Purchase Your Park Pass!

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

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

**Open Year-Round**
- ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS
  (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)

**Open May – November**
- HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER
- THOMPSON ISLAND INFORMATION STATION
- SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION
- BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND
- SEAWALL CAMPGROUND
- JORDAN POND AND CADILLAC MTN. GIFT SHOPS
- MOUNT DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
- VILLAGE GREEN BUS CENTER

Your park pass purchase makes possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.
Completing the Vision

Over Thanksgiving week, my family and I traveled to California to visit colleges and a national park or two. We poked around Fort Point in San Francisco, walked small among giant Redwoods, watched elephant seals on a protected beach along the Pacific Coast Highway, and explored the desert at Joshua Tree National Park. The latter receives my personal thumbs up as the highlight of the trip. I approached Joshua Tree with a minute trace of disappointment that we weren’t visiting during March when the desert is in bloom, something I have long wanted to witness. Any hint of disappointment vanished when a park ranger—who also had worked at Acadia—told us that the park was experiencing a rare spring bloom. Twenty-six species were blooming as if heralding the end, rather than the beginning, of winter. My wish had been granted.

“The Island Explorer, and soon the Acadia Gateway Center, provide a bright future for our region, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing a convenient way to visit Acadia and the area, and reducing traffic and parking congestion in the park and our communities.”

But what did it mean? I am not a scientist, but I am sufficiently cautious not to take it as an irrefutable sign of climate change. Yet, someday a spring bloom may herald the dramatic impacts of our choices today. I thought about how we chose to visit our destinations. In San Francisco we walked, rode cable cars, and took a train. The journey was as satisfying as the destination. Everywhere else we drove, not necessarily by choice. While we might have been able to discover more environmentally-friendly travel options in the Los Angeles area, we wouldn’t have seen Joshua Tree.

Which brings me to our choices here at home. During Acadia’s busiest season, residents, visitors, and commuters have the ability to travel to, through, and around the park and our communities on a propane-powered bus. Designed for lower emissions, the buses further reduce impacts on air quality and traffic congestion by reducing the number of vehicles on the road. (See page 19 for the millions of cars undriven and tons of pollutants eliminated.)

Ten years ago, partners—the National Park Service, Maine Department of Transportation, Downeast Transportation, MDI League of Towns, and Friends of Acadia—envisioned the Acadia Gateway Center to complete the Island Explorer shuttle system. The Acadia Gateway Center will give commuters and visitors an opportunity to leave their cars off-island to ride onto and around the island on this low-emission, fare-free shuttle. It will be a first stop for many visitors coming to Acadia, to learn about the park and the area, and to buy a park pass. Passes sold at the center will generate additional funds to support important park projects. And finally, Maine’s largest bus system, the Island Explorer, will have a permanent base of operations.

This fall, Friends of Acadia exercised its four-year option to purchase the 369-acre Crippens Creek property in Trenton to serve as the site of the future Acadia Gateway Center. With the generous support of Tom Cox, the Maren Foundation, Butler Conservation Fund, Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, and individuals who donated to the Tranquility Fund, Friends purchased the property in December and sold 150 acres to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) for the facility. Ultimately, all of the land will be sold or donated to partners for long-term protection.

The Island Explorer provides a bright future for our region, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, providing a convenient way to visit Acadia and the area, and reducing traffic and parking congestion in the park and our communities. The Acadia Gateway Center will make it possible for the Island Explorer to continue to grow and improve.

The end of the year is a time to look back, to assess our accomplishments over the year. Throughout the Journal you will find updates on the many accomplishments you, our members, have made possible. Acquiring the Crippens Creek property in Trenton, the future site of the Acadia Gateway Center, is one of several accomplishments in 2007 providing a bright future for Acadia and our communities.

Thank you for a tremendously successful year, and best wishes for the year to come.

—Marla S. O’Byrne

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Friends of Acadia Journal
Superintendent’s View

Is Acadia Endangered?

Acadia’s designation as a national park, established and protected by law, assures us that the park will always be here, but long-term protection of the qualities we love is not necessarily assured. Acadia was established to preserve the natural, cultural, and scenic resources of this rugged coastal area, including the mountains, historic hiking trails and carriage roads, and all that makes up the spectacular natural scenery that people come from all over the world to enjoy.

Over the course of time, park management and our advocates must routinely resolve threats or potential threats to the park or we risk losing some of Acadia’s special character. The most insidious threats are the smaller impacts that add up over time to be major losses. It is similar to watching children grow; the changes seem much more dramatic to a relative who sees the child once a year than to a parent who sees the child every day. For example, development pressures on Mount Desert Island are steady and increasing, yet we as residents don’t really see the impact of one or two new houses. For vacationers coming back after a few years, the changes are more dramatic. Loss of the dark night sky is another example. A few new lights don’t seem like a problem, but over time views of the island’s night sky will be impaired by the cumulative effects unless we use proper light fixtures to minimize the escape of light upward.

Today more people are advocating for “smart growth” to reduce or eliminate the negative impacts of growth that can occur without foresight. Smart growth policies might include protecting ridgelines and steep slopes, using non-reflective and earth-tone surfaces and natural building materials, installing cut-off light fixtures to direct light down and not up, or adopting sensitive signing policies.

The recent Acadia Mountain controversy over inappropriate development on steep slopes, visual impacts, cutting of trees for roads and home sites, and fear of serious erosion demanded citizen action to protect this valuable scenic resource adjacent to the national park boundary. Thanks to bold action by Friends of Acadia, more serious permanent impacts have been prevented. Had smart growth policies been in place, maybe this threat could have been avoided.

Development also threatens the Northeast Creek watershed, which is under tremendous pressure as subdivisions and new houses spring up in this part of the island. At present, the Northeast Creek estuary is healthy. However, land-use projections based on the draft of Bar Harbor's comprehensive plan suggest that increased residential development and associated nitrogen loading may place the estuary at risk. Too much nitrogen in estuaries can result in the death of native sea grasses and growth of extensive mats of floating algae that degrade fish and wildlife habitat. The immediate area around Northeast Creek, enjoyed by many people each year, is included within the national park. The National Park Service, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Friends of Acadia, and Audubon are working to protect these extraordinary resources inside the park boundary. Here again, smart growth policies could help.

Other threats include significant land use changes on private lands near the park, proposals for antennas and cell phone towers, and undeveloped private land within the park boundary. Large-scale, incompatible development on a 3,500-acre piece of land on the Schoodic Peninsula could dramatically alter the character of the entire area and degrade the high-quality visitor experience. We are working with the U.S. Coast Guard regarding its proposal for a 100-foot antenna on Cadillac Mountain as part of the Coast Guard’s Rescue 21 radio system. While radio communications are important, we are hopeful that another location outside the park will suffice. More than 100 privately-owned tracts within Acadia National Park still need to be acquired, and progress is slow. Friends of Acadia’s Land Bank project and the partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust will help us purchase many of these tracts from willing sellers before they become threatened with incompatible development.

Land protection is the very essence of any national park, for it is the land that incorporates the natural, cultural, and scenic resources that make up the special qualities of a national park.

“Land protection is the very essence of any national park, for it is the land that incorporates the natural, cultural, and scenic resources that make up the special qualities of a national park.”

Friends of Acadia Journal

—Sheridan Steele

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Notes from Friends

A Beautiful Day
What a wonderful day yesterday was [at the George B. Dorr Society Celebration]—the carriage ride, the lunch, and the weather! Kudos to Friends of Acadia for organizing this, and so many other events, so beautifully. Many thanks for all you do.
—Lee Patterson
Maine

First Impression
I had the privilege to volunteer for your organization on Saturday, August 11. I worked with Mike Alley and it was a great opportunity for me, as I have been contemplating volunteering for a long time. Mike was a pleasure to work with because he has a great attitude and a passion for doing a good and thorough job. It was nice to see how the other volunteers put so much effort into their work even though it was tedious and repetitive. I only live about an hour and forty-five minutes away in Lincolnville, Maine. I hike often on MDI and have been doing so off and on for 30 years, and I am fortunate to have the time to volunteer. I will be volunteering again this year.
—Rick Siebel
Maine

Rewarding Work
On behalf of the Wilderness Volunteers and our crew on the Acadia service trip, thank you for a great week. The work project was rewarding, and I know we all felt good about the quality of work we did to begin reconstruction of the Schooner Head Path. The work was challenging, as we had to dig down and remove not only leaves and dirt, but also some big roots and rocks before reaching a layer of gravel that was the old trail. Only then could we haul in the new gravel and tramp it down in place.

Every member of our crew took special pleasure in working with Gary Stellplug and Mike Alley, as well as with many Friends of Acadia volunteers that participated throughout the week. Their help kept us going and their love of Acadia was contagious. The positive experience we found in “Giving Something Back” at Acadia will long be remembered.
—Wilderness Volunteers
Flagstaff, AZ

Editor’s Note: Please see page 8 to learn about the many ways that volunteers contribute to Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park.

Friends of Acadia
Journal
Winter 2007
Volume 12, No. 3
A Magazine about 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’.

You may write us at 43 Cottage Street / PO Box 45 Bar Harbor, Maine 04609 or contact us at 207-288-3340 800-625-0321 www.friendsofacadia.org email: info@friendsofacadia.org

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Winter Surf Along Ocean Path
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This Journal is printed on chlorine-process free, recycled, and recyclable stock using soy-based ink
As development pressures continue to rise on Mount Desert Island, residents find solace in the fact that many of their favorite places on the island are protected within the boundaries of Acadia National Park and will remain protected for generations to come.

Many thought Acadia Mountain, the landmark standing 681-feet tall over Somes Sound, was one of those sacred places. And so, it came as a surprise to the most avid hikers and the oldest residents when an application was submitted to the Town of Mount Desert’s planning board this past July to subdivide and develop 19.6 acres on Acadia Mountain, abutting the boundary of Acadia National Park. As it turns out, the property on the north slope that many assumed was part of the park was not protected. Instead, it fell under the town of Mount Desert’s rural woodland and shore land residential zones, making it viable for development.

Despite years of efforts by local conservation organizations to preserve the land on Acadia Mountain, the owner of the property had signed a purchase and sale agreement with a developer who had plans for building up to nine homes on the acreage. The developer and landowner had already roughed in drives and placed septic systems on the property. Residents of Mount Desert were alarmed and voiced concerns about building on the very steep slopes of a beloved local landmark. After review, the planning board found the contentious application to be incomplete and cited a variety of concerns.

Eventually the application for development was temporarily withdrawn and the landowner contacted Friends of Acadia to ask if the organization would be interested in purchasing the property. Recognizing the unique opportunity to protect this important parcel of land, Friends moved into action, working swiftly to raise funds and build partnerships to acquire the property.

Together Friends of Acadia President Marla O’Byrne, Chairman Lili Pew, and Past Chairman Dianna Emory met with donors and concerned residents. In a matter of weeks, they had raised $1.75 million to protect the 25 acres on the north slope of Acadia Mountain, including the 19.6 acres for which development was planned. Friends of Acadia’s purchase on September 26 was the culmination of several years of work by Acadia National Park, Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT), and Mount Desert’s planning board and concerned residents to conserve the parcel of land.

The generosity of the donors and their willingness to act quickly is a testament to the importance of Acadia Mountain to the park, to the community, and to the character of Mount Desert Island and Somes Sound.

President O’Byrne described the acquisition process as “conservation in the real world.” The land had already sustained some development, but most of those impacts will recover over time. Of additional concern, a three-acre parcel farther down the north slope, on the shore of Somes Sound, had already been sold to a landowner with plans to build a shorefront home. Friends of Acadia has been working with MCHT to negotiate conservation on that property to complete conservation of Acadia Mountain south of Robinson Lane.

The activity on Acadia Mountain raised awareness of new abilities to build on steep slopes on Mount Desert Island. Mount Desert’s planning board explored the possibility of a moratorium on construction on steep slopes in the town to give them time to develop ordinances addressing these concerns. Instead, the planning board has asked to hire a land use consultant to help evaluate the need for ordinances protecting the most important features of the town, and to help in drafting such ordinances. Friends of Acadia and its partners encourage towns to take a proactive approach on guiding the appropriate development and protection of their natural resources.

This year, however, development was averted. Despite a short window of opportunity, Friends of Acadia, with partners and donors, achieved a success that many feared was out of reach. Twenty-five acres on the north slope of Acadia Mountain are now protected from development forever.

ERIN HITCHCOCK is the communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.
Friends of Acadia remembers and honors friends who have passed away in the last year:

**George Buck**  
1919–2007  
George was a dedicated, longtime trail volunteer. He and his wife, Anna, received the 1998 Friends of Acadia Excellence in Volunteerism Award.

**Alice Eno**  
1923–2007  
Alice was a member of Friends of Acadia and authored the book *John D. Rockefeller, Jr.: Godfather of Acadia National Park*.

**Louise Libby**  
1907–2007  
Louise was the recipient of the 1996 William Otis Sawtelle Award for her years of volunteer work promoting and preserving the history of the Cranberry Isles. From 1970 to 1982, she served as the curator for the Islesford Historical Museum and helped organize its collection.

**Burnham Litchfield**  
1909–2007  
Bud was a dedicated supporter and honorary trustee of Friends of Acadia. He was a resident of Northeast Harbor.

**Virginia Lloyd**  
1922–2007  
Vidy was a carriage driver by hobby and loved exploring Acadia's carriage roads. She was a resident of Virginia and Northeast Harbor.

**Eben Pyne**  
1918–2007  
Eben was the husband of Honorary Trustee Nancy Pyne. Together they generously donated to Friends of Acadia’s Acadia Trails Forever Initiative and Carriage Road Endowment.

**Donald B. Straus**  
1916–2007  
Don was a longtime board member of Friends of Acadia and an honorary trustee. He and his wife, Beth, were the 2003 recipients of the Marianne Edwards Award for their generosity in donating a conservation easement to Acadia National Park and for their diverse voluntary service.
For Maureen and Bucky Brooks, Friends of Acadia volunteers and field crew leaders, volunteering is a conscious lifestyle choice. For the past 16 years Maureen and Bucky have been spending most of their Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from May to October, with the Friends of Acadia volunteer crew. Their high energy, good humor, southern hospitality, and optimistic spirit add something extra special to an already invigorated crew. Maureen sums it up by saying, “Volunteering gives us so much; we hope that we are giving back what we are taking from it.”

“Volunteering makes us feel vital,” continues Maureen. “We stay engaged with the community and meet interesting people. This year alone we met individuals from all over the country and all over the globe, and we are always learning something that keeps us interested and makes us more interesting people to be around.”

Both Maureen and Bucky agree that in addition to the close friendships they have forged over the years (they’ve worked with many of the other field crew leaders for almost a decade) it is also the diversity of the volunteer projects that keeps them coming back. They never get bored and they always feel like they are making a vital difference. Maureen and Bucky have been an integral part of projects including eradicating invasive plants, building and taking down cairns, building trails, re-opening historic trails, and monitoring ponds and wildlife, as well as boundary work and curatorial jobs at the park archives.

When not volunteering, Maureen and Bucky enjoy many activities, including hiking (Gorham Mountain is a favorite), kayaking in Western Bay right off their property in Trenton, or biking in the area. At the mention of biking, Bucky recalls how they discovered Acadia on a bike trip from Mississippi to Canada more than 30 years ago and were awestruck by its bold coastline and the beauty. Maureen adds with a chuckle, “Yes, biking has always been an important part of our life. In fact, our biggest test as a couple came in 1976 when we celebrated the bicentennial by crossing the country on a tandem bike as part of a movement called the bike-centennial!”

“Volunteering gives us so much; we hope that we are giving back what we are taking from it.”

—Maureen Brooks

As much as Friends of Acadia would like to, it cannot stake exclusivity on Maureen and Bucky’s volunteer time. Cleveland, Mississippi, almost a complete contrast to Maine, is near and dear to them, as well. Located in the heart of the Mississippi Delta region where the local economy is driven by cotton, rice, and catfish, Cleveland is hometown to Maureen and Bucky.

The couple met in the 1970s when they were both faculty members at Delta State University. Maureen was a professor of consumer and service relations and Bucky was a mathematics professor. Now retired, they both remain very active members of the Cleveland community and, needless to say, they volunteer—Maureen with the food pantry and local library and Bucky with various youth focused literacy programs. Together they volunteer at the Dahomey National Wildlife Refuge, a 9,000-acre bottomland, hardwood-forested wetland that is host to many Neotropical birds, migratory waterfowl, and pristine terrain.

Although very different from Maine, it is equally as beautiful in its own way and the Brooks are as committed to Dahomey as they are to Acadia. When asked what, if anything, Maine and Mississippi have in common, both answer in cheery unison: mosquitoes!

Friends of Acadia salutes Maureen and Bucky for the countless hours they generously give to Acadia National Park, and for sharing their spirit and flair with the Friends of Acadia volunteer corps.

—Terry Begley

Maureen and Bucky lead the Imprecision Drill Team, a group of Friends of Acadia volunteers who march in the annual Bar Harbor Independence Day parade. Maureen and Bucky play an integral role in organizing the brigade and choreographing its march through town.
The Many Ways of Volunteering

Erin Hitchcock

More than 20 years ago, a small group of individuals volunteering in Acadia National Park became inspired by the beauty and distinctiveness of their treasured park and, with the help of park ranger Lois Winter, sought out a way to preserve this special place. The fruits of their labor and their dreams are evident today in the form of Friends of Acadia, now an established, flourishing conservation organization dedicated to preserving and protecting Acadia National Park. Its foundation based on volunteerism, Friends of Acadia has created and expanded a volunteer program that offers something for everyone who has the time, energy, and spirit to help Acadia National Park.

Volunteers come to Friends of Acadia offering a variety of skills. Some volunteers gather weekly for heart-pumping trail work while others assist the Friends of Acadia staff with fundraising mailings and membership recruitment. Of its volunteer opportunities, most well known is the Tuesday-Thursday-Saturday volunteer program. Three times a week, from May through November, locals and visitors alike gather at park headquarters for a morning of volunteer work. Some of these volunteers are regulars, dedicated to coming at least once a week, and others come sporadically as time allows. Some visitors even incorporate volunteering into their vacation. On one particular Tuesday morning of trail work this fall, two couples and one individual who were on an annual trip to Mount Desert Island joined the Friends of Acadia volunteers to give back to the park they love to visit.

Joining these regulars throughout the summer and fall are various groups of students and adults, including local organizations, colleges, and youth groups, as well as established volunteer corps throughout the country. This year a particular group of students from Chicago struck the hearts of many Friends of Acadia and park leaders. This group of inner-city students had never experienced some of the basics of nature—hiking a trail, sleeping in a tent, or cooking on a campfire—and through a program called Camp VIDA they spent a week doing trail work in Acadia and camping at Blackwoods Campground.

Organized by the park’s volunteer coordinator Jonathan Gormley and led by Friends of Acadia field crew leaders Mike Alley and Cliff Olson and a special group of volunteer crew leaders (see page 22 for a list), these regular volunteers and groups work throughout the summer and fall maintaining park resources. In 2007 alone, 2,173 Friends of Acadia volunteers contributed 9,764 hours of work to Acadia National Park. According to Gormley, most of the work completed by these volunteers would either not be completed at all, and certainly would not be done as quickly, if park staff had to handle the work load alone.

For many of the “regulars,” volunteering has become more than a passion—it is a social networking opportunity. This year Friends of Acadia volunteers hosted their own backyard potluck cookout and organized stand-out performances in local summer parades, complete with weaving wheelbarrows, waving rakes, and a bucket drum.

Friends of Acadia volunteers can be found off the trails, as well. Volunteers help staff park visitor centers and some even put in hours at park museums and curatorial offices. Other volunteers visit the Friends of Acadia office in Bar Harbor to help the membership department with

MAJOR PARK PROJECTS IN 2007

Friends of Acadia volunteers helped make the following major park projects possible:

Re-building the Schooner Head Path
Trailwork on Coldbrook Trail and the Ocean Path
Removal of 427 pounds of invasive plant seeds
Replacement of the split-rail fence at Sand Beach
Vegetation management at Blackwoods
Building a cross-campus path at the Schoodic Education and Research Center
Volunteers Recruit Members

This summer a new Friends of Acadia volunteer trend was created—membership tables. The membership table program brought dedicated members face-to-face with park visitors. Stocked with brochures, journals, and positive energy, the membership table volunteers shared with visitors the mission of Friends of Acadia and some examples of its work. If interested, visitors were given the opportunity to join Friends of Acadia on the spot—and many did.

The passion and energy of the volunteers was contagious and the number of new members generated by the program far exceeded expectations. When the pilot program was said and done, volunteers collected a total of 268 new members.

Along with new members, volunteers collected suggestions, comments, and praises. For example, volunteer Georgia Munsell commented to Friends staff about the abundance of individuals who knew about Friends of Acadia because they saw its video in the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. The new memberships, feedback, and information collected by this dedicated and spirited group of volunteers are invaluable for Friends of Acadia.

2007 Membership Table Volunteers

Bucky and Maureen Brooks
Barb Chase
Judy Corrider
Jenn Donaldson
Pat Hayes
Priscilla Hirschenhofer
Anne and Chris Hopkins
Debby Lash
Peg Lawson
Eileen and Jim Linnane
Georgia Munsell
Bonnie and Tom Sawyer
Mary Ann Siklosi
Jean Smith
Dee and Howard Solomon
Sandy Wilcox

ERIN HITCHCOCK is the communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.

Rita Timmons, a regular Tuesday morning volunteer, helps clear a ditch near the Schooner Head Path.

Volunteer crew leaders enjoy a luncheon celebrating the volunteer season.

Friends of Acadia Journal
Marsh Road

An old church drew us through the dark beyond the senior center, dead leaves spooking from the wheels. We left the headlights on, and waded gingerly between the graves, to a door so black we reached out to feel if there really was a door, not just a thicker darkness. An old church draws around it more than local history hung out when its bones have bleached. Whatever else was living in that place woke in the trees and thundered to a new perch. We took the turn to Ransom's Island, silent as the marsh grew, the road a black thread holding us suspended in the slow exchange of earth and water. Yellow chevrons started up to warn us in the corners and the moon's lantern grin slid sideways through the trees. The watchman's shack was leaking blue light at the bridge and where the island stopped the moon was gone and water had its own light the white boats danced in. We found an empty house buoyant in dry grass, and watched the foaming ebb of stars, and heard the wings still beating dark branches in our heads.

—Ralph Stevens

RALPH STEVENS lives in Islesford, Maine.
SEA-RUN BROOK TROUT: THE NEXT STEP

Ginny Reams

Within the cold, clear streams of Acadia National Park live brook trout, one of Maine’s few species of fish that spend part of their lives in the sea. In the continuing effort to understand sea-run brook trout populations in Acadia National Park (see “The Salters of Stanley Brook” in the summer 2007 Friends of Acadia Journal), park staff and researchers undertook two studies this past summer.

The first study, funded through the L.L. Bean Acadia Research Fellowship Program, looked at the migration of brook trout in four streams: Stanley Brook, Hunters Brook, Little Harbor Brook, and Jordan Stream. Researchers set back-to-back migration nets in each stream to catch fish migrating either upstream or downstream toward the ocean. They measured the length and weight of all fish caught in the nets, and tagged all fish greater than 60 millimeters that did not already have a personal identification tag. Fish were released on the other side of the net in which they were captured, allowing them to continue in their intended direction.

Researchers made several interesting discoveries. Brook trout moved through the streams at variable rates throughout the study, with a notable increase in movement soon after precipitation events (rainfall). In general, fish moved downstream early in the spring, then upstream later in the season. Larger fish were more common than smaller fish in Stanley Brook and Hunters Brook, suggesting that larger, older fish make use of the estuary where the streams meet the ocean. The smaller fish found in Little Harbor Brook indicate that the estuary may also provide rearing habitat for smaller, younger fish. Although researchers found no evidence of fish migrating between streams, the results show that sea-run brook trout do indeed exist on Mount Desert Island.

Bruce Connery, the park’s wildlife biologist, says that these populations of brook trout and other aquatic organisms are an important part of the fabric of the park. “Because small streams play a huge role in the biotic environment of Acadia, we need a better understanding of the life histories of and threats to all aquatic organisms, including fish, and their habitats to ensure that we are able to protect each stream system.” That’s where the other study comes in.

In an ambitious project during the summer of 2007, park staff surveyed 131 stream crossings (locations where roads cross streams) on 48 streams originating in or passing through the park to identify probable barriers to aquatic organisms. Barriers such as poorly-designed or undersized culverts and bridges pose particular problems for migrating fish like brook trout and American eel, creating obstacles that prevent unimpeded travel through waterways to better habitats or the ocean. Barriers also drastically alter flow patterns and hydrologic conditions.

The survey evaluated numerous features at each crossing, including length, height, and width of culverts; stream and landscape (geomorphic) characteristics; and the presence of plants and wildlife. With these data, park staff developed a prioritized ranking of all crossings, which identified crossings in need of immediate attention and resulted in a strategy for how and where park staff should direct future efforts. Based on this analysis, restoring crossings on Stanley Brook, where researchers in the previous study found more brook trout than in any of the other three streams, will be the park’s top priority. In all, 34 percent of the crossings were identified as a full barrier to fish passage.

The study also identified problem crossings in neighboring towns. These impaired crossings can cause flooding and ponding on roads, posing serious driving hazards and creating maintenance nightmares. Addressing these problem areas can not only restore aquatic habitats, but also improve roadway safety and decrease maintenance costs. Connery says that it is essential that the park work with the state, towns, and private landowners to address identified problem spots. “We must build relationships with our neighbors and establish objectives that seek to protect the long-term health and integrity of our streams while also providing a more easily maintained and safe road network and opportunities for recreation.” By using the crossing study as the foundation of this partnership, park staff can cooperatively seek technical and financial assistance to help meet the identified objectives.

Connery says that the park’s goal is to “return streams to something that better represents their original natural state—where each stream is connected hydrologically and biologically in a continuous system. Crossings should attempt to be seamless and thereby maintain streams and waterways as naturally living systems.” By doing this, we can ensure that sea-run brook trout can continue their journeys to the ocean, just as they have done for many years.

GINNY REAMS is the writer-editor at Acadia National Park.
The Preservation Legacy of Charles William Eliot

The Reverend Peter J. Gomes

President Eliot was concerned for the well-being of the natural environment in the place he discovered as an avid and effective sailor along the Maine coast, and like my ancestor, Estevan Gomes, he too discovered these rocky islands and the mainland, and on the inspiration of his son was persuaded to buy property here in which to summer. Eliot in Maine is a gripping saga. If you think about it, it is very hard to imagine a man less suited to the relative crudities of this rugged coastline; it is hard to sort out these two things and see them together, but somehow they appealed to President Eliot. I think that the austerity of the landscape appealed to him, for there is nothing false or artificial about this; it is rugged, natural, and it has a kind of dignity and grandeur that artifice could not improve. That appealed to Eliot’s aesthetic, and sense of austerity, and also to what almost became a signature term to him, the “durable values of life,” the things that last, that are not creatures of fashion, the things that do not come and go, and out of this aesthetic, out of this feeling for durable values came the principle of preservation with which you are so intimately familiar.

It is difficult to think of President Eliot in repose... If you’ve ever seen any photographs of him here with his family around him, you have seen that he was as upright and austere and engaged as he would be in the faculty room or the chemistry laboratory in Cambridge. I think he was never off duty, and, as a result, all those powers and forces that concentrated in him were devoted to whatever subject caught his imagination, one of which was how best to preserve for the future the beauties and splendors of this particular corner of the universe. He had an artist’s eye, although in many respects he was hardly artistic, and he recognized the vulnerability of these beautiful surroundings of mountains and waters to the noxious advance of modern society.

Now, this raises one of the paradoxes of Eliot, because he was by no means a fuddy-duddy, somebody in awe of or interested in the past more than in the present or the future, for he understood that the key to the future here was somehow to preserve the best of the past so that each present generation, such as our own, could enjoy it in full possession, as it were, from the beginning. So, when he first came upon these delightful shores of Mount Desert it was not simply to escape the rigors of Cambridge nor to let go, let down, or let out steam; he turned all his energy to what could be done for the good here. Fortunately you have heard of his collaborators in that magnificent trinity, Mr. Dorr and Mr. Rockefeller, and now Mr. Eliot is joining them with his vision, his attention to detail, and his willingness to risk whatever it took for the well-being of the future. Those three men would have been a formidable company with which to deal. If any one of them had come to my door and I had seen him coming, I would have locked the door and hidden myself in the basement, because there would have been no way to resist whatever it was he wanted. Apparently Mr. Dorr was a very hard-working, industrious, energetic man for the well-being of the park, its first superintendent, I understand; and who could refuse an invitation to give money, from Mr. Rockefeller? It would be very hard to say, “Oh, I don’t think I want to give to that cause, Mr. Rockefeller.” Those two had immense strength of personality, and think of President Eliot’s, whose very eye made people who were innocent of any
crime confess on the spot. They were an incomparable trinity, and when they set their minds together to achieve some purpose it is no wonder that that purpose was achieved. I can think of no other three people in the history of the West who could have pulled that off, unless they were the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, short of that, they were perhaps the most unusual amalgam of talent, resources, and opportunity devoted to something of which we are all today—at this very hour—the beneficiaries.

“If you look at the landscape of the first quarter of the 20th century you will see that there are very few people who stand out in bold relief as being both representative of their time and transcending their time. Very few people do that; Charles William Eliot did.”

…What would be the motivations for Charles William Eliot to devote all of his extra energy to what was going on here in Acadia? I think there are several, and I will illustrate them:

1) The motivation for preservation corresponded to his conviction that there were some things that lasted, that endured, that were worth keeping, those “durable values” of which he wrote and spoke over and over again. He was not a fashionista, he was not into the current moment. I think the notion of preservation stems from that.

2) I think there was very much alive in President Eliot the notion of the public good, that if something is good everyone should benefit from it, not only the wealthy and privileged…He saw here something of beauty that should be preserved for the public and not only for the privileged few, and it was this idea of the public good at work both at Harvard and here that I think has led to this singular creation in which we find ourselves.

3) He had a very specific interest in the landscape, which in a reversal of nature the father inherited from the son, for he had a son, Charles Eliot, destined to be one of the first landscape architects in America, who died tragically as a young man. It fell to the father to write his biography, his memoirs. Many people say, and I think it’s probably true, that what happened here in Acadia is in some regard the older man’s testimony to the unfinished work of his much younger son. This is a monument to what Charles Eliot might have been able to do had he lived beyond his premature death. There is something very passionate about the father taking on the work of the son; it’s supposed to be the other way around and it’s tragic when it works this way, but it was this tragedy in Eliot’s life that helped transform him and helped him transform this area. That is an important element.

…If you look at the landscape of the first quarter of the 20th century you will see that there are very few people who stand out in bold relief as being both representative of their time and transcending their time. Very few people do that; Charles William Eliot did. He stood head and shoulders above all of his contemporaries, and when the history of the first quarter of the 20th century is written his name, like that of Abu ben Adim, leads all of the rest, not because of his own vainglory, not because of his own ego or his own press clippings, but because he caught and overcame the spirit of the age. That is a high achievement, and it is for that reason that Charles William Eliot is truly among the greats.

When you walk down Quincy Street in Cambridge and pass the old Presidents’ House at number 17, you will notice a set of handsome gates dedicated to Charles William Eliot, and on the southern pier there is an inscription that says: “He opened paths for our children’s feet; something of him will remain a part of us forever.” What a nice epitaph: “something of him will remain a part of us forever.”

Here we are…singing the praises of a man now long dead, who most of us would not have dared to address if not spoken to first, if spoken to at all, somebody removed in style, in personality, and in interest from almost everything we know; and yet here today we gather to celebrate his name, not just because of him but because of what he stood for and continues to stand for in a rather tired and tawdry world. To quote the great epitaph given to Sir Christopher Wren in regard to St. Paul’s Cathedral in London: “If you would seek his monument, look around you.”

This—this beautiful Acadia National Park—is the living memorial to the extraordinary, difficult, inspired, imaginative man, Charles William Eliot. Should we live into any of those characteristics of him we would be fortunate; to put them all together is to provide an occasion for great celebration and even greater thanksgiving, and presumably that is why we’ve all been summoned here tonight, that is why you have all been wise enough to accept the generous invitation, and that is why we have all become, for one reason or another or in one fashion or another, Friends of Acadia…God bless Charles William Eliot and all that he stood for.

THE REVEREND PETER J. GOMES is Plummer Professor of Christian Morals and Pusey Minister in The Memorial Church at Harvard University.
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Gerald Wilmoth  
James Ronald Wilson  
John Wilson  
Goodwin and Charleen Wiseman  
Linda Woosley  
Margaret Valley  
Gerald Vassiko  
Jon Worden  
Relinda Lee Yalin  
D. Varbucks and N. Leavitt  
Stephen Yavelow  
Leon and Norma Yazinski  
Jack Yerkes  
Laurie Yntema  
Denise Young  
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Friends of Acadia Journal  

Winter 2007 17
ADVOCACY CORNER

The Acadia Advocacy Network is gearing up for a busy winter. Members were recently asked to weigh in with Congress in support of sound, authorizing legislation for the Centennial Initiative, an effort by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the Bush Administration to increase funding for the national parks by $300 million per year over the next 10 years. Two-thirds of this funding is expected to be a matching program that must be authorized by Congress; up to $100 million per year in private donations would be matched by an equal amount of congressional funding. This is an extraordinary opportunity to increase the amount of funding available for national park operations and to leverage Friends of Acadia’s contributions to park projects.

Friends of Acadia also owes thanks to the Maine members of the Advocacy Network and other Maine citizens who voted in favor of Question 4 on the November 2007 Maine ballot. Almost two-thirds of voters passed Question 4, the $35.5 million bond issue to fund the Land for Maine’s Future (LMF) program. Since 1987, this program has protected more than 444,000 acres in Maine, including shorefront and working forests and farms. The LMF program is available to protect important lands near Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island.

This extraordinary event depends upon extraordinary volunteers. The volunteer committee, led by Dianna Brochendorff, planned the event, including soliciting donations for the silent and live auctions. Live auction items featured a painting by centenarian Kathryn Davis, a dinner dance for 64 on the legendary “dancing rocks” of Baker Island, a bike tour of Italy, a week in a French chateau, and two paintings from the collection of the late Allan Stone. Silent auction items were equally as creative, with furniture, art, books, and travel adventures offered under the auction tent. More than 100 local and regional businesses donated items or advertised in the event program.

Sotheby’s was the underwriting corporate sponsor of the event; other corporate support came from Goldman, Sachs & Co., and Lupine & Company.

The 2008 Benefit Gala is scheduled for Saturday, August 9. For more information, please contact Lisa Horsch, director of development, at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.com or 207-288-3340.

Kansans Become Members; Nevada is Still Missing

Three Kansas couples are now members of Friends of Acadia, but we still need members from Nevada to meet our goal of at least one member from every state.

For more information about these advocacy initiatives or to sign up to receive Acadia Advocacy Alerts, contact Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org or at 207-288-3340.
After the article “Kansas and Nevada Are Missing” appeared in the summer 2007 Friends of Acadia Journal, two couples in Kansas joined another received a gift membership from a current member in Maine who wanted to make sure Kansas was represented. Our new Kansas members are Craig and Anne Patterson, Tony and Julie Simons, and David and Linda Stevens.

We still need members from the Sagebrush State. If you know someone in Nevada, please encourage them to join now, or give them a gift membership. Their gift membership will include a copy of The Rusticator’s Journal, a delightful book of essays and photographs of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park.

Please let us hear from you soon so we can wrap up 2007 with members from all 50 states. Simply call 207-288-3340 or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/giftmembership.

An Afternoon in the Park with Merle
The 3rd Annual George B. Dorr Society Celebration took place on Tuesday, September 4, in Seal Harbor. This year’s celebration began at Wildwood Stables with a carriage ride around Jordan Pond. Two buckboards carried guests and featured interpretation from park experts Merle Cousins, road foreman for Acadia National Park, and Terry Blanchard, carriage road foreman. Their presentations included the history, engineering, and future of Acadia’s beautiful carriage road system. The carriage ride ended at the Jordan Pond House where guests attended a lunch featuring a presentation by Merle about his history with the carriage roads, including some of his favorite recollections and memories.

The afternoon was a small way for Friends of Acadia to show its appreciation to George B. Dorr Society members and other special friends. The Dorr Society was established in 2005 to recognize those members and friends who have made future provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, a gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. To learn more about including Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or to share your existing estate provision with Friends, contact Lisa Horsch, director of development, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

Acadia Gateway Center Has a Home
The Acadia Gateway Center is one step closer to reality. This fall, Friends of Acadia exercised its option to buy the 369-acre Crippens Creek property in Trenton that is designated as the future site of the Acadia Gateway Center. Friends officially closed on the property in mid-December.

Friends of Acadia purchased the property from Nacoochee Corporation and will sell approximately 150 acres to the Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) to carry forward the construction of the Acadia Gateway Center. The center is slated to include a welcome center for Acadia National Park, and a bus maintenance facility and office for Downeast Transportation, Inc., the non-profit organization operating the popular, propane-powered Island Explorer bus system.

The Acadia Gateway Center completes the original vision for the Island Explorer system. Since 1999, the Island Explorer has carried more than 2.5 million passengers, replaced approximately 940,000 automobile trips on Mount Desert Island, and reduced pollutants by 70.2 tons and greenhouse gases by 8.8 tons. The center will allow even more visitors to park and board the bus in Trenton and explore MDI without a vehicle.

The land acquisition was funded by major donors Mr. T.A. Cox, the Butler

Acadia’s Road Foreman Merle Cousins leads his last Dorr Society Carriage Ride. Merle will retire in the spring.

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Conservation Fund, the Thomas H. Maren Foundation, and the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation Funds were also contributed through Friends’ Project Tranquility, an effort to reduce traffic and restore the quiet character of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island.

The Thin Green Line
On July 31, World Ranger Day, Friends of Acadia joined conservation organizations in 50 countries in celebrating the commitment and contribution of rangers throughout the world working to protect conservation lands. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park sponsored two showings of The Thin Green Line, a documentary about rangers from five continents struggling to protect natural and cultural resources in their regions.

The documentary was produced by Sean Willmore, an Australian ranger and filmmaker, who interviewed rangers at Acadia National Park as part of his film. Around 110 people attended the film premieres at the Schoodic Education and Research Center and College of the Atlantic. Those attending donated nearly $500, which Friends of Acadia sent on to The Thin Green Line Foundation to support the families of rangers who have lost their lives in the line of duty.

Celebrating 25 years of Footloose Friends
Have you ever wondered about the crowd of people who gather in the parking lot of the Somesville Masonic Hall each Tuesday morning? This dedicated group of outdoor enthusiasts makes up the Footloose Friends, an informal group of hikers who convene weekly to hike the many woodland trails and carriage roads of Acadia National Park.

Footloose Friends began as a small group of friends from the Southwest Harbor Public Library in the late 1970s and were led for many years by the late Henry Smith, a member of the library and Friends of Acadia. The original handful has grown through the years to as many as 50 people gather to walk each week.

To celebrate 25 years of great hiking and fellowship, the Footloose Friends launched a fundraising campaign in 2006 to raise money to rehabilitate the Canada Cliff Connector, a trail originally built by the Southwest Harbor Village Improvement Association in the early 1900s and abandoned after World War II when low funding caused the park to close many trails.

Footloose Friends gather one Tuesday morning to prepare for their weekly hike.

The trail starts at Lurvey Spring Road and ends at its upper point at the intersection of the Canada Cliffs Trail, providing easy access to both the Canada and Beech Cliff areas. The trail will be restored to a high standard of both ease of hiking and low long-term maintenance and will permit most walkers to gain the wonderful views of both cliffs.

Thanks to the generosity of members, and with the assistance of a challenge grant from June and Bob Cawley, Footloose Friends reached a milestone this year of raising $10,000. To support the Footloose Friends’ rehabilitation of the Canada Cliff Connector Trail, please use the enclosed envelope, or mail a check made payable to Friends of Acadia, to Lisa Horsch at PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609. Contact Lisa with any questions at 207-288-3340.

Friends of Schoodic
Friends of Acadia owes great thanks to Garry Levin who stepped down this past summer as chair of Friends of Schoodic, a volunteer committee of Friends of Acadia dedicated to working on Schoodic projects. The committee reorganized leadership to have several people in charge of project areas such as policy work, a lecture series, trail and roadside clean-ups, newsletter publications, and special events (such as the Schoodic International Sculpture Symposium). Friends of Acadia staff assist the committee with general administration, publications, presswork, mailing lists, and events.

The committee has planned several
events and volunteer activities. On Saturday, November 3, Friends of Schoodic members worked with Acadia National Park staff to prepare the Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC) for the remnants of Hurricane Noel. Future volunteer activities will include trailwork, shore clean-ups, and assistance with projects.

The committee is working with park staff and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning to sponsor a monthly lecture series. Upcoming programs include an introduction to mercury research at Acadia.

For more information about Friends of Schoodic or to join the e-mail list, contact Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org or at 207-288-3340.

Take Pride in Acadia Day

Nearly 300 Friends of Acadia members, volunteers, and visitors participated in the 18th Annual Take Pride in Acadia Day on Saturday, November 3. The volunteers gathered with enthusiasm despite the impending remnants of Hurricane Noel and worked throughout the morning, raking leaves out of the ditches and culverts on more than 8 miles of Acadia's carriage road system.

Were it not for the volunteer efforts on Take Pride in Acadia Day, the autumn leaves would block the runoff from winter thaw and spring rain, eroding the roads and requiring many hours of costly repair work. In fact, Acadia National Park reported that Take Pride in Acadia Day provided immediate assistance, as no carriage road washouts were reported following the intense rainfall from Hurricane Noel. The park attributes this, in large part, to the volunteer efforts on Take Pride in Acadia Day.

This year's Take Pride event was a bittersweet one for organizers and volunteers alike, as it was the last year that Merle Cousins, Acadia National Park roads foreman, will participate. Merle has contributed leadership, enthusiasm and knowledge to Take Pride in Acadia Day for the past 18 years and will retire from the park in the spring. Volunteers and staff will miss Merle, but his contributions to the park's carriage roads will be enjoyed for decades to come.

Work Begins on Historic Schooner Head Path

Acadia National Park trail crew and Friends of Acadia volunteers began re-building the Schooner Head Path in Bar Harbor this fall. The Schooner Head Path was built in 1901 and had been abandoned since the mid-1900s. Today it is being reconstructed as part of the Village Connector Trails program, which is designed to revive the tradition of walking into the park, into town, and around local neighborhoods. The trail runs parallel to the Schooner Head Road and leads from the village of Bar Harbor to Schooner Head. Construction of the 3.5-mile trail will continue throughout 2008 and is made possible by the Fore River Foundation and Friends’ Acadia Trails Forever initiative.

Acadia National Park Superintendent Sheridan Steele thanks a local Girl Scout troop and other helpers for their hard work on Take Pride in Acadia Day.
In Gratitude

VOLUNTEER CREW
LEADERS
Bruce Blake
Bucky and Maureen Brooks
Rod Fox
Mike Hays
Heidi Herschberger
Jack Hirschenhofer
Steve Johnson
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Don Lenahan
Jim Linnane
Mark Munsell
Betsy Roberts
Bob Sanderson
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Barb Chase
Don Curley
Melissa Gates
Pam Godin
Bill Horner
Erin McLaughlin
Peter Mullen
Tammy Mullen
Martha Plaza
Jack Russell
Mary Vekasi
Sandy Wilcox

Other Helpers
Acadia National Park Staff
Linda Eddings
Jenn Donaldson
Nina Gormley
Donna Healy
Dee Solomon
Book Review

Shades on the Sea
The Colors of Lobstering

I’ve been fascinated by lobster boats and lobster buoys since I was a child. I love the colors of the boats, the color combinations on the buoys, noting which buoys stand out best against the ocean background, the subtle variety of shapes, the type of spindle—just everything! I like the way the harvesters look after all the recreational boats are out of the water and the lobster boats have the harbor to themselves, how they point into the wind. And I just found out that someone else likes these things, too. I picked up a copy of photographer Greg Currier’s new book, The Colors of Lobstering, and found a “sole-mate.” Mr. Currier has explored all parts of lobstering through photography. Some photos are very abstract, showing only reflections in the water or snaking piles of line, while other photos show the traditional views associated with lobstering, but with Mr. Currier’s discriminate eye to light, color, and composition. There are many photos of my beloved buoys; in piles, hanging, in the grass, in traps, and on boats. There are even a few photos of lobsters! All in all, the book is a treat for the eyes—and a treat for those who appreciate lobstering in Maine.

—S. Shearwater

Photography and Philosophy
Wild Acadia: A Photographic Journey to New England’s Oldest National Park

Using rich color photographs, historic black and white prints, and a range of personal anecdotes, the authors take the reader on a visually-stunning and well-written journey through Acadia.

From Acadia’s volcanic beginnings and the development of the national park to the current threats facing Acadia, the essays and photographs in Wild Acadia focus on the themes of change, wilderness, solitude, tourism, and overcrowding. The authors have effectively illustrated both visually and through words, that one thing remains constant: the beauty of Acadia. Acadia’s granite domes, bold coastlines, and lush forests have withstood the test of time and are still as beautiful today, despite threats from the environment, tourists, and development.

The Monkman’s recognized Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the vital roles these local organizations play in protecting Acadia and the surrounding communities from threats to the island’s environment.

This book is beautiful enough for your coffee table, but substantial enough for a good afternoon read.

—Bridget Jeter

Heart of the Matter

“For in the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught.”

—Baba Dioum
POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS AND PHILANTHROPIC PERFORMANCES

As I reflect on the passing of the final brilliant red and yellow colors painting the mountain sides of Sargent and Cadillac, I am filled with a sense of awe and wonder at the gift of nature that stands before us in Acadia National Park. My most special visual images came in late October when I rode my mountain bike on our beautiful carriage roads to see these colors light up in the waning afternoon sun over Acadia Mountain on Somes Sound, soon followed by a harvest moon rising over Schoodic. The visual images of the natural habitat flowing from brilliant colors at sunset to bright stars speckling the night sky made me so keenly aware of the uniquely powerful partnerships within nature’s arena, continuously at work to produce brilliant memories.

I was also filled with gratitude for the powerful partnerships and philanthropy that Friends of Acadia inspires to help protect and preserve these precious places for all people to cherish. It is the power of partnerships and philanthropy that fuels Friends of Acadia year-round.

“Guard it well, for it is far more precious than money... once destroyed, nature’s beauty cannot be repurchased at any price.”
—Ansel Adams

Case in point is our successful preservation and protection of Acadia Mountain this past fall. Thank you to our donors, members, and valued partners for all the great support in making this conservation coup possible. I am especially proud of the tremendous work by our president, Marla O’Byrne, and Dianna Emory, board member and past chair, and the whole Friends of Acadia team.

Another example of powerful partnerships and philanthropy is the Acadia Gateway Center. Friends of Acadia recently purchased the 369-acre Crippens Creek property in Trenton that is designated as the future site of the Acadia Gateway Center. This purchase marked a milestone in the many years of work by federal, state, and local partners to plan a transportation center that will complete the original vision of the Island Explorer bus system by reducing the number of individual vehicles on the roadways in the Mount Desert Island region and allowing more visitors to access MDI and Acadia in an environmentally-friendly way. I am especially appreciative of the tremendous philanthropic support from Tom Cox, the Butler Conservation Fund, the Thomas H. Maren Foundation, and the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, which made the land acquisition possible.

Yet another showing of powerful partnerships was the nearly 300 Friends of Acadia members, volunteers, and visitors who participated in this year’s Take Pride in Acadia Day. The volunteers gathered with enthusiasm despite the impending remnants of Hurricane Noel and worked throughout the morning, raking leaves out of the ditches and culverts on more than 8 miles of Acadia’s carriage road system. In my eyes, it is a great example of the power of people partnering to accomplish a great task for the park.

Private philanthropy and partnerships have played vital roles in the preservation, protection, and improvement of America’s national parks since their inception and will continue to be essential in securing their future. National parks from coast to coast now have the opportunity to benefit from an unprecedented combination of philanthropy and partnerships. In preparation for the National Park Service centennial in 2016, the Administration has introduced the Centennial Initiative, which, if passed by Congress, will provide a combined $3 billion of funding specifically for national parks. The funding will be provided in a matching gift format of up to $100 million ($50 million from federal funding, $50 million from private philanthropy) per year from 2008 through 2016.

I recently attended the National Park Foundation Leadership Summit on Partnership and Philanthropy with Marla O’Byrne and Sheridan Steele, and I witnessed the power of private philanthropy on a national scale. Attended by Laura Bush, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne, park superintendents, friends groups, and corporate and private foundation leaders, the summit was designed to provoke thought and spark dialogue about supporting our national parks in the next century. It also celebrated a 1983 statement by Wallace Stegner: “National parks are the best idea we ever had. Absolutely American, absolutely democratic, they reflect us at our best rather than our worst.”

Throughout the three-day summit, I was filled with incredible pride when hearing speaker after speaker recognize Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia as national models for excellence. This recognition bears the responsibility for all of us to push forth towards the 2016 centennial with great passion, wisdom, and planning, serving as leaders for parks and friends groups nationwide. So, onward and upward to 2016!

—Lili Pew

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

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

For more information, call the office at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

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**Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize**

**NATURE POETRY COMPETITION**

“Lived once, the events we experience come and go, in disorder and confusion. But poets have the luck of living twice, the second time when they recall through their work what happened to them, learning in this way the event’s true meaning.”

– Wesley McNair

Submissions are invited for the 2008 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize. The three top-ranked poems 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 will be accepted. Include cover sheet stating author’s name and address and poem title. Do not include author’s name on manuscript(s). Authors may submit only three poems for consideration.

Entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted elsewhere. There is no fee to enter.

Deadline: January 30, 2008

Send to: Editor, Friends of Acadia Journal, PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, ME 04609

editor@friendsofacadia.org

Entries will not be returned.
friends of acadia

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.

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