. — Terry Begley

**Friends at Twenty**

“The more things change, the more they remain the same.”

Alphonse Karr (1808-1890)  
Les Guepes, January 1849

Twenty years ago, seven people in our corner of the world made history as they became the first members of the Board of Directors of Friends of Acadia. Their election was a result of a quiet hike through the woods of Acadia twelve months earlier during which they discussed the need for private citizens to help protect and preserve Acadia National Park.

We are fortunate that twenty years later we still have an excellent board and cadre of volunteers and donors who provide time, talent, and resources to protect and preserve our park. Throughout 2006 we will reflect on our history and accomplishments as well as honor our predecessors. Exciting plans are already underway to establish a fun family day in Acadia, sponsor lectures and educational events, publish a 20th anniversary Friends of Acadia Journal, and continue our commemorations of the founders of the park with a celebration of the life of John D. Rockefeller Jr.

Do you have a special story, picture, or memory you would like to share with us? We would love to hear from you. Contact Lisa Horsch at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

— Terry Begley

...Wherever I looked, I saw people responding to “the music of the wind,” as farmer and group member Patrick McCormack calls it. The places and the language of the heart resonate deeply and universally. Passion inspires action; action leads to change. People everywhere feel compelled to show up — to step forward and hold fast to what they know to be priceless in their lives and for their families.

Alix W. Hopkins, Groundswell

**Gardens by Design**

Dennis Bracale

Creating Residential and Public Gardens on Mount Desert Island Since 1990

91 Ledgelawn Ave, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609  
207-288-9324  
visions@acadia.net

**Galyn’s**

Lunch & Dinner

Open seven days a week 11:30am-9pm  
Happy Hour 3-6pm daily  
upstairs in the Galley Lounge

288-9706 17 Main Street, Bar Harbor

**Friends of Acadia Journal**

Winter 2005/06 15
We are pleased to welcome our newest Friends:

Steven Agostino, DC  
Oscar and Gillian Anderson, NY  
Winnie Anderson, PA  
Rob Arra, FL  
Philip Babretta, CT  
Kristin Bashore, VA  
Nancy Jane Batten, NY  
Lurana Bergson, ME  
Greg Beston, MA  
David Billings, ME  
Bonnie Boisvert, ME  
Robert Boris, PA  
Mary Ann Boynton, MA  
Merrill and Wilma Bradford, ME  
Susan Breen and Mary Dussault, MA  
Michael and Allison Brewer, SC  
Mary Anne Broshek, NH  
John and Karen Brotherhood, CT  
Craig and Judith Bryant, AE  
Timothy Bryant, NH  
Ann Marie Bryzyski, NJ  
Bob Camara, CT  
Jeanine and Tom Carr, CT  
Luis and Mary Carrillo, MA  
Victoria Cavalli, MA  
Jill and Wendy Charland, ME  
Dennis Christie, DE  
Janet and Tim Clark, CT  
Janis L. Coates, ME  
Teri Cooper and Isa Silver, MA  
Fred and Eileen Cordani, NY  
John and Sharon Courtin, NY  
Theresa Criss, FL  
Charles Daviet, NY  
Thomas and Bonnie Dean, ME  
Dale and Ellen DeHaan, MI  
Cynthia and Stephen Depoe, OH  
John and Helene Dickel, NM  
Marc Dodge, NJ  
Peter Dolcy, NJ  
Paul Donoghue, NJ  
Richard Dowd, MD  
Elizabeth Downs, MD  
Susan Eaton, MA  
Joseph and Mary Eckel, NY  
Kathryn Ellis, OH  
Marc Ewing and Lisa Lee, ME  
Daniel and Kathleen Fialkowski, GA  
Doris H. Field, NY  
Gerry and Ann Findlan, OH  
William Fitzsimmons, PA  
William Fouk, VT  
Brian Fox, ME  
Judith Frankfurt and James R. Oestreich, NY  
Joa and Charles Frost, ME  
Joanne Gaulding, FL  
Stacy Gee, TN  
James Gehring, NY  
Michael and Alice Gillen, NJ  
Michael and Jean Ginevan, MD  
Bobbie Goldman, MA  
Will Goodnight, VA  
David Govatski, NH  
Jerlee Grandy, AZ  
Jerry and Carolyn Grant, IL  
Kevin Greene, NH  
Hall’s Gravel and Development Corp., ME  
John and Cassie Hamilton, NY  
Elizabeth Helfrich, NY  
Anne Hess, ME  
Patricia Hodder, NY  
Donna Holdridge, IL  
Rosamond Hooper-Hamersley, NJ  
Cathy Hunter, MA  
Alan and Terri Hutchinson, ME  
Herb and Linda Irving, MA  
Sally and Derick Iselin, SC  
Donald and Jennifer Jaszek, MA  
David and Marjorie Joy, NH  
Suparna Kadam, NJ  
Brad and Connie Karnaedt, TX  
Harry Kaufman, NJ  
Kent-Lucas Foundation, DE  
David Kessner, ME  
Jewel Khan, NY  
Michael and Janine Kicik, NY  
A. Kikuchi-Teal, PA  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Klausmeier, IN  
Anna Klein and Gary Richardson, MA  
Julius and Patricia Krevans, ME  
Barbara Ksenych, ME  
Stephen Lavenberg, NY  
Andrew Lee, PA  
Jessica Y. Lee, NC  
Lara Levison, DC  
George Little, NY  
Virginia Livestone, MA  
Anthony and Tica Lopreato, CT
National Park Service Draft Management Policies Published

Recently the National Park Service (NPS) sought public comment on revisions to its management policies. These policies guide NPS employees in decisions about park resources and public enjoyment of the parks. The policies re-draft includes language that could weaken protection of natural and cultural resources and/or result in inappropriate uses in our national parks.

Friends submitted comments encouraging the NPS to make resource protection its highest priority, and advocated for strong protection of natural quiet, scenic beauty, dark night skies, and clean air as important resources of national parks. Friends also requested that potential new uses of national parks be thoroughly studied outside the parks to anticipate whether negative effects are likely. If so, the use should not be allowed.

If you would like to receive a copy of Friends of Acadia’s comments on the 2006 draft management policies, contact Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

If you would like to become more active in policy matters that will affect Acadia National Park, consider joining the Acadia Advocacy Network sponsored by Friends of Acadia. To join, send an e-mail to stephanie@friendsofacadia.org with the words, “Subscribe Advocacy Network” in the subject line of the message. Acadia Advocates receive periodic announcements of events and meetings to highlight important issues, opportunities to weigh in with the Maine Congressional delegation, or occasions to comment on park publications.

Friends Alliance Gathers

Last October, more than 50 representatives of national park friends groups, cooperating associations, the National Park Service (NPS), and the National Park Foundation gathered in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania to discuss the best practices in management and fundraising and other issues facing national parks and their partners. The two-day conference was one in a series of biannual meetings of the Friends Alliance, a loose federation of executives from friends groups from across the nation. Featured speakers included Vin Cippola, the newly appointed president of the National Park Foundation; Chris Jarvi, NPS associate director for partnerships; and Friends Alliance President Curt Buchholtz, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Nature Associates.

First and foremost on the agenda was discussion about the proposed revision of Director’s Order 21 (DO-21), the document that guides park service and friends employees in fundraising on behalf of National Parks.

Environmental Assessment of Transportation Center Begins

The third phase of the Island Explorer bus system is underway. The Maine Department of Transportation has hired DMJM Harris Planning consultants to undertake the federal planning process and environmental assessment (EA) that is required prior to constructing the Island Explorer transportation and welcome center. As reported in earlier issues, Friends of Acadia holds a three-year option on a 369-acre parcel of land in Trenton (the Crippens Creek property), on which the center is proposed to be sited. At a minimum, the center will have three components, a bus staging area where visitors and commuters will park and board the Island Explorer, a welcome center that presents park and area tourism information, and a light maintenance/fueling area for the propane-powered buses.

Partners in the project include the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), Federal Highways Administration (FHWA), National Park Service, Downeast Transportation, and Friends of Acadia. Thanks to the efforts of the Maine Congressional delegation, $7 million in FTA and FHWA funds has been earmarked for the project. Some of this funding will pay for the preparation of the EA, and other amounts will be dedicated to phased construction of the facilities.

Leading into the environmental assessment, MDOT biologists have been delineating wetlands on the Crippens Creek proper...
Maine’s wet spring enabled the researchers to map wetlands that were not recorded on the National Wetlands Inventory. The western portion of the Crippens Creek property is a large heath that Friends of Acadia hopes to formally protect. Friends will also explore the possibility of constructing trails throughout the property.

Public meetings will begin for the environmental assessment in the early spring. The consultants will propose several site designs for the property and are expected to complete the EA by August 2006. If the EA demonstrates no significant negative impacts from the proposed development, then Friends of Acadia will purchase the Crippens Creek property by the end of 2006. The facilities will be constructed in phases thereafter. The first building anticipated for the site will be the Downeast Transportation offices, light maintenance area, and fueling station for the Island Explorer. For more information, contact Stephanie Clement at 207-288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

**Rail Trail Planning Underway**

Conservation director Stephanie Clement has been appointed by the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to serve on the Calais Branch Trail Management Committee. The Calais Branch is a state-owned rail line extending from Brewer to Ellsworth and onwards to Calais. The rail line has been out of use for many years, and MDOT has agreed to convert the section between Ellsworth and Ayers Junction (just west of Eastport) to a multi-use trail until there is sufficient need for the re-establishment of rail use.

The Trail Management Committee is assisting MDOT in planning management and maintenance of the multi-use trail. The plans will be presented to the Maine Legislature’s Transportation Committee in 2006. Once approved, MDOT will seek construction funds.

The rail trail will provide a new 87-mile

---

**Foresight and Generosity**

Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear — our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mount Desert Island’s natural wonders — is a wise investment. You can help us protect Acadia forever.

Four ways you can financially support Friends of Acadia:

**Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.**

Mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, to P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit [www.friendsofacadia.org/join-form.html](http://www.friendsofacadia.org/join-form.html) to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call for instructions to give appreciated securities, which can offer income tax benefits, as well as savings on capital gains.

**Gift of Retirement Assets**

Designate FOA as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement asset, and pass funds to FOA free of taxes.

**Gift of Real Property**

Give real estate, boats, artwork, or other real property to FOA and you may avoid capital gains in addition to providing much needed funds for the park.

**Charitable Trust**

Provide FOA, or yourself, with a steady income stream while gaining considerable tax savings.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 1-800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@www.friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).
A New Way to Help

Most of you are used to hearing from us once a year with a notice of your membership renewal. You can still count on us for those friendly reminders, but in the fall of 2005 we added a second mailing: the annual fund.

The annual fund appeal asks donors to consider a contribution in addition to the membership gift. Why ask twice? Some donors prefer giving a smaller membership gift to receive the benefits, then they make a larger gift at another time. Other donors want to make multiple large gifts to the park in a single year, while still others feel that the membership donation is all they can handle. All of these scenarios are welcome. We deeply appreciate gifts of any size.

Membership and annual fund dollars are considered unrestricted unless you specify otherwise. Both funds are used for non-endowed projects such as the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, Acadia Winter Trails Association, BioDiversity Research Institute Grant, Conservation Easement Monitoring Program, Horse Patrol, Peregrine Falcon and Hawk Watch Program, and the Friends of Acadia Volunteer Program.

Here’s what to look for:

• A membership renewal mailing once a year (with additional reminders, in case you forget)

• An annual fund mailing in the opposite half of the year (for instance, if your membership is due in the spring, you will receive a fall annual fund appeal)

We are grateful for your support, no matter what the amount. With the help of all Friends of Acadia donors, we continue to preserve and protect this most-precious place, Acadia National Park.

Schoodic Architectural Archives

When the Navy left the base at Schoodic Point they left behind more than 4,000 architectural drawings relating to the construction and maintenance of the buildings and systems in the area. The drawings cover facilities on the base at Schoodic Point, Winter Harbor housing, the Navy facilities in Corea, Prospect Harbor, Cutler, and other towns.

As is true with any base closure, these drawings become a part of the public record and are housed at the National Archives. The Navy, in cooperation with the National Archives, has made them available to the park.

To date, approximately 25% of the drawing archives has been entered. Volunteers expect to complete this project early in April 2006. The inventory database will be available to Acadia’s curatorial staff, public works staff, and others. The database will be invaluable as the Schoodic Education and Research Center begins construction and renovation of the existing buildings.

– Pauline Angione
Friends of Schoodic volunteer

Bilingual Message

Heart of the Matter

Venus, [Earth’s] wayward sister, preaches an important cautionary tale to careless humans, for her hostile environment proves how even small atmospheric effects can conspire over time to convert an earthly paradise into a hellfire cauldron.

Dava Sobel, The Planets
**Book Review**

**One for the Pot**

*The Secret Life of Lobsters*  
by Trevor Corson  
320 pp., $13.95, paperback.

The author trailed Little Cranberry Island lobstermen and various scientists to produce this nonfiction work about “our favorite crustacean.” Sometimes it’s hard to keep the humans straight (too many first names used), but you’ll come away with a surprising affection for the thing with the carapace—and a claw that can mangle your own. The behaviors of man and lobster can run some interesting parallels, sexually and territorially for instance, and Corson makes sly mischief in pointing this out. A lobster meal once a year is enough for me. Having read the book, I feel an emergent bio-affiliation with the creature and maybe I’ll cut back. For bigger eaters, though, what you learn will spice up dinner conversation as you tackle the shell, debate the nutritional merits of tomalley and hope that someone else does the dishes.

— Dorcas Carota

**Beyond Acadia**

*The Planets* by Dava Sobel  
288 pp., $24.95, hardcover.

This time of year, Acadia often brings to mind cross-country skiing along quiet wooded carriage roads with occasional sweeping views of frozen lakes or stormy ocean surf. Sobel raises our sights to the perhaps less familiar wonders surrounding us. Drawing from history, literature, science, and mythology, the author illuminates facets of the Sun, and each of the nine planets (read quickly, definitions are changing). The meteor memoir was the least credible format for me, but I couldn’t skip it. On the other hand, sky gazing at dusk is already richer for recalling the metaphorical association of Mercury and its namesake god. Sobel shares a glimpse of a science writer’s personal relationship with things astronomical. A bibliography is provided for inquisitive minds.

— Maxwell Montes

**Inspired Community**

*Groundswell: Stories of Saving Places, Finding Community*  
208 pp., $20.00, paperback.

The author immersed herself in the history and vision of seven very distinct community-based conservation efforts throughout the country. A good looking book despite disappointing image quality; the real beauty is in the voices of the volunteers, ranchers, conservationists, and visionaries who tell their stories, including the author’s own history with the innovative Portland Trails in Maine. The chapter on ranchers’ and conservationists’ efforts to preserve Montana’s Rocky Mountain Front captures the essence of community change — from an early insular and mostly ineffective approach to a dynamic outreach effort that has brought together diverse interests. The story of a successful CSA (community supported agriculture) farm in Wisconsin is particularly relevant to similar fledgling efforts on Mount Desert Island. The “How to Get There from Here” section is a great tool for getting started (or reviewing efforts underway). The common thread throughout is concern and passion for place. The future is neither assured nor doomed; rather, hope dominates the book.

— K. Stromstad
Preserving and protecting those things that we all hold dear — our quality of life, a distinctive heritage, and the integrity of Mount Desert Island’s natural wonders — is a wise investment. You can help protect Acadia forever.

It’s simple. Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

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

2. I hereby bequeath $_________ 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: [legal description of property].

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 1-800-625-0321, email her at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
Schoodic Education and Research Center

Whether speaking with a Gouldsboro resident interested in what is happening in her community, a retired Navy warrant officer stationed at Schoodic 20 years ago, an academician seeking a quiet educational environment, or a curious park visitor, when Rosemary and I volunteer at the Gatehouse, we are always excited to talk about The Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC). In its first full year of operation, SERC is already impacting Acadia National Park and the Schoodic District in exciting ways. The activity at SERC is stimulating and the potential exhilarating.

Located at the tip of the Schoodic Peninsula on Big Moose Island, and surrounded by healthy mudflat and marsh habitats as well as stately spruce and fir woodlands, SERC's coastal campus is a unique site for study and research in a wide range of fields including the natural sciences, applied collaboration and outreach among partners, and provides access to a repository of information and other resources.

Making innovative reuse of the former Navy base, the SERC campus will feature a state of the art conference center, laboratory, office, and meeting space, and a variety of lodging and food service options when renovation and construction are complete. A central feature of the campus is the historic Rockefeller building, an impressive stone structure patterned on the architecture of the Acadia carriage path gatehouses, which will be preserved for visitors, possibly as an interpretive center.

The SERC facilities are operated and managed by Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, a local nonprofit agency established by the National Park Service. Acadia Partners is also working to develop partnerships with research laboratories, universities, public schools, other nonprofits, and government agencies to enrich SERC programs by extending them beyond the park's boundaries and promoting public outreach. Additionally, Acadia Partners is supporting efforts to study sustainable development on the Downeast coast by providing area communities and organizations with information to help them make sound decisions about resources. Focusing on people and planning as well as science and research, such efforts could also lead to the development of healthy communities throughout the nation and world.

In 2005, the SERC facilities were used by the University of Massachusetts for a spider research project, McGill University for research into invasive crab species, Colby College for an environmental policy program, College of the Atlantic for a faculty retreat, and the University of Maine for a variety of research projects and seminars. SERC also hosted events and organizations such as the Downeast Regional Envirothon Competition, the Acadia Senior College, the Maine Scenic Byway Commission, Maine Department of Education teacher workshops, the Penobscot Nation Language Revitalization Program, and the Quebec Labrador Foundation's Mideast Environmental Fellowship program. SERC is also home to the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), a three-day residential National Park Service program offering curriculum-based science education for 5th-8th graders, and hosts NPS Artists in Residence who pursue their art in a variety of media and provide instruction to SEA students and programs to the public. In all, SERC hosted over 50 events this year.

As members of Friends of Schoodic (FOS), Rosemary and I are eager to promote the Schoodic Education and Research Center. The success of SERC is important to our region and to FOS volunteers, all of whom have an extraordinary level of energy and commitment to the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park. FOS welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas, and suggestions. We meet at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month on the SERC campus. We can be found on the web at www.friendsofschoodic.org or contacted at P.O. Box 194, Prospect Harbor, ME 04669. We invite you to join us — the only requirement is love for Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic.

For additional information on the Schoodic Education and Research Center, SERC programs, and SERC partnership opportunities visit www.acadiapartners.org.

— Garry Levin

GARRY LEVIN is vice-chairman of Friends of Schoodic, a committee of Friends of Acadia.
As I look back over the years and reflect on some of my more challenging moments in Acadia, I admit that much of the trouble I’ve gotten myself into could have been avoided if I (and others) had heeded Park cautions.

One of my more dramatic moments on the carriage roads occurred when an unleashed dog lunged repeatedly at my horse, Trina, barking wildly as his owner looked on. Trina wheeled tightly in circles, kicking out in panic at the dog. Eventually, she reared, fell backwards over the coping stone-lined embankment, and pinned me under her legs. No injuries occurred and we all went on our way after sharing a few choice words. Lesson: there are reasons the park asks us to leash our dogs. This illustrates one of them.

A crisp fall day found my friend Lib and me scrambling up the West Face of Cadillac. Ice covered the rock face and, even with ice-grippers, our trip was a challenge. Part way up the worst of it, we decided to abandon our plan. Digging into the ice with our fingernails and sliding rapidly down on our bottoms, we tried to make use of our worn-down Stablicer cleats. Lesson: check your gear and use good judgment about where you go in bad conditions.

My friend Clare and I chose a frigid but bright winter afternoon to ski from Jordan Pond up the Cadillac Mtn. Road on a lot of ice and not much snow. At the summit, with the wind howling and the snow beginning to come down fast, we acknowledged that it was getting dark, we had no food or winter emergency gear, and it could be a little sketchy getting back to the car. Lesson: pack sensibly with provisions for emergencies and take daylight hours into consideration.

Bike racing down Sargent Drive, Ben (my husband) and I thrilled to the fabulous Somes Sound view. Happily, I turned to yell a joke at him. My bike veered slightly, hit the soft shoulder, and careened wildly as I flew over the handlebars. Ben watched in horror as my body skidded along the pavement and my head slammed into a coping stone. Many stitches later, my arm and hand were repaired. My battered helmet, which had gallantly held my face inches above the asphalt, had also suffered quite a dent when it hit the granite coping stone. Please, wear your helmets.

Despite the many times I have combed Acadia’s trails, there are still occasions for confusion. One snowy afternoon, I took a shortcut in order to get home before nightfall. As the flakes multiplied and blinded me, I realized that I had lost the trail...

“One snowy afternoon, I took a shortcut in order to get home before nightfall. As the flakes multiplied and blinded me, I realized that I had lost the trail...”

to Jordan Cliffs. I went up the East Cliffs trail, delighting in the extraordinary view at the top of Sargent Mountain. Down to lovely Sargent Pond, up Penobscot, and down the new Spring Trail. Trotting around Jordan Pond, I cut up the Pond Trail, climbed Pemetic, and dropped to Bubble Pond. Across Bubble Pond, the West Face of Cadillac beckoned. Slipping and sliding over the wet cedar tips that coated the rock face, I made my way up to a favorite perch. My thoughts focused on that day on the ice with Lib. Skidding down the rock, I shakily crept to the more level part of the trail and headed back. Cadillac would wait for another day. As I ran to Eagle Lake, I contemplated lessons learned.

Enjoy your time in Acadia, be safe, and be sensible. In the summer if you do get into trouble, those fit young Ridge Runners who are available to assist you are there thanks to Friends of Acadia. The mounted ranger who gave you directions? Acadia’s Mounted Ranger Program is supported by FOA, too!

— Dianna K. Emory
To accomplish our mission,

1. **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.

2. **We 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.

3. **We nullify threats.** We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.

4. **We promote excellent management.** We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.

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

6. **We 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.

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

8. **We support volunteerism.** We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of footpaths and carriage roads.

9. **We produce tangible results.** We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.

10. **We 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.
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.