Friends of Acadia

Mission

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

Friends of Acadia
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A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities
Purchase Your Park Pass!

Even in the winter, your park pass purchase helps make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) and $40 annual pass are available at Acadia National Park Headquarters (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte 233 in Bar Harbor).

FRIENDS OF ACADIA

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 25, 2009 Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up
June 6, 2009 National Trails Day
August 5, 2009 “The National Parks” documentary preview with filmmaker Ken Burns
July TBA, 2009 Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
July 19, 2009 Acadia Adventures Family Fun Day
August 8, 2009 Benefit Gala
November 7, 2009 Take Pride in Acadia Day
Ongoing Second Saturday Schoodic Lecture Series
Winter in Acadia means shorter days to spend out in the park, with more time to gather with friends and tell stories. Among the many benefits of working with a national park are the people who love it and their stories. For the winter days ahead, I wanted to share a few of my favorites.

In 1998, an eleven-year-old girl sent us her first membership check, in the amount of $13 and change. She had collected nickels from returning soda bottles. This young steward told us that because she had grown up in the park and loved hiking its trails, she was really protecting her home. She has been a member now for nearly half her life.

Two years ago, a family granted $50,000 to help Friends and the park restore the Schooner Head Path, a trail that has not been part of Acadia’s exquisite trail system for fifty years. A family member told us that seventy years ago his grandfather would walk every morning from his summer cottage in the area to the Champlain trails, along this path. For him, he was restoring a part of his family history.

In the unlikely setting of a lecture hall at the Harvard Business School, a professor concluded a summer session for nonprofit managers by singing a folk song. Starting out quietly, and growing in strength as he re-created the legend, he sang about the building of the Going to the Sun road in Glacier National Park. One hundred and forty professional managers were rapt by the sound of one voice singing the history of what had seemed an impossible task. A task undertaken to share the marvels of an extraordinary place, to inspire. His message: we are all building our roads to the sun, and it can be done.

These stories describe the power of Acadia and our national parks to inspire and transform. Our parks give us the room to experience, to explore, to discover—and to create our own legacy. They are our national heritage, and our history. We are enriched by the hope and reassurance and inspiration that they offer.

More than 80 years ago, George B. Dorr started on a quest to protect this magnificent place that nourished spirit and body. With partners—Charles W. Eliot and John D. Rockefeller Jr. among them—he negotiated gifts and purchases of land to create Acadia. He traveled summer and winter along the East Coast during an era when traveling to Maine was a long and arduous effort. And he spent the rest of his days, and family inheritance, to create and manage the first national park east of the Mississippi.

Today, as perhaps never before, we must care for this legacy that we have been given, and will pass on. A war, financial instability, and chronic underfunding of our parks are real threats. In Acadia, 20 full-time positions remain unfilled. Increasingly complex demands are made on the park every year that require research, consideration, and action.

Friends will not replace federal funding. But we have a unique role to enhance and strengthen the park’s ability to thrive by leveraging additional federal funding, managing projects, and providing a voice for the park before Congress. Our work is not done.

A closing story from my own history in Acadia. Skiing to the summit of Day Mountain, I turned to look out over the winter Atlantic. As I watched a storm front slowly blot out the late afternoon sun, coyotes began to bark and yip with the darkening of the sky. As John Muir noted, “This grand show is eternal….”

“The ultimate test of man’s conscience may be his willingness to sacrifice something today for future generations whose words of thanks will not be heard.”

—Gaylord Nelson, former Governor of Wisconsin, co-founder of Earth Day
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Barb and I have been at Acadia for more than five years now. We feel fortunate to be in this place of great beauty, supported by organizations, individuals, and volunteers. As we finish up our sixth summer in Acadia, I thought it might be fun to take a look at some of our favorites.

FAVORITE HIKE
The 3.3 mile loop from Jordon Pond, going up Jordon Cliffs Trail to the summit of Penobscot Mountain, and returning via the Penobscot South Ridge Trail. The Jordon Cliffs Trail is only for those who do not mind a little cliff walking and ladder climbing, but it is a route that provides wonderful views as well as great memories. I have recommended this trail to many, with a few good-natured complaints about the open and narrow cliffs in places.

FAVORITE BIKE RIDE
The 12 mile loop beginning at Eagle Lake, going up the hill and down to Aunt Betty Pond, and then along the side of Jordan Pond, crossing the road at the JP Gate House, and then heading north along Bubble Pond and along the east side of Eagle Lake. You can even add a stop at Jordan Pond House for popovers or a complete lunch - but reservations are a good idea during the busy season.

FAVORITE WILDLIFE VIEWING AREA
The 3.2 mile Witch Hole Pond carriage road loop has a number of ponds and marshes along it. My personal favorite is Witch Hole Pond, as well as the marsh across the carriage road from it. Visiting that spot in the evening, Barb and I have seen both adult and young beaver, otter, muskrat, and many waterfowl. We have also seen deer and other critters nearby.

FAVORITE FLAT WALK
Either around Jordan Pond on the 3 and 1/2 mile loop, with many great views of the Bubbles and Jordan Pond, or the Ocean Path from Sand Beach to Otter Cliffs. If you chose the latter, you can use the Island Explorer to get to it or back from your walk to your car. Both of these walks are “easy,” but offer spectacular scenery with a chance to get some exercise before that lobster dinner. I always suggest these to visitors who may not want a more strenuous climb.

FAVORITE CANOE PADDLE
Rent or borrow a canoe and paddle up Northeast Creek from Highway 3. There is an obvious pull off at the bridge and an easy slope to slide the canoe down into the creek. Beautiful anytime of the year – but my favorite time is in the fall when colors are at their peak. With little current, this is an easy one-to-two hour paddle up and back. You can also pick cranberries from your boat in the fall.

FAVORITE DAY TRIP
Take your bikes and a picnic lunch down to the Bar Harbor Pier (where the Margaret Todd docks) and buy a round trip on the Winter Harbor ferry. After a beautiful boat ride among the islands of Frenchman Bay, you are met by the Island Explorer, which will take you and your bikes to Frazier Point Picnic Area at the Schoodic section of Acadia. Begin your bike ride there, going around the spectacular loop road, making as many stops as you like for photos or short walks. Time your stay to coincide with low tide to walk to (and from) Little Moose Island, and explore this beautiful, natural environment. Bike back to the ferry or take the bus—just be sure to know the various schedules involved. It is also a good idea to take a picnic lunch, since there are no opportunities to buy food along the way. For another great day trip, visit Isle au Haut via the local mail boat for some terrific island scenery.

FAVORITE RANGER GUIDED BOAT CRUISE
It’s difficult for me to choose, because I think all four ranger-led boat trips (Islesford Historical Cruise, Baker Island, Dive-in Theater, and the Margaret Todd) are great experiences for the family. I believe the Baker Island trip is my favorite because of the special experience of walking around another very pretty island, learning some local history, having time to yourself on the rugged coast, and enjoying the great views of Acadia from the water. This 4 and 1/2 hour commercial trip leaves early from Bar Harbor.

There are at least five other things I truly love about Acadia. These include the history of private individuals taking action to protect the area’s special qualities, a rich history of philanthropy helping accomplish great things, the outstanding success of Friends of Acadia, our many volunteers, and our dedicated staff. All of these have worked together to help Acadia National Park preserve the resources and provide quality visitor services which over 2 million visitors enjoy each year.

—Sheridan Steele
Connecting Families
We have been enjoying our Acadia explorations a great deal. For the first time we went to the ranger programs at Seawall Campground, while we were camping. The kids loved that. I’m grateful for the learning opportunities that the ranger programs offer, as well as the ability to get around the park on the Island Explorer.

The Schoodic Lecture Series seems very intriguing and I wish that we could have attended this year. 7pm all the way out at Schoodic is too late for us with small kids. Maybe when they are bigger! Also, I think the volunteering will be easier when they are older too.

Thanks for all you are doing to enhance our enjoyment of Acadia.

Lelania Avila

More Quest Fun
While we would have been hiking, swimming, and biking all summer I don’t think we would have ridden the bus or gone to ranger led programs without the Quest. We really enjoyed the Acadia Rocks program and we look forward to doing more next summer. We also might not have gotten around to working on the trails with the boys this young but I am glad we did and we look forward to the Take Pride in Acadia Day (and our last activity.)

Thank you for the program and the park pass. We look forward to doing the quest again next year!

Renee, Dawson, and Alex Burnett

Getting the Family Involved
We had such an amazing time today! Eli was a trooper: he got right in there and was helping to dig the holes for the trees, bring the fertilizer to plant, helped bring wheel barrows full of dirt to replant the trees, was chipping big rocks out of the holes and even got to help work the backhoe!! We also sowed all of the grass seed we were given and raked. I have some incredible pictures if you’d like copies I can certainly give them to you.

I’m so appreciative of Acadia Quest because I probably wouldn’t have known how to get involved with the Park in this capacity. I’m so excited to take Eli past that spot year after year and see how much “our” trees have grown. My only regret is that we didn’t get MORE involved earlier in the season (but you know all about crazy Maine summers). It was a wonderful opportunity for an impressionable little boy to see people generously & happily giving their time and energy for such an important reason: taking care of our earth and to have him centrally involved. Everyone was really supportive that he was there even though he was so little and I think he really understood the importance of what we were doing, stepped up to the plate and really helped out a lot. I learned a lesson today: never underestimate the potential of your children and I enjoyed myself immensely as well!

Thank you so much for that incredible opportunity.

Looking forward to seeing you at the Take Pride in Acadia Day.

Elizabeth Pouwels

Fun with the Quest
We’ve been on the Island Explorer a lot this summer, but one day we rode the Island Explorer to a ranger program. We got on the bus at Hadley’s Point Campground, rode into town, and changed buses for our ride to Sieur du Mont. The program was terrific. Ranger Angi taught the kids how to use all five senses to discover nature around them. We went back into town and enjoyed lunch and a walk to the town beach and along the shore path. It was a great day.

Another day was spent at Sand Beach. The kids were most excited about dodging the waves and the sand castles they made in the sand.

We’re looking forward to planting at Blackwoods during an upcoming volunteer work day. Just waiting to hear back from Jonathan Gormley about the date.

Kristi McIntire

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The Journal is published three times a year. Submissions are welcome. Opinions expressed are the authors’.

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Little Long Pond and Penobscot Mountain

Cover photograph by Tom Blagden

Notes from Friends
Friends of Acadia’s success hinges on the ability to work well with partners, chiefly Acadia National Park. Friends has been fortunate to have the highest quality National Park staff working at Acadia. Two in particular, Mike Healy and Len Bobinchock, have been critical to maintaining the excellent relationship between Friends and the park. As Acadia’s administrative officer, Mike oversees the park’s finances and administrative staff and is the “behind-the-scenes” contact for all of the agreements and grants with Friends. Len Bobinchock serves as deputy superintendent, coordinating all divisions of park operations, ensuring that management decisions are made in an integrated fashion, and engaging in strategic partnerships to achieve important objectives.

Mike and Len have served at the park for 18 and 20 years respectively. They met first at the National Park Service Regional Office in Boston, where Mike served as a captain in the United States Park Police, responsible for law enforcement programs in the North Atlantic region, and Len served as a regional resource and visitor protection specialist, overseeing fire coordination, endangered species work, and other projects. Both came to their careers in the National Park Service out of a desire to work outdoors, but both were good enough to be promoted indoors to management levels.

Mike retired in November 2008 after 38 years in the National Park Service and an additional nine years in the Central Intelligence Agency and U.S. Coast Guard. He grew up in Washington, D.C., where many green spaces belonged to the National Park Service, and the U.S. Park Police had a visible presence. It was a natural fit, then, when Mike proceeded to law enforcement with the Park Service. He spent twenty years of his career with the U.S. Park Police, and in that time covered several important events including the Bicentennial Celebration in Washington, D.C., and the Centennial for the Statue of Liberty in New York City.

Len also began his National Park Service career in law enforcement at Delaware Water Gap, and switched to resource management at Fire Island National Seashore, where he dealt with difficult issues from deer ticks and Lyme disease to mosquito management. At Acadia, Len is known to be a steadfast, calm, knowledgeable person, and has been the cement for the Island Explorer partnership, securing diverse federal funds, strengthening relationships, and ensuring the best possible bus service for Acadia’s visitors. Len has served as acting superintendent three times at Acadia. Sheridan Steele, Acadia’s superintendent, noted at Friends’ 2008 annual meeting, when Len received the Marianne Edwards Award, that Acadia is fortunate that Len has chosen to stay at Acadia rather than be lured away to lead another national park.

What is clear in speaking with both Len and Mike is that Acadia has had a profound effect on both of them and their families. Mike’s wife, Donna, has worked with the Interpretation and Education staff at Acadia for seven years, and Len’s daughter is a former Acadia Youth Conservation Corps member. Because of their dedication to their jobs, neither has had much free time, but Mike reports that one of his favorite activities is boating on Somes Sound in his Lowell Amesbury Skiff. He also sings with the Acadia Choral Society. Len enjoys kayaking, hunting, and fishing, but spends much of his free time working on his house and his camp.

Both hold the relationship with Friends of Acadia in the highest regard. They echoed each other’s concerns regarding the stability of long-term federal funding for national park operations. Len pointed out that Acadia has lost approximately 20 full-time staff, and Mike mentioned that while the Centennial Initiative has brought an influx of additional seasonal operating dollars to Acadia, the challenge for the new Administration will be continuing this funding given other large commitments such as the recent financial bailout and military needs in Iraq and Afghanistan. Mike and Len both encouraged Friends of Acadia members to “keep doing what you’re doing” because the support of Friends is “unheard of in the National Park Service” and makes Acadia a better place.

Mike and Len, we thank you for your extraordinary commitment and excellent service to Acadia National Park. As friends, we look forward to continuing our strong relationship, keeping up the support, and fighting in Congress for better park appropriations.

—Stephanie Clement
Poem

FRIENDS OF ACADEIA POETRY AWARD
2nd Prize

“Bat Rhapsody”

for Eric

O little ships wrinkling the air,
yawned out of caves’ mouths
to sail the oncoming dusk,
we greet you! Supremely skilled navigators of the night,
able to home in on a pin,
we salute you!

Summer evenings, there you are,
out beyond the glare of cars
listening for food.

We praise your intricate ear shapes,
formed by a mushroom-loving God;
the triangle of your face by the One
who understands geometry. Your eyes
not blind, but bright in your face fur.
The glory of your hand wings, Chiroptera—
you fly and scoop and feed all at once,
like a juggler in the air eating peanuts!

I, the land anchored,
become dull-eyed and fat
and drugged by machines,
vow by this poem to change my ways.
I will free my eyes
from the lighted screens,
give up making love to the phone
set down the cup of despair,
and go look at bats.

—Charlotte Muse

CHARLOTTE MUSE lives in Menlo Park, California, where she
writes, teaches poetry, and tutors Hispanic children in reading.
She spends as much time as possible at the bottom of a nearby
dry creek, staring off into space.
WORKING TO HEAL
Danielle Faramelli
1984 - 2008

This past July, I spent a morning volunteering on the Schooner Head Path with six families. Even before I began, I knew this particular volunteer experience would be unlike any other. These families—the Faramellis, Krisandas, Marchegianis, McHales, Solfos, and Cooks—were inspired to volunteer by Danielle (Dani) Faramelli, a family member very dear to them. In September 2007, Dani was killed in a tragic automobile accident. Not long before she died, she was excited about her plans to volunteer the next summer in Acadia National Park with her family.

Dani Faramelli first visited Maine in 1990. She was seven years old. For the next 17 years, she spent every summer exploring Acadia from nearly every vantage point. She and her family hiked, biked, kayaked, picnicked, and swam. They had a tradition of starting each day with an early morning walk on the carriage roads. The Faramellis have a great love for nature, and they shared this love with their daughter.

In time Dani, who held a degree in fine arts, would turn her artistic eye, and her camera, on the beauty and wonder of Acadia. “I’m not sure when I first realized how much our trips to Maine had affected Dani’s persona,” said Debi Faramelli, Dani’s mother. “She took some wonderful photographs. Acadia really touched her soul. I know that her experiences in the park helped to shape the amazing woman she grew to be.” Dani not only had an eye for beauty, she had a heart for conservation.

On the last night of their vacation in 2007, the Faramellis were leaving the Jordan Pond House when Dani spotted a Friends of Acadia membership table. After speaking for a while with the volunteers, Dani called her mother over to the table. “Ma, can we join? Please,” she asked excitedly. “I don’t need another sweatshirt. Come on, let’s join!” Her mother agreed, and they signed up. Then they were told about Friends’ volunteer program. Dani wanted to help. Since they were leaving for home in the morning, she turned to her mother and said, “Next year, Mom, top of our list—we volunteer and get as many of the family as we can, too!”

The following year, while debating whether or not to return to Acadia for the first time since her daughter’s accident, Debi recalled those words. “I wasn’t sure I could go, but then I remembered our last evening in Acadia. I remembered what Dani said about volunteering.”

Working with Dani’s family that day, I realized what a remarkable group they were. Not afraid of hard work, they toiled until their piece of the trail was complete. Watching as they laughed and reminisced, I was awed by their emotional strength. A couple of weeks later, I heard from Debi. “I know I made the right decision,” she told me. “Volunteering was a healing experience for our whole family. I can’t put into words how wonderful it was to physically make a difference and give back to Acadia in Dani’s honor. We intend to make volunteering with Friends a new tradition every year. I know Dani would have loved it.”

Recently, I was walking along the Schooner Head Path and came to the section where we had worked this summer. I remembered Dani’s family members. To me, that portion of the trail will always be Dani’s. I know that her family feels the same way. Every time they return to Acadia, to the park she loved, I am certain they will walk the trail where they worked in her memory. They will remember what Acadia meant to her.

In the hearts of those who loved her, Dani Faramelli’s memory lives on, a part of the place she treasured most.

—Terry Begley

IN MEMORIAM
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

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Ronald Yeager
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June 1, 2008 – September 31, 2008
As I put on my Friends of Acadia T-shirt and cap and head out to volunteer for the membership table at Jordan Pond House, I feel especially proud, because it’s another way for me to give back for all the joy I experience while hiking and biking in Acadia National Park. At the MT, as we affectionately call the membership table, our goal is to try and interest visitors in becoming members of Friends. To me, gaining new members is like building an annuity for FOA where there’s an annual renewal and, we hope, eventually an increase in donations.

As people walk by our table, positioned between the Jordan Pond restaurant and restroom (yes, we get a number of folks who ask if they can stop on their way back from their mission), we try to engage them in talking about Friends of Acadia.

Hi. It looks like you’ve been enjoying the park today. We’re volunteers with Friends of Acadia. Are you familiar with us?

Surprisingly, close to half of those who pass by are not knowledgeable about Friends. So, we get the pleasure of explaining some of the meaningful work we do for the park.

We’re a non-profit, largely volunteer organization that helps to preserve and protect this beautiful park for our generation and those who follow. We work on the carriage roads, the hiking trails and help sponsor the Island Explorer bus.

Just hearing what we do convinces many people to become members.

Many of the other half who already know about FOA say that they’ve been thinking about joining because they’ve been coming to the park for years. One person recently exclaimed, “Every year we leave Acadia National Park with the brochure, intending to join, but somehow it doesn’t get done.” We’re happy to make it easy for them to become members.

Occasionally, an acquaintance who is not a member walks by the table, but after our gentle persuasion quickly becomes one. Other times, we’re able to connect and start up a conversation with people based on where they live, where they went to school, or the T-shirt or cap they’re wearing. I recall a couple from California on their first visit to the park, who I don’t think were considering membership. But when we established that I used to live one block from where they lived in Sausalito, we quickly bonded and they became members. Then, there was the time this cute, young couple stopped at the table and we asked, “Are you on your honeymoon?” “How did you know?” the new wife exclaimed, and they joined. Many of our volunteers have an uncanny ability to connect with just about everyone they talk to.

Today we’re offering memberships in Friends of Acadia so you, too, can help support us and be a friend! Our memberships start at only $35. But we don’t want to hold you back, because you could join at the $100 or $250 or even $500 level (said with a big smile). Most people who join do so at the $35 level, so it’s quite a thrill when we see someone circling a larger amount. To date, we haven’t had anyone yet check the box for the Pemetic Society at the $10,000 level, but we can always hope that maybe someone just won the lottery.

It’s lovely to hear the reasons that people decide to join.

“My daughter is getting married tomorrow in the park. This would be a wonderful way to commemorate the event.”

“I never know what to give my parents, who have everything. This will be the perfect gift.”

“Having just ridden the free Island Explorer bus, I want to join the organization that helps sponsor such a worthwhile project.”

“If Rockefeller can give millions, we can give $35 to join.”

“How much better to spend $35 on a membership than on something made in China.”

“My husband couldn’t be with me this year, so I’ll put the membership in his name.” Many times, it’s the kids who make the
difference. One couple was undecided about membership, but their 11-year-old son proclaimed that he wanted to join. When his mother reminded him that he didn’t have $35, the son promised, “I’ll take out the garbage every day for a year.” The family joined and put the membership in the son’s name.

Another time, we told two young girls about FOA, knowing full well they didn’t have money to become members. To our amazement, after lunch they brought their mother over to the table to join. One couple joined in honor of their 12-year-old daughter, Acadia, who was conceived in the Park.

Sometimes, it’s lunch at Jordan Pond House that closes the deal. When people aren’t ready to join right away, we give them our brochures to look over. If they’re having lunch at the restaurant, it’s the perfect time for them to review and discuss our materials. Frequently folks come back after lunch with their membership form already filled out. One woman joined and mentioned she was meeting friends for lunch. After the meal, she brought her friends over to the table and all three signed up.

When I return home from putting in about three and a half hours at the MT, there are always great stories to tell my husband about the interesting people I’ve worked with and met. Many times, the tales from the table continue well through sipping the evening glass of wine. 🍷

GEORGIA MUNSELL is an active Friends of Acadia volunteer. In addition to volunteering at the membership table for more than 50 hours last summer, Georgia Munsell helped conduct three membership table training sessions. She also volunteers as a trail crew leader for Friends of Acadia.

THE MEMBERSHIP TABLE PUTS A FACE ON FRIENDS OF ACADIA

Friends of Acadia’s membership table project demonstrates that person-to-person contact is a significantly more effective way to connect with Acadia National Park visitors than simply displaying membership brochures. More than 50 dedicated volunteers have worked at the membership table over the past two summers, engaging visitors in conversation about Acadia, what it means to them, and how their membership gifts can help Friends preserve and protect the natural beauty of the park.

The volunteers’ own enthusiasm for Friends is contagious. Many visitors say they have intended to join Friends for years, and they appreciate the membership table volunteers being there to make it easy for them.

The membership table resulted in 226 new members in 2007 and 466 new members in 2008. By comparison, brochure distribution in Acadia and surrounding communities generally brings in about 150 members annually.

During the first year of the project, with permission from park administration, Friends tested the membership table at the Hulls Cove Visitors Center and Sand Beach. Acadia Corporation also permitted Friends to set up the membership table near the Jordan Pond House restaurant and gift shop. Of the three sites, Jordan Pond House proved to be the most effective, so in 2008 the membership table operated at that location most weekdays throughout the summer and early fall.

Membership table volunteers participate in a training session that includes role-play to make sure they are comfortable talking to visitors about Friends. The table is always staffed by two volunteers; when possible, a new volunteer is scheduled with someone who has worked at the table at least two or three times.

A number of membership table volunteers also serve Friends and the park as volunteer trail crew leaders, bringing to the project their thorough knowledge of Acadia.

If you are interested in volunteering at the membership table in 2009, please contact Sharon Broom, Development Officer, at 207-288-3340 or sharon@friendsofacadia.org.
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Looking for the perfect gift idea for a birthday or anniversary?
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  - A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal, published three times annually
  - A Friends of Acadia window decal
  - The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park

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

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

Friends of Acadia
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Add only one of the following sentences to your will, or a codicil:

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

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

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

For more information, call the office at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email the director of development at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.
It was 7:30 p.m. on a night in late August. I was sitting at my kitchen table with my dogs, just finishing my dinner, when I suddenly got the urge to go kayaking. Instead of worrying about the dark, or how cold the water was, I decided just to go for it. I dragged my kayak down to the beach and made it off the shore without getting too wet. I headed towards Bear Island, skimming just inches above the seaweed-covered rocks. Guided only by the rhythmic splash of my paddles pulling through the water, I let my breath out and allowed my worries to disappear.

For me, experiences like these are what make me want to get out of bed every morning and face the day. I realize that I am incredibly lucky to have such experiences, and I feel I have Acadia National Park to thank for them. It is where I grew up; where I go to run and hike; where I bring my friends to go snowshoeing in the winter. It is where I go to appreciate nature and life. For these reasons, I decided to apply for a summer job with the Acadia National Park Trail Crew, and also to work as an intern for Friends of Acadia Chairman, Lili Pew. I wanted to know more about Friends of Acadia and how its partnership with Acadia National Park has become a model of excellence for the nation. I wanted to learn how the park operates, and what I could do to help.

During the summer, I worked with the trail crew from 6 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday through Thursday. My job consisted of building and maintaining trails and learning the proper techniques required to do so. I worked alongside a fantastic crew, and learned much about the history of the trails and of the island in general; it was the best job I’ve ever had.

On my days off, I met with Lili to learn about Friends’ relationship with the park. Going to FOA gatherings and speaking with many of the board members, I got a sense of the time and dedication each member puts into Friends. By working with Lili and the Acadia National Park trail crew, I was able to see how connected the two organizations are. At every FOA event, there were always multiple park employees and volunteers present, sharing their experiences with each other. At park employee BBQs, I often found myself talking to a table full of volunteers. During these interactions, I realized that some of the park’s success comes from the passion and dedication of its volunteers and their willingness to get involved in any way they can. Whether it’s volunteering on the trails or helping out at an event, every bit counts.

During my summer working with the park, I saw there was one thing missing: my generation, the leaders of the future. More people my age need to get involved in preserving the land they love. We use the park so much, and it is crucial that we be active, because in ten years we will be the leaders. It is our commitment to our resources that will carry on to future generations. In this day and age, so many people become distracted by the media and everything happening around them that they tend to forget about nature. It happens to everyone from time to time. Loss of touch with the world around us is a scary feeling, but in hard times, our connection with nature is a very important one—perhaps the most important of all.

In order to reconnect with the world around us, we need to be involved. This is especially true for my generation. We all enjoy moonlit kayaking, morning hikes up Champlain Mountain, and chilly cross-country runs around the Hadlock loop. I feel these opportunities will only be available to us as long as we continue to be involved. I believe now that the park is what it is today because of groups like Friends of Acadia, and because of people like you and me. It is my hope people from my generation will realize that they too need to be involved and connect with the world around them.

ELIZA VAN HEERDEN spent the summer as an intern to FOA Chairman Lili Pew.
On Saturday, November 1, Friends of Acadia held the grand prize drawing for this year’s Acadia Quest program at their 19th annual Take Pride in Acadia Day. The grand prize winners were Team Coluccio, Team McIntire, and Team Wales, all from Bar Harbor. The grand prizes, generously donated by Acadia Quest Sponsor L.L. Bean, included the following:

- A CAMPING PACKAGE, consisting of a six-person ultra dome tent, four Katahdin Climashield sleeping bags, a Coleman two-burner cook stove, and four three-piece mess kits
- A CANOEING PACKAGE, consisting of a 16’ Old Town Guide Canoe, two Old Town 57” golden paddles, and four Discovery life vests
- A HIKING PACKAGE, consisting of four L.L.Bean Escape backpacks, four Panorama Trekker’s walking staffs, and four L.L.Bean canteens

Friends is grateful for L.L. Bean’s generosity, both in sponsoring Acadia Quest and in providing three outstanding grand prize packages. The Quest was designed in response to startling statistics that show now, more than ever, school-aged children and adolescents are spending more time indoors with computers, video games, and television, and less time experiencing the natural world. Spurred by the alarming facts outlined in Richard Louv’s book Last Child in the Woods organizations across the country are creating programs to encourage children to participate in outdoor education and activities that will improve their sense of stewardship and respect for the environment.

By tying together regularly-scheduled events and programs into an organized program and challenging teams to compete for prizes, Friends and the park are giving families incentives to reconnect with the natural world. This year, 55 teams participated in the program, representing nine states, including Maine, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Florida, Connecticut, Maryland, New Jersey, and Illinois. Each team consisted of at least one child under 18 and family, friends, and/or mentors. Teams participated in a series of youth- and family-oriented experiences in Acadia that encouraged them to explore, learn about, and protect the park and other conserved lands. Participating teams received a free season pass to Acadia, as well as a park map.

Plans are well underway for the 2009 Quest. Kick-off activities will begin in April 2009, and include Earth Day and National Junior Ranger Day. Teams may register at any time. The Quest is open to the public. Teams that complete their activities by November 7, on or before Take Pride in Acadia Day, will qualify for the Quest drawing. Teams receive monthly updates via e-mail or surface mail about upcoming activities. Please note that because of the large number of available activities, the program is suitable for vacationing teams and summer residents as well.

For information about Acadia Quest, contact Terry Begley at 207-288-3340 or terry@friendsofacadia.org.

TERRY BEGLEY is the projects and events coordinator for Friends of Acadia.
Chairman Lili Pew draws the Acadia Quest grand prize winners at the 19th annual Take Pride in Acadia Day.

Members of Team Wales watch in anticipation as the winners are drawn. They won the hiking package.

Members of Team Coluccio following the grand prize drawing, where they were awarded the canoeing package.

Team Coluccio already enjoying their new canoe, joined by Lili Pew and Terry Begley of Friends.
They were both named for their famous fathers, and might have been better remembered with different names. Together, John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. shaped Acadia National Park in the first half of the twentieth century. They also worked together on Fort Tryon Park in New York, but that is a story for another day. The Olmsted influence at Acadia began even earlier—with the Greensward plan for Central Park in New York by Olmsted’s father in partnership with Calvert Vaux. The separation of ways in this groundbreaking plan, adopted in 1858, influenced many later designs, including the roads in Acadia National Park, with the separation of pedestrian ways, carriage roads, motor roads and highways.

The specific Olmsted work at Acadia began in 1929 with a disagreement between Rockefeller and George Dorr, both long-term designers of and donors to the park, about the best route for a new motor road. Rockefeller wrote to the office of the Olmsted Brothers firm in Brookline, Massachusetts, saying, “I suggested to him [George Dorr] that … I invite Mr. Olmsted and his associates to study these problems … and give us their opinion. With this suggestion Mr. Dorr was in complete accord and delighted at the idea…” The resulting work has left us more than 100 plans and several photographs at Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site and ten folders of correspondence and other materials at the Library of Congress.

The work ranged from an overview to detailed advice on what materials to plant and which to remove. For the first project, the road alignment decided on in consultation with the Olmsted firm differed from the routes proposed by Rockefeller and Dorr to the satisfaction of both.

After almost a year, Olmsted issued a report on the proposed 14-mile loop or circuit road. The report recommended routes for the various sections of the road along with such detailed design proposals as width, maximum curvature and gradient and speed limits. The report and the included plan were sent to Bar Harbor for public comment. At about the same time Rockefeller made public his offer to donate $4,000,000 to construct the motor road.

Reaction to this offer was not unanimously favorable. Some, mostly summer residents, had been opposed to the construction of any motor roads in the park. Olmsted dealt with this in his report, saying, “the use of motor cars is, with all its limitations and drawbacks, one of the important means of enabling...
people to enjoy such a [scenic] region and tends to be used for more ‘man-hours’ of enjoyment than any other means…” He also pointed out the importance of separating the park roads from the public highways that had to be used at the time to reach portions of the park.

In early 1931, Rockefeller withdrew his offer of $4,000,000 but continued to be interested in the design and construction of motor roads and to seek the advice of the Olmsted firm. The withdrawn Rockefeller funding was replaced, starting in 1933, by federal programs that supplied money and labor, including the Public Works Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Olmsted continued his consultation work on both motor roads and pedestrian ways. He made repeated site visits to advise on alignment, bridge design and vegetation along the road, including the avoidance of specimen trees. He asked that on a visit he should have “a gang of axmen at my disposal” to allow him to show where clearings should be made. He also advised on techniques for making the road as narrow as possible and for construction over the roots of trees.

Olmsted also had a major role in the design of Otter Cliff Road, advising a grade separation feature at Otter Cliffs to allow uninterrupted views from both lanes of traffic. He reviewed plans drawn by others for Kebo Mountain Road and found them “excellent” and consulted on the design for Kebo Brook Bridge.

Olmsted approved, as did Rockefeller and the National Park Service, the design for Otter Cove Causeway. After completion of the causeway in September 1939, Rockefeller wrote Olmsted that it was “more beautiful and successful than I had ever dared hope it would be. The causeway looks as if it had always been there…. My heartiest congratulation to you on the important part you have had in bringing this undertaking to so eminently satisfactory a conclusion.”

Which seems to be an appropriate summary for the entire joint project at the park. Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. died in 1957 and John D. Rockefeller Jr. died in 1960, but we continue to benefit from the work they did —both together and separately.

CAROLINE LOUGHLIN is president of Friends of Fairsted.

This account is based largely on the history section of the Cultural Landscape Report by Jeffrey Killion and H. Eliot Foulds for the Olmsted Center for Historic Preservation of the National Park Service, with gratitude for their work.

The Friends of Fairsted supports the mission of Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, which preserves the home, office and grounds and landscape design records of America’s preeminent landscape architect and his firm. This location was the firm’s office during the entire landscape practice of Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr.
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

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Roger Anderson
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Brian Murphy
WAYS YOU CAN GIVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gift Through a Bequest in Your Will
Add Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary in your will.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org/join.
“The real thing that I enjoyed about Acadia Youth Conservation Corps was the moments where I realized what I was actually doing with my time,” said Catherine Sharp, a 2008 AYCC member. “I would rip out weeds and snap up stumps for hours at a time, then look up for a bit and see this amazing trail, or clear ditch, or whatever we had done that day, and just exhale for a second. Because, no matter how filthy and tired I was, I would get a little thrill seeing this beautiful stretch of park and say ‘Hey, I did that!’

Each morning for ten weeks this past summer, 12 high-school-aged students and four crew leaders traveled to various locations in Acadia National Park to help build trails, clean campgrounds, and maintain park facilities. I asked Catherine why working for the AYCC was important. “You realize that all the effort you put in is keeping the entire park alive and beautiful,” said Catherine. “It’s very cool to be a part of something that big. I can’t ever remember not being surrounded by the trees and massive forests here. All the work feels like a ‘thank you’ to the whole park for just letting us live in it. All the little things we did could seem trivial to someone else, but when you’re at the top of Gorham, with the air so fresh that it sparkles in your throat, and you can see all the trees, and the ocean and sky, you feel so amazing for helping keep something that intense real.”

The accomplishments of the 2008 AYCC team were extensive. They spent a large part of the summer reconstructing the Schooner Head Path, an historic path connecting Compass Harbor to Schooner Head along the Schooner Head Road. They also removed blowdowns, closed social trails, constructed drainage paths, and removed brush.

I asked Catherine what she got out of the program. “I want to be able to bike on the carriage roads, smell the falling leaves, and shout from the top of Gorham forever,” said Catherine. “I think everyone needs to feel that click with nature sometime—so all the dirt and sweat and time are totally worth it. It’s hard, but none of the best things in life are free. It is so worth it!”

The summer was not all hard work. Friends ensured that the Corps had a chance to put down the tools and celebrate throughout the summer, providing ice cream sandwiches and other treats to reward the Corps’ extraordinary efforts. Friends and the park also organized a parents’ breakfast and tour of AYCC worksites.

“All the dirt and sweat and time are totally worth it. It’s hard, but none of the best things in life are free.”

Many participants described experiencing a lot of personal growth over the course of the program, as well as learning what it was like to “work for a living.” Catherine, a sophomore at MDI High School, will use the money she earned this summer for a school trip to Costa Rica in April with her Rainforest Ecology Class.

The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps is funded through an endowment established to fund student and leader salaries, as well as work boots, tee-shirts, and scholarships at the end of the program. Acadia National Park provides the leadership, training, materials, and supervision for the program.

The AYCC is open to students aged 15-18. For more information on the program and how to apply, contact Mike Staggs at mikestaggs@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

MIKE STAGGS is the projects and systems coordinator for Friends of Acadia.
**Updates**

**Family Fun Day**
On a rainy Sunday afternoon in late July, over 500 children and adults attended this fun-filled nature-focused event. Now in its third year, Family Fun Day has blossomed into a real community event, with Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park taking the lead. Other non-profits, including The Abbe Museum, Camp Beech Cliff, Island Explorer, and various others, provided activities, transportation, and great enthusiasm for the event. Upon leaving the event, each child attending was given a seedling of a white pine – in addition to the white pine being the Maine state tree, the white pine cone and tassel are our state flower as well. Community feedback from the event was all positive, with all looking forward to next year.

**Positive Economic News!**
One of the bright points in recent economic news is the inclusion of the reinstated IRA Rollover provision in the Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 1424), signed on October 3. The provision is retroactive to January 1, 2008 and will apply to gifts made through December 31, 2009.

The provision exempts from taxable income any funds transferred ("rolled over") from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a charitable organization like Friends of Acadia. The only limitations are:

- the donor must be 70 ½ or older at the time of the gift,
- the annual cap on the rollovers is $100,000, and
- the contribution must be a direct (not planned) gift to a charity.

This provision can benefit two groups of individuals who want to help Friends. First, it allows those who are not able to itemize deductions to direct IRA assets to FOA, and avoid paying the taxes that would eventually be due on those IRA funds. Second, individuals who may have designated Friends to be the beneficiary of their IRA after their deaths can, in 2008 and 2009, direct IRA funds to FOA and see the tangible benefits of their gift during their lifetimes.

For more information, or for a list of specific projects your IRA funds can support, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340.

**An Afternoon in the Park with Merle**
Some very special friends of Acadia attended the 4th Annual George B. Dorr Society celebration held on Tuesday, September 2. The day’s activities began at Wildwood Stables with a carriage ride around Jordan Pond. The traditional buckboards carried the guests and featured interpretation from long-term park expert—Mr. Merle Cousins, retired roads foreman of Acadia National Park.

The presentation included the history, engineering, and future of Acadia’s beautiful carriage road system. The carriage ride ended at the Jordan Pond House where guests feasted on a lunch of salmon, curried chicken salad, pasta, ice cream sundaes, and many of the Jordan Pond House’s famous popovers. The lunch also featured a brief presentation by Mr. Cousins about his history with the carriage roads, including some of his favorite recollections and memories.

The popular event is a small way for Friends to show its appreciation to George B. Dorr Society members and other special friends. The 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 FOA in your estate plans, or to share your existing estate provisions with Friends, contact Lisa Horsch, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or lisa-horsch@friendsofacadia.org.
MARK YOUR CALENDARS
Next year’s George B. Dorr Society celebration will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009

Governor Baldacci Holds Conference on Youth and the Natural World
On October 2nd, Governor John Baldacci held a conference at the Augusta Civic Center as part of his Take It Outside initiative. There, citizens, students, non-profits, and companies specializing in outdoor equipment met, mingled, and participated in a series of panel discussions on subjects ranging from childhood obesity to environmental education.

The conference opened with a keynote address by Larry Seltzer, president and CEO of the Conservation Fund. An introductory panel session set the tone for the day’s events, and included talks with David Hales, president of College of the Atlantic, Sheridan Steele, superintendent of Acadia National Park, and Patrick McGowan, commissioner of the Maine Department of Conservation.

In addition to the panel discussions, those who attended the conference were invited to participate in a variety of outdoor activities that reinforced the principles of the Take It Outside initiative. There were climbing walls, bird-watching tours, guided and self-guided hikes, demonstrations of 3D nature photography, and interactive GPS scavenger hunts known as “geocaching.” Also present were Maine Olympic gold medalists Joan Benoit Samuelson and Scott Wescott, and author Donn Fendler.

The conference, attended by more than 400 people, ended with participants signing a “Declaration of Out-Dependance,” declaring their intention to incorporate outdoor engagement into their lives, no matter how small the activity.

For more information about the Take It Outside initiative, visit www.take-it-outside.com.

Friends of Acadia Welcomes Ian Marquis
A native of Rumford and longtime fan of Maine’s particular brand of natural beauty, Ian has been visiting the park since he was nine years old. He graduated from the University of Maine in 2006 with a Bachelor of Arts in New Media. Prior to joining Friends of Acadia, Ian worked as the production artist for Bangor Metro, a city and regional magazine based in Bangor, Maine. An artist and writer with a strong background in print production and graphic design, Ian is also a musician and photographer. When he is not helping advance Friends’ goals of conservation and stewardship, he can be found playing guitar, hiking, and cooking.

Ian and his wife, Jennifer, live in Trenton. They have two cats and transient flocks of songbirds that eat from the dying apple tree in front of their apartment—when the blue jays aren’t around, that is.
Island Explorer Ridership Has Strong Showing

2008 was another year of growth for the Island Explorer. The fare-free, propane-fueled public transit system, established in 1999, carried over 400,000 people this year—an increase of 15% over last year's total. The Explorer transported an average of 4,983 people a day during the summer months, and 1,436 people a day during the fall.

Since the beginning of the program, the Island Explorer has been a big hit with both locals and visitors from away. In their comments, riders praised the convenience of the free transportation, the friendly and knowledgeable drivers, and the positive impact on the community in general. One couple even wrote that “this service is the single most important factor that drove us to Bar Harbor/MDI over other parks and towns.”

Friends would like to thank both the riders, for their continued support and kind words, and L.L. Bean, who recently pledged an additional $1 million of funding for the Island Explorer over the next five years. Without the support of both, the Explorer simply would not be what it has become.

Historic Photo Donation

Evelyn Albee of Otter Creek recently donated a set of historic photographs to the Acadia National Park collection. After reading the article in our last issue about the CCC in Acadia, she shared with us the following photo and information:

Leo Trennan of Old Town came to Acadia in 1939 with his brother to serve as part of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Mr. Trennan stayed here to marry and raise a family on the island he loved.

Climate Change Discussed

Kicking off a new lecture series, Thomas Huntington, Ph.D. talked about the impact and future implications of climate change for water resources in the northeastern U.S., including Maine. Dr. Huntington has analyzed historical and present-day data on such water-related measurements as stream flow and rainfall which indicate that the Northeast has experienced systematic climate warming during the 20th century. Climate projections, he says, suggest the trend will continue in this century, with longer growing seasons and more frequent “extreme events” such as floods and droughts.

Dr. Huntington’s lecture was the first in a series of “Research in the Park” lectures co-hosted by Mount Desert Island Biological Laboratory, Friends of Acadia, and Acadia National Park. The lectures feature topics related to ongoing research in Acadia National Park. Although well known as a beautiful recreation destination, Acadia also is an important laboratory for a variety of natural and cultural history research. Park scientists understand that successful management and protection of Acadia’s resources and values depends upon scientifically credible and timely answers to important questions.

The lecture series, to be continued in 2009, focus on researchers at Acadia’s Schoodic Education and Research Center (SERC), who work in partnership with Acadia Partners for Science and Learning, with support from L.L. Bean Researchers in Acadia. The SERC campus and Acadia Partners are located at the park’s Schoodic District on the Schoodic Peninsula and coordinate science research park-wide.

Water Quality Protection on Schoodic Peninsula

Late this summer, Maine Coast Heritage Trust purchased a conservation easement to permanently protect 366 acres surrounding Birch Harbor Pond. Friends of Acadia, the Frenchman Bay Conservancy, neighbors, and local families contributed to the purchase of the easement that protects pristine natural resources, sensitive wildlife habitat, and the water district’s backup water supply. Birch Harbor Pond is located on Route 186 just north of the main entrance to Acadia’s Schoodic District. The conservation easement...
ment also ensures continued traditional uses of the property, including low-impact recreation such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. The water district expects the sale proceeds to help keep rates stable and to maintain their system.

Volunteer Awarded for Service
In August, FOA volunteer Bob Sanderson was granted the Champlain Award for volunteer excellence by the National Park Service. The award is given to individuals who demonstrate exception dedication in support of the park's mission.

Bob is a significant part of the Friends of Acadia Volunteer Program. A year-round volunteer, Bob serves as a volunteer crew leader throughout the spring, summer and fall. In the winter, Bob puts in additional volunteer hours in the ANP sign shop.

We are honored to count him amongst our friends.

Simple, Green and Maine—2008 Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala a Complete Success!
In the early spring, the leadership of the gala committee identified three new goals for the 19th Annual Benefit Gala. The committee wanted to see a simpler event focused on Acadia National Park and Maine, while being sustainable and fun. Of course it had to raise money, too. On Saturday, August 9, more than 400 Friends of Acadia members and guests gathered for the benefit and helped achieve those goals.

The event raised more than $400,000 to support Friends’ work, providing critical operating dollars for the organization. Benefit gala revenues fund grants and programs that protect the park and including youth programs, advocacy, volunteer work on carriage roads and trails, loon habitat and water quality monitoring.

This popular annual depends upon generous volunteers and auction item donors. The volunteer committee and the businesses and artists who donate items to the auction make the event a success. More than 100 businesses donated items or advertised in the event program. Honig Winery helped acquire delicious wine for the event, and Duffy from Havana in Bar Harbor served the best mojitos north of Cuba.

Environmental sustainability was the signature of this year’s event, highlighted by the auctioning of a limited-edition 2009 Ford Escape Hybrid, donated by Ford Motor Company. In addition to the Ford Escape Hybrid, live auction items featured a Vespa, donated by gala committee members and Stanley Subaru; a painting by Richard Estes, donated by the artist; and an ensemble of jewelry made by local jeweler Sam Shaw specifically to match the Maine and green themes of the event. Silent auction items were equally creative, with furniture, art, travel adventures, and a boat offered under the auction tent.

This year, committee members planned a more environmentally sustainable event, as well. Among the changes to the event, the organization reduced printing associated with the gala and used smarter technology so that no trees fell and fewer toxic pollutants were introduced into the waste stream. Carbon offsets were underwritten for trips offered and LED lighting, a much more efficient lighting source, was used in the dinner tent. Bio-diesel ran the generator that provided the power for the event.

The benefit gala has grown tremendously since the first event in 1990, which raised less than $10,000. Nineteen years is a strong history for any event of this kind. It’s continuing popularity is a testament to the community’s commitment to Acadia National Park.”

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

The 20th Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit Gala will be held on Saturday, Aug. 8, 2009. For more information, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at (207)288-3340 or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.
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Friends of Acadia and other national park advocates worked steadily through the year to encourage Congress to authorize the Centennial Challenge, a program to invest up to a billion in National Park Service funds over the next ten years to be matched equally by private donations. In the House, authorizing legislation co-sponsored by Congressman Michaud (H.R. 3094) passed through Committee, but was not considered on the House floor. Similar legislation (S. 2817), co-sponsored by Senator Collins, was held up in the Senate by discussions about budget offsets for the new funding.

The Centennial Challenge was popular enough in the Senate, however, that it was attached to an economic stimulus bill (S. 3604) considered prior to adjournment for the elections. Regrettably, the bill failed when leaders were unable to secure enough votes to defeat an attempt to hold the bill. Senators Collins and Snowe voted in favor of hearing the bill on the Senate floor. The House version of the economic stimulus package, which did not include the Centennial Challenge, passed but did not go further.

As a result, the idea of the Centennial Challenge is most likely dormant for the year until it can be taken up with the new Administration. Friends of Acadia, the National Parks Conservation Association, and other parks and recreation advocacy organizations will gather in Washington in December to strategize next steps. Acadia Advocacy Network members have been important citizen voices in encouraging Congressional support for this historic public/private program to invest in national parks. While the Challenge was not fully authorized this year, Friends will call upon the Network again in future years to advocate for full funding.

—Stephanie Clement
**Book Review**

**Forest Trees of Maine**  
*Centennial Edition*  

I have a copy of the 1976 edition of *Forest Trees of Maine* on a bookshelf somewhere in my apartment. My father-in-law gave it to me and for as long as I’ve had it I’ve wanted to learn the trees within. A forest is, after all, one of the places where I feel most at home. Knowledge of the woods seems something of a higher calling to me. But somehow, I’ve never found the time.  

For me, the biggest barrier to learning the trees of Maine has been the lack of color photography. There is a disconnect for me between the pen and ink illustration, the descriptive paragraph, and the tree itself. The sketches in the older editions of *Forest Trees* are wonderful, but I’ve yearned for a book with photographs. Give me the old, but with the trappings of the new.

The Centennial Edition of *Forest Trees of Maine* is just that: the classic publication, updated. The narrow, staple-bound volume of years past has been replaced by larger, glossy pages and a spiral binding that makes it absolutely perfect for field use, which, after all, is what it’s meant for. Every entry is graced with colorful photographs of the leaves, fruit, flowers and bark of the tree, a distribution map, and information regarding the largest specimen on record in the state. I recently discovered a tree in downtown Bar Harbor that I’ve been unable to identify. With its chains of oval leaves and a trunk covered in thick, deeply furrowed bark, it has an almost exotic appearance. By coincidence, my copy of *Forest Trees* arrived in the mail a few days after I discovered this tree. Within minutes of opening it, I determined the tree was in fact a Black Locust and is not native to Maine.  

You can get your copy of the Centennial Edition of *Forest Trees of Maine* at www.state.me.us/doc/mfs/pubs/frmpubrequest.htm#ftm_100_edition. At only $7.00—and no shipping cost—a forest aficionado won’t find a better deal.  

—Ian Marquis

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**Schoodic Update**

**In the Eye of the Beholder**  
Since late summer, Friends has been giving van tours around the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park to the public and interested groups. The tours provide an on-the-ground look at the eco-resort proposed for the privately-owned 3,200 acres immediately abutting Acadia.  

Future housing sites are visible all along the Moore Road entrance to the Schoodic District. From Frazer Point one can see the site for the proposed maritime center on Sargent’s Island; on the ridge upslope from the Frazer Creek watershed and the park entrance are sites proposed for the Birch Mountain Lodge and additional housing sites.  

After a short drive and quick hike up Schoodic Head, one looks out over a vast, mostly unbroken sweep of 3,200 acres. The Modena’s property line lies almost immediately at the base of Schoodic Head, sweeping several miles north toward Schoodic Mountain and the Maine North Woods. Of the eco-resort proposal, most of the identified housing areas, at least two of the education centers, the complex system of carriage roads and trails, and a significant portion of the golf course lie directly in view, and at the feet, of one of Acadia’s iconic vistas.  

Friends will continue the van tours until the road up Schoodic Head closes, with plans to offer them again in the spring. As Schoodic Peninsula communities and Acadia contemplate the impacts of an eco-resort on their boundaries, it is critical for all involved to understand what is at stake.
Eco-Resort Proposal Falls Short

In the last issue of the Journal, I wrote about the eco-resort proposed for the Modena property on the Schoodic Peninsula. At that time, it was a hot topic. While there were some who supported the idea, and many more who questioned or opposed the project, the important thing was that the development was on everyone’s mind and the subject of intense discussion and debate. Amazingly, since the public meeting in Winter Harbor this spring, at which the proposal was presented to the community, and the following intense period of focus on the project, it seems the issue has mostly slipped from our radar screens.

There has been some speculation, and even a rumor or two, as to why there has been such a vast silence about this controversial proposal. Rosemary and I are concerned that this is a case of no news not necessarily being good news. We are afraid that the absence of attention has lulled people into complacency. Within the community, there has been no continued discussion about the pros and cons of development; no effort to achieve consensus about growth, its impact and the future of our community. And so we worry that the next time the eco-resort comes to our attention, the Schoodic community will be no better prepared to respond with a coordinated, unified voice then we were the last time the proposal was brought up.

Additionally, we fear that the silence signals that the key parties behind the development have decided to rework the proposal for the property, and that the revised plan will be devastating for the Schoodic peninsula. Having received a less than wholeheartedly enthusiastic response from the community, we anticipate that the developers will no longer put any effort into trying to garner support by promoting “green.” We expect that rather then listening to the concerns that local citizens voiced about the resort’s impact on our environment and quality of life, and responding responsibly, the focus will be on the economics of the effort, how to maximize return on investment. We envision that the next version of the plan will be less about “Eco” and more about “Resort.”

These concerns about the proposed eco-resort come from the fact that the project is not in any way community based. It is a project by outsiders and for outsiders. It is being planned without any Schoodic community connection or involvement. This doesn’t work.

What does work, is a project that incorporates local involvement in all respects and aspects. The Frenchman Bay Conservancy (FBC) “North Corea Heath” project is the epitome of such an effort.

Over the summer of 2007, FBC embarked on a campaign to raise over $400,000 to purchase the 600 acre North Corea Heath, a parcel of property that is contiguous with and complementary to the 400 acres of former Navy base that has been preserved as a National Wildlife Refuge. A very successful local grass-roots effort raised the vast majority of money in less than a year, and almost exclusively through small donations from Corea and Schoodic residents, visitors and supporters. As a result, the land was purchased and preserved in the spring of 2008. The “North Corea Heath” campaign was followed by a second strong local effort. Over the summer, a group of local volunteers, The Friends of Corea Heath, created a 1.2 miles trail through the southern portion of the property, the first step in the effort to make the property accessible to the public. In creating the trail, the crew worked with FBC leadership, planning, and coordinating to ensure the route showed off the property without damaging its delicate natural habitats. The trail moves through a variety of ecosystems, from a hardwood forest to a Jack Pine Stand to an expanse of open water created by beaver dams along the waterways that feed Roaring Brook and flow into Gouldsboro bay. And building on this community-based effort, the committee is already looking at opportunities to develop additional trails in coming years.

The success of these projects derives from local involvement. Through monetary contributions, volunteered time and energy, and demonstrations of enthusiasm, interest and support, the community has embraced the project—friends and neighbors were eager to help. They saw the land as their backyard and felt a real sense of ownership of the land, and so are glad and proud to have contributed to the planning and decision-making; to have been a part of determining the future and fate of the property.

There is a lesson to be learned here. The principals behind the eco-resort should pay attention.

GARRY LEVIN is a volunteer and member of the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia.
As I began writing this article for the winter Friends of Acadia Journal, the outside world was reeling from news of the financial market collapse and impending crisis looming in the forefront. Where do we turn to find solace in challenging times? The simple answer is nature. We have the greatest gift of solace and peace right at our fingertips in Acadia National Park's miles of trails, carriage roads, and high peaks sharing incredible vistas. So many have written of nature’s healing power. Life regains her soul when we step away from the hectic stress of day-to-day challenges, even for a brief moment, to witness the changing of seasons in fall brilliant colors, birds in effortless flight to their winter homes, and listen to the soothing sound of wind rustling the trees. Nature offers a chance to regain balance and find a source of inspiration and strength that will carry us through challenging times.

“At times when anxiety is high, taking a moment to reconnect with nature can provide a solace unmatched by any man made escape. As human beings we intuitively know that the natural world can feed our soul, by simply listening to the sound of water as it ripples down a creek bed or rushes against the shore, lifting our eyes to behold the serenity and stability of an aging tree, feeling the wind in our face, watching a butterfly flit from flower to flower. Immersion in nature’s wonders can be the best distraction from the reality of our pain and angst about the future.”

–Craig Tufts, chief naturalist with the U.S. conservation group National Wildlife Federation.

Another important lesson that I learned from my family at a very young age was the healing power of reaching out to others. Volunteering is a core tenet of our country. We all share a generous community spirit, as one witnesses in the aftermath of a loss. Getting outside of ourselves, lending a hand to a project, and personally feeling the powerful results of volunteering—these are gifts that each of us can give.

Many times this summer, I spent time in the Park helping Friends’ incredible volunteers, Whether at a membership table, rolling a wheel barrow full of gravel for the new Schooner Head Connector Trail, or taking a group of friends for a hike in the park, accompanied by experts who shared their unique perspectives. Climbing Sargent Mountain, we kept our minds working as hard as our bodies. By getting outside of myself, giving back, and sharing the park’s greatest natural resources with others, I welcomed fun, solace, and gratitude into my life.

Please take a moment of time to reconnect with nature, bring a friend to volunteer in a place of natural wonder, and let inspiration bring life into perspective again.

—Lili Pew
Purchase Your Park Pass!

Even in the winter, your park pass purchase helps make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

The Acadia National Park $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) and $40 annual pass are available at Acadia National Park Headquarters (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor).

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Friends of Acadia

Calendar of Events

- April 25, 2009 - Earth Day Roadside Clean-Up
- June 6, 2009 - National Trails Day
- August 5, 2009 - “The National Parks” documentary preview with filmmaker Ken Burns
- July TBA, 2009 - Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting
- July 19, 2009 - Acadia Adventures Family Fun Day
- August 8, 2009 - Benefit Gala
- November 7, 2009 - Take Pride in Acadia Day
- Ongoing - Second Saturday Schoodic Lecture Series
Friends of Acadia

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