**PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!**

Even in winter, your park pass purchase helps make possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia. Eighty percent of all fees paid in the park stay in the park…and park passes make a welcome holiday gift! Pair one with a Friends of Acadia gift membership for an extra-thoughtful “present” that will make a difference long into the future.

The Acadia National Park $40 annual pass and $20 weekly pass ($10 in the shoulder seasons) are available all winter at the Acadia National Park Winter Visitors Center at Park Headquarters on the Eagle Lake Road in Bar Harbor.

In addition, annual passes are offered for $20 each in the month of December only at these locations:

- Acadia National Park Winter Visitors Center
- Town Office of Mount Desert
- Town Office of Tremont
- Town Office of Gouldsboro

For more information visit

[www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org)

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**PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK**

Since 2002, L.L.Bean and Friends of Acadia have partnered to preserve and protect the park through scientific research, youth education programs and the Island Explorer bus system.

Join L.L.Bean in Freeport all year long for the celebration of a century.
For most of my life, I have enjoyed a deep and very personal relationship with Acadia National Park. From the first time I pedaled around Eagle Lake on my one-speed bike at age eleven, this place has been my North Star and my home ground. Favorite Acadia outings mark the milestones of my life, from graduations to first dates, weddings, and reunions.

All of these experiences forged a strong bond—but until my first months on the job here at Friends of Acadia, I did not understand how much capacity still existed for one’s love of the park to expand. What has enriched my early days on the job the most, and what serves as the lifeblood for all of us on the staff and board of FOA, is the variety of experiences and perspectives that so many of you bring to your relationship with Acadia National Park. There is not just one storyline at work here, or two or three: the ability of the park to provide motivation and opportunity is boundless. Friends of Acadia exists because of the remarkable synergies that come from the park’s profound impact on people from all walks of life and their desire, in turn, to “give back” and help care for Acadia.

I think of the man who returns to Acadia each year and volunteers for FOA in part because his parents first met on Sand Beach over seventy years ago; or the sixth-grader from inland Maine who got her first taste of the park last year at the Schoodic Educational Adventure and then led her entire family back to Acadia this summer; or the young waiter from California who saved up tips and rode his bike across the country to see the sunrise from Cadillac Mountain.

Friends of Acadia is a place where personal connections to the park take on a collective impact that is remarkable. The thousands of hours of trail work that our volunteers logged and the thousands of donations that our members gave in 2012 have helped the park to continue to thrive despite a very uncertain economic and political climate. Others have helped by speaking up for Acadia with elected officials at the local, state and national level—a role that will become increasingly important in the months ahead as parks face pressure from federal funding cuts, despite the fact that the National Park Service represents less than 1/14th of 1% of the overall federal budget!

The day after Labor Day, I was reflecting on my first summer at FOA and benefiting from the perspective that comes with the onset of fall and a trip offshore. On a boat cruise around Frenchman Bay with Friends of Acadia supporters, I looked back several miles across the bay to the familiar silhouette of MDI’s mountains and marveled at how such a relatively small park could mean so much to so many people.

Visitor feedback tells us that as Acadia approaches its centennial in 2016, the park is doing an outstanding job of meeting the hopes and expectations of more than 95% of its users—whether they are driving along busy Ocean Drive or taking a solo hike on the secluded trails of Western Mountain. Meanwhile, the role of the park as a magnet for economic activity for local businesses is undeniable and critical for the vital and growing communities in which we live. Yet challenges remain in ensuring that the dual goals of a high-quality visitor experience and resource preservation here at Acadia are met. We need to preserve the special qualities that set this place apart, and at the same time engage the next generation of stewards of the land.

Friends of Acadia will be working hard in the coming year to launch new initiatives aimed at achieving this all-important balanced use of the park in order to encourage its long-term protection. As I looked around the boat at the crew of volunteers, staff, and donors assembled that September evening on Frenchman Bay, I could not help but think that the sky is the limit in terms of what we can accomplish together. By acting on our own personal Acadia experiences and drawing perspective and strength from others, this organization will expand its creativity, relevance, and impact. I invite your involvement and support as we move together toward Acadia’s second century.

—David R. MacDonald
A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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GOOD DAYS AND BAD DAYS IN ACADIA

In Acadia, there are good days and bad days—and I am not talking about the weather. As superintendent, I try to get out in the park often to see how visitors and employees are doing, and I am able to spend many weekends enjoying the park side by side with people from all over the world.

Most days, I think to myself “today is another good day in Acadia” and am reminded of just how lucky I am to work in the national parks. For instance, on Tuesdays and Thursdays volunteers meet at park headquarters to help with meaningful work projects. Off they go in vans to build new trails or “floss Rockefeller’s teeth”—clearing out vegetation from between coping stones. With over 3,000 volunteers each year, Acadia looks better and benefits greatly from the hard work and additional services these many dedicated individuals provide.

Another “good day” is when Acadia’s management team leaves their computers and gets out to consider issues needing our attention. We recently motored to Islesford aboard the Miss Ann, the park boat, to assess the condition of the historic museum building holding the important Sawtelle collection. During our visit we talked with a few island residents about improving our communication with them. We then travelled to Baker Island, where the park’s fire crew had spent a couple of weeks removing trees from around the light tower and other historic buildings, both to reduce fire hazards and to re-establish the historic view. The light tower itself has a long list of maintenance and preservation needs but the view from the top is still terrific—as long as you don’t lean on the railing!

But every now and then something happens to make it a “bad day.” Recently I took a ranger-led cruise to Islesford. It was a beautiful day: we saw bald eagles, seals, and seabirds. However, seated across from me was a family with a young boy who never looked up from his handheld Nintendo. I am sure he never heard a word the ranger said or saw the magnificent eagles overhead. I wanted to grab him and say “Wow, did you see that?!” The parents not only wasted the price of his ticket but missed a great opportunity to introduce their son to the many values of nature and national parks.

Another sort of “bad day” occasionally happens at the summit of Cadillac. I once watched multiple buses fight for parking there, only to unload their passengers for a mere 15 minutes—enough time for them to wait in line for the restroom. Two men spent that time on their cell phones. I hoped they were telling the parties on the other end how spectacular the view is. Later that day, I watched young people outside the visitor center texting friends back home. I wished they’d instead been climbing the Beehive, enjoying the rugged coast at Monument Cove, or taking in the extraordinary views from Champlain Mountain.

Thankfully, I experience many “good days” at the top of the Precipice, listening to enthusiastic families completing their ascent of one of the most memorable trails in the world. Or, opening letters from visitors who write with praise for our well maintained facilities, or compliments for a dedicated ranger’s public service. I’ve even heard from a volunteer saying how much he enjoyed volunteering in Acadia because visitors and staff were so appreciative of his contributions.

I spend other “good days” talking to the Youth Technology Team as they discover ways to engage youth in Acadia through appropriate uses of technology, or attending the annual Teacher-Ranger-Teacher presentation where teachers describe their summer as rangers in Acadia as “life-changing” or the “best summer of my life.” These wonderful programs benefit Acadia, teachers, visiting youth, and many, many students in the years ahead.

I look forward to each year to the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting in July. I particularly enjoy talking to some of the thousands of “friends” of the park who share our love and enthusiasm for this extraordinary place. Many contribute time or money to support important projects for Acadia—projects that would not otherwise get done because of limited budgets and staff resources.

Here in Acadia, there are many more good days than bad. I never tire of this spectacular place and all that it has to offer. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated volunteers, partners, and employees, as well as thousands of supporters and donors—all who are committed to keeping Acadia special for generations to come.

—Sheridan Steele
The New Kebo Brook Connector

“Thank you” to the Friends of Acadia for the newly constructed and renovated Kebo Brook Trail. We often walk out to the park from Bar Harbor and frequently use the Great Meadow Loop to gain access to the trailheads of Dorr and Chaplain. We started using the section of the Kebo Brook Trail last year that runs from the Great Meadow Loop to get to the North Ridge trailhead of Kebo. We were excited to see the trail extended this year to the Gorge Trail and the North Ridge of Cadillac, and we have used it several times already to reach those trails even though it is still under construction. The trail crews are doing a beautifully aesthetic job designing and constructing the trail and they are always courteous when we pass by. Thank you to the crews working on these trails and to all who are supporting that work. You are making our walking access into the park easier and more beautiful, and we appreciate it.

—John and Liz Sherblom
Bangor, Maine

50 for 50 at 50

Please accept my donation of $50. This year I turned 50. Recognizing that there are many people in the world who never get to celebrate this milestone, I have decided to donate $50 to 50 organizations that have blessed my life. I call it my “50 for 50 at 50” campaign!

I first visited Acadia National Park in 1992 and again just last month, and it is a special place. I’ve left a piece of my heart there, and took a little of Acadia with me, and I look forward to returning. Thanks for all you do to keep Acadia thriving!

—Rosie Foster
Ossining, New York

Using the Island Explorer

Thank you for the wonderful bus service. We spent a week in our boat anchored in Somes Harbor and used the bus every day. It was great—and allowed us to get to the hiking trails, take our bikes to the carriage roads, shop and do laundry, etc. in Bar Harbor and explore Southwest and Northeast Harbors.

—Mary Talbott and Fred Hubble
Clearwater, Florida

Living in Brown Mountain Gate Lodge

I enjoyed your article on “The Gate Lodges of Acadia National Park” [Winter 2010 Journal]. My grandparents and my mother were fortunate to live in the Brown Mountain House while my grandfather, Maurice Sullivan, was a naturalist at Acadia. My mother was born in 1935 and web sites list my grandfather as Chief Park Naturalist in the 1930s and 1940s, so this would have been sometime after 1935 and before the fire in 1947. My grandmother used to tell a story of encountering an elderly gentleman picking flowers on the carriage road. She informed him this was not allowed. This turned out to be Mr. Rockefeller. On further conversation they discussed the gate house. He asked her what she thought of the place and she told him the mattresses were very uncomfortable. Apparently they were filled with horse hair.

Thank you for the support you provide to Acadia. It’s a beautiful place.

—Ken McDonald
Louisville, Kentucky

No, Thank YOU!

Thank you for offering us the opportunity of volunteering with Friends of Acadia. Given our early departure due to flooding at Blackwoods, we were not able to do all the things we had planned in Acadia and ended up with a surplus in our budget! The students decided to donate the remainder of $500 to Friends of Acadia. We really enjoyed the short time we had in Acadia National Park and appreciate the important work you guys do in maintaining the trails, especially after carrying logs for a while!

—Regina M. Feldman
Montessori High School
Cleveland, Ohio
Record Live Auction for This Year’s Benefit

Love for Acadia National Park and enthusiasm for giving back to this magnificent place were the guiding themes for the 23rd Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction at the Asticou Inn on Saturday, August 11th. A record crowd of 550 bidders helped to make the event a resounding success. Preliminary figures for the event indicate that well over $700,000 was raised to support Friends of Acadia’s programs, grant making, and advocacy efforts.

With predicted rain holding off in favor of a quintessential Maine fog, the evening began with a silent auction featuring over 130 original and one-of-a-kind items. All donated by generous artists, businesses, and individuals, these included fine art, guided tours to some notable museums and art events, handmade jewelry and accessories, and the ever-popular selection of retired trail and carriage road signs from the park. “It is important to remember,” commented Development Director Lisa Horsch Clark, “that for every individual who won a silent auction bid, there were many more bidders whose generous spirit led directly to more dollars raised for FOA’s programs. The value of all bidders’ contribution to this event can’t be overstated.” A superb dinner was served by the Asticou, followed by a fast-paced live auction with Mr. C. Hugh Hildesley of Sotheby’s serving as auctioneer. The crowd applauded each winning bid, and the final paddle raise brought in $70,000 to support the Acadia Youth Technology Team. The evening closed with a packed dance floor entertained by the Maine-based band The Martinis.

The Benefit Committee was led by Committee Chair Lili Pew, whose enthusiasm never flagged through the year-long planning process. Subcommittee Chairs were Gail Clark, Anne Green, and Lynne Wheat for the Auction Committee; Charlie Merriman for the Digital Guide; Lydia Kimball for the Dinner Committee; Gail Cook and Lanie Lincoln for the Logistics Committee; Meredith Moriarty and Ellen Shafer for the Patron Committee, and members of the Cairns Society of Friends of Acadia including Leandra Fremont-Smith, Heather Jervis, Elizabeth Merck Lake, Jenny Petschek, Kate Pickett, Courtney Thompson, and Laura Zukerman, who headed the Décor Committee and evoked Acadia’s “enchanted forest” under the big tent.

Listings of all patrons, sponsors, volunteer committee members, and auction item donors can be found on the Friends of Acadia website, www.friendsofacadia.org, along with photos of the evening. For more information about the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit Auction, or to find out how to contribute to next year’s event, contact Friends of Acadia Director of Development Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

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IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

- Winnie Atkins
- Margaret Maher Barry
- Prudence and Elmer Beal Sr.
- Herbert J. Beck
- Rita Becker
- Leo Blanchard
- Malcolm Blanchard
- Judy Brown
- Jack and Lorraine Cassidy
- Cecily G. Clark
- Bernard and Jean Cohen
- Russ Devereaux
- Frances W. English
- Arlene Erlichman
- Richard and Linda Foster
- Carolyn Gibbs
- Hallet Johnson
- John Knight
- Libby
- Sally Lutyens
- Catherine Cutter Marroy
- Jennie Michalowski
- Keith E. Miller
- Marie Murphy
- Mary Pomerleau
- David L. Rabasca
- Theodore Herzl Rome
- Martha W. Sampson
- Ruth Soper
- Irving Warso
- Isabelle Weisser

June 1 – September 30, 2012

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Save the date for next year’s Benefit: August 10, 2013. Featured in the 2013 live auction will be a 1950 Willy’s Jeepster. Yes, it’s red!

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Eager Eye Photography

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FOA President David MacDonald, board member Emily Beck, and Geoff Beck (left to right) were ready to bid during the 23rd Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit Auction.

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In Memoriam

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June 1 – September 30, 2012
IN NOMINE
We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

Marie and Gerald Berlin
Martin and Irena Cohen
Deborah Converse
Anne and Tony Earnhardt
Lynn Fantom
Friends of Acadia
Laurie Goodwin
Rennie and David Greenfield
Lisa Horsch Clark
Harold and Judy Isaksen
David MacDonald
Dr. Donald W. Morrison
Motoro
“My 50th birthday”
Lili Pew
Donna and David Reis
Beth Rendeiro and Steven DePaul
Trishie Scull
Julie Banzhaf Stone and Steven Stone
Trail Workers of Acadia
Lisa and Gordon Wissinger

June 1 – September 30, 2012

Poem

The Duck
2012 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize
Third Prize

Tucked into a modest corner of the swamp, the wiser duck inspires adaptation to the mire, learning what an avian can and cannot want and sticking to that. A mat of weeds holds sufficient energy to supply all needs, for those willing to accept a certain redolence of muck. Such humbleness provides proficiency in the slough: reliable feathering, a clacking bill to strain the shrimp from the brine, some webbing, which between the toes holds impulsive dives in line. Even mousy colors serve to keep predators in check. During the fall, the cruelest sleet slides right off the back.

—P M F Johnson

P M F Johnson has placed poetry with The Threepenny Review, Measure, Nimrod, The Evansville Review, Main Street Rag, The North American Review, and others. He has won a Plainsongs Award and been a semi-finalist for the Pablo Neruda Prize. His poetry appears in several “Best Of...” anthologies. He lives in St. Paul, MN with his wife, the writer Sandra Rector.

View of Dorr Mountain from Huguenot Head.
It’s April. And we are waiting for the “Acadia Quest Card” in the mail. We are eager to accomplish a Quest activity, submit a photo or two, and get that activity checked off. My two kids, Alex (13) and Nick (9), and I love this challenge. My husband, Rob, working out of state, joins us whenever he can. We love going to Acadia National Park to walk, hike, photograph, learn from the rangers in ranger-led programs, and recently, kayak.

This year, the Quest activities are divided into five categories: Hike, Bike, Walk, Boat/Swim, and Events. Any team with at least one adult and one child can sign up. Quest teams that complete at least six activities in four categories to be eligible for the grand prize drawing (in 2011, a $500 L.L.Bean gift card). Well, we haven’t been that lucky yet. But the team that completes the most activities will receive a surprise prize. That is what “Team Baron” could aim for.

Some activities are easy enough for us to complete a few in a day. Two years ago, after participating in Junior Ranger Day in late April, we decided to hike up the Beehive and walk to the Bowl. According to the Quest card, we were supposed to “swim in the Bowl,” but it was too chilly for that on an early spring evening. Last year, we signed up for Earth Day Roadside Cleanup in the morning before Junior Ranger Day, but at the last minute we decided to complete a different Quest activity that chilly, windy April morning. We started to walk across the sand bar to Bar Island about an hour before low tide. We hiked the Bar Island Trail to the summit, happy to accomplish our first Acadia Quest activity of the year and talking about exploring the whole island one day. At the top, we took pictures of Bar Harbor, while keeping an eye on the tide. But when we got to the sand bar, it was deeper than we’d thought. We took off our boots and wool socks and pulled our jeans up high. The water was up to my knees, and Nick’s thighs.

We waded through the chilly ocean water, stepping on rocks and tiny bits of broken shells and being blown by the wind in Frenchman Bay. But we made it. With jeans soaked with sea water and dotted with sands and shells, we drove on to Sieur de Monts for Junior Ranger Day.

We love the challenges of finding trails and trying new activities in Acadia. Uncommon trails, places, and activities are often less crowded and more enjoyable than better-known ones. Unfamiliar names on the Quest card made us realize how big this national park is and how little we know about it. We had to look at a hiking map or ask park rangers for certain trails, like Hunters Beach Trail and Western Head Trail, or specific spots, like Long Pond and One-Mile Rock. After we found some of these not-so-well-known places, we were hooked. We find ourselves going back to Hunters Beach Trail when we have a couple of hours before dark, to Long Pond to kayak, and to One-Mile Rock (or Duck Rock) to get out of our kayaks and swim.

Ranger-led walks are another favorite activity. Again and again, we forgot the Quest card or forgot to ask the ranger to sign. But we learned so much that we keep going back for more programs—Headland Hike, Mighty Migration, Botany Basics, Acadia’s Birds, Focus on Acadia, Autumn Ramble, Beaver’s World, and more. I hope they are not tired of us.

By late September, we have completed more than half of the Quest activities. Says Alex, “Acadia is my playground and education center. Its programs are a great learning experience. And Acadia Quest is a good way to have fun in Acadia.” Nick adds, “Acadia is the best place to have fun!” I always tell my kids that this year we have to do activities we haven’t done before, like Earth Day Roadside Cleanup, or take a ferry to an island, or kayak in the ocean. Hopefully, before long we will. ❥

AMY BARON has been exploring the nature, wildlife, geology, and history of Acadia with her family since they moved to Old Town, Maine in 2003. Amy, Alex, and Nick volunteer in Acadia and with Friends of Acadia as well as MDI Biological Lab, Fields Pond Audubon Center, and Hirundo Wildlife Refuge.
Winter in Acadia: bare limbs of beech and birch cast long shadows on the snow. Evergreens shimmer along shallow coves that sing with the ebb and flow of icy tides. Frozen summits shine like mirrors in the thin sunlight. It is the favorite season of many residents. Anglers drop lines through the ice on Eagle Lake, and friends take an afternoon ski along Upper Hadlock Pond. There are visitors who prefer winter, too; the most enchanting winter visitors might be snowy owls.

Every year, around November or December, snowy owls begin arriving in Acadia from their Arctic breeding grounds. Immature males travel the farthest, finding their way to fields, marshes, beaches, farms, even airports—any place that reminds them of the tundra. In the Arctic, snowy owls eat lemmings. In Acadia, they probably eat lots of chipmunks, red squirrels, and birds. A heavy, white nomad, the snowy owl hunts during the day (because it is always day in the Arctic summer), usually on the ground but also from trees and fenceposts. If winter weather is severe up north or food is scarce—or food was so plentiful that prime breeding conditions resulted in too many owls—more owls will move south in search of sustenance. These “irruptions” occur every few years, although Acadia seems to be a regular destination for the owls, which are known to return to the same locations year after year. It must be something about the bare, windswept summits, the long ocean views, the peace and quiet.

Snowy owls appear in the oral history of the native Wabanaki people. In one story, rivers and streams have dried up, and Snowy Owl seeks out the source, only to find great beasts (possibly mammoths?) drinking all the water. Snowy Owl knocks down trees. The beasts fall upon the stumps and die, and the rivers flow once again.

I’d been wanting to see a snowy owl for years. I can’t remember when it started—probably after I heard a story about snowy owls on Sargent Mountain from Rich MacDonald, naturalist, ornithologist, and proprietor of The Natural History Center in Bar Harbor. His many encounters with the enigmatic bird made him my authoritative source on the snowy owls of Acadia. Each fall, I would check in with him to see if he had seen any owls yet. I also monitored the Maine-birds forum at www.mainebirding.net/mainebirds, where birders share sightings, report rare birds, and discuss bird issues.

Last winter saw an especially strong irruption, with snowy owls appearing as far south as Kansas, Missouri, and Hawaii. More seemed to have traveled to Acadia, too. Birder friends kept sending me updates. “This is going to be your year!” they told me.

On December 4th, 2011, one snowy owl was spotted atop Cadillac Mountain and another tussled with a red-tailed hawk over McFarland Hill.

The owls are easier to see early in the season, before they camouflage against the snow. On a clear, crisp December Saturday, a friend and I hiked up the north ridge of Cadillac, taking our time and pausing often
to scan the terrain and sky. It was not the first time this particular friend had come along on one of my snowy owl excursions. I promised this time there would be no ice, no epic climb on frozen slopes. There were a few other people at the top. We wandered around a bit then decided to descend by the paved road, thinking the open views might offer a better chance of seeing an owl. We saw a fat porcupine amble into the bushes on the side of the road. We did not see an owl.

Late in the afternoon of December 18th, James Bright posted that he and his wife Harriet were descending Day Mountain when a snowy owl glided over their heads, landed on the open ledges just through the woods from the carriage road, and then perched high in a scraggy spruce.

I hurried up Day Mountain as the sun sat low and heavy over the gray horizon. Walk, stop, look around. Walk, stop, look around. No owl.

On January 3rd, 2012, a birder reported seeing a snowy owl—his first ever!—from the south ridge of Cadillac.

I started up the South Ridge Trail from Route 3. Winter was on by then, and the landscape had gotten icy. Snow builds up on the frozen surfaces of Acadia’s small brooks and streams; they thaw and refreeze, ice spilling out into the forest. Trails and bare granite turn to skating rinks. I hit ice as soon as the trail began to steepen. To continue would be difficult, and the sun was sinking fast. I turned around.

Rich MacDonald, patient with my inquiries and encouraging of my pursuit, provided the latest news: four snowy owls seen on Sargent in February, then a College of the Atlantic student (“who is also an amazing birder”) saw six snowy owls on Sargent Mountain.

In mid-February, Rich posted that he saw three snowy owls on Sargent.

I contacted him for details and he provided this account: “It was a perfect day: warm, mild breeze (which was a bit stiff up top). I biked (my bike has studded tires) from Jordan Pond House, down the carriage road to its intersection with the Deer Brook Trail. I followed the trail directly to the summit. No Snowies. I then followed the North Ridge Trail down almost to treeline. Nothing. Next was the trail east toward Jordan Pond; again, to treeline. Still no Snowies. From that point, I headed toward the South Ridge Trail. This is where I had all of my Snowies! Two stunning white adults and one juvenile! And this is the general area where I have had most of my Snowies in past years.”

A few weeks later, I followed his directions. Because the Deer Brook Trail winds through a steep ravine between Penobscot and Sargent Mountains and Jordan Pond, it doesn’t get as icy as other trails. Still, I walked carefully through several inches of slushy snow. I began to pay attention as I skirted Sargent Pond. I felt different this time, as if I knew the owls were waiting for me. As soon as I emerged above treeline and began ascending the open ledges of Sargent, I saw it staring at me from behind a fold in the rocks.

A smooth rounded head, yellow eyes, and soft white feathers flecked with black. I paused to take in the reality: I was seeing a snowy owl! The bird flew off toward the summit. I followed. Two, maybe three (the same one again?) owls took flight as I hiked along the ledges. Not wanting to disturb them, I turned around and went back the way I came. Had I really seen a snowy owl—multiple snow owls?! It was hard to believe, and yet, at that moment, the only thing I could believe.

“Snowy owls are a charismatic bird, visually stunning,” said MacDonald of his own fascination. “This bird represents the natural communities of the extreme northern latitudes, those mystical lands. To see a snowy owl on Mount Desert Island entails a winter hike to the mountaintops of Acadia National Park, which are home to some plant types found in the Arctic. They are an intersection of my intrigue for the far north, winter adventure, and birds. When I find a snowy owl, I like nothing better than to sit and watch, removed from the sounds of civilization.”

It’s often, oddly, not surprising when fascinations intersect, when a thing long imagined is seen in the plain and open light of a winter’s day. Go—go out for a walk and you’ll see.

CATHERINE SCHMITT lives in Bangor and is the author of A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine from Cape Cod to Canada.

Snowy Owl in flight over Acadia.
Millions who come to Acadia admire two special features of our park. Every visitor to the summit of Cadillac sees mountains rise from the Atlantic for seaward vistas like no others on Earth. Most also enjoy some part of our network of trails, carriage roads, and motor roads. These passages through Acadia afford visitors of all ages an easy and intimate access to nature that is unique in our national park system. As we move toward the 2016 centennial of Acadia, we should celebrate the historic artistic achievement—requiring time, vision, and community—that opens our park to the world.

Time
Humankind has walked these hills from ancient times. Wabanaki forebears moved for millennia over the lands and waters that would become Acadia. During the first century of permanent settlement on MDI, pioneer generations built roads and opened foot trails. Recreational pathmaking surged after the Civil War. Benjamin Franklin DeCosta’s 1871 *Guidebook* lists nearly 30 paths that would become the routes of Acadia National Park trails.

By the turn of the century, island pathmaking had come under disciplined management by path committees of the several village improvement societies and associations. When Lafayette National Monument was established in 1916, over 220 miles of paths were marked and maintained on MDI by these committees.

Superintendent George B. Dorr led development of memorial paths in the new park and the path committees continued their work in the 1920s. During the Great Depression, thousands of young men from impoverished Maine families brought fresh trail-building energy to Acadia through the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). We still walk on stones they placed 80 years ago. And pathmaking continues in Acadia today as the Acadia National Park trails crew continues planning and constructing new hiking trails and Friends of Acadia conserves the heritage through the Acadia Trails Forever program.

Vision
During the middle third of these 150 years of pathmaking, a man of vision invested nearly half a century, great care, and much treasure to build Acadian passages that complement the hiking trails and have opened the park to millions. From 1912 to 1958, John D. Rockefeller Jr. conceived and commissioned the carriage and motor road networks as a gift to Acadia and the American people. This labor of love is well documented by both park and private historians. We know the will, the diplomacy, and the extraordinary, decades-long partnership between Rockefeller and Dorr that carried the work through many trials—any one of which might have subverted the plan—and the acquisition, integration, and donation of the lands through which the roads pass. We can appreciate the carriage and motor roads as the visionary masterpiece of two great hearts.

Two of America’s eminent landscape architects—Frederick Law Olmstead Jr. and Beatrix Farrand—worked with Rockefeller on the roads’ design. Together, they served a great philanthropist who desired nothing so much as free days in open air, helping to make a carriage road turn and rise with amazing grace.

Community
We may also understand the creation of our Acadian passages as a communal achievement. The trails and roads of our park were built by many hands working together in a spirit of respectful interdependence. Summer colony leaders such as Waldron Bates and Rudolph Brunnow served as Bar Harbor path committee chairmen, but the superintendent of paths...
from 1892 to 1931 was Andrew Liscomb, the son of a Bar Harbor farmer. Liscomb and his path workmen, some who served for decades, built many of the iconic trails we enjoy today. George B. Dorr credited Liscomb with the design of the Sieur de Monts complex.

By the 1920s, with carriage road construction booming and the motor roads begun, hundreds of island men provided back labor for good pay and operated machines that opened the way. Their work continued through the Great Depression, when they were joined from 1933 through 1942 by over three thousand Maine CCC lads. Charles Simpson, a self-taught engineer from Sullivan, and then his son, Paul, were the chief engineers of carriage road construction for two decades. When the motor road was cut up Cadillac, Water Hills of Bar Harbor was a chief engineer. Labor and skills from island communities built most of our Acadian passages.

Our Great Acadian Sculpture

On the cusp of Acadia’s centennial, are there fresh ways that we may see and value the passages built through Acadia? Appreciation of complex achievements can be focused by metaphor, but sometimes the reach for metaphor helps us understand, instead, the true nature of achievements. The integrated hiking trails, carriage roads, and motor roads of Acadia are not “like” a great sculpture—they are such a sculpture.

Sculpture, according to Merriam-Webster, is “(a) the action or art of processing (as by carving, modeling, or welding) plastic or hard materials into works of art; or, (b) a work produced by sculpture.” That is exactly what the pathmakers and road builders of Acadia have done—they have created a monumental sculpture. Its shape is that of the ancient rocks formed by forces flowing through more than four hundred million years. Cut from this great work piece, placed by nature, the Acadian web of paths and roads has become, in time, a true relief sculpture—a complex form in three dimensions.

To see this grand sculpture in full, play Zeus. Stand high above Mount Desert Island, lean down, and grasp the miles-wide sculpture firmly at its highest point, at the summit of Cadillac. Using your godly powers, a few twists and tugs frees the great relief sculpture of trails and roads from the bedrock curves that have shaped it.

The sculpture comes free in good repair, and with it come the microenvironments to which each element in the web was accommodated: a bit of Otter Creek at the causeway, the moss gardens of the Valley Trail at the eastern base of Beech Mountain, and thousands of other Acadian glories.

The dimensions of the sculpture are monumental. It is 1,500 feet high and many miles wide, reaching from Schoodic to Isle au Haut. The shape of this work of art is the imprint of ancient stone, but human choice has also turned the elements of the web this way or that to open a grand vista or bring an intimate moment with nature, near. Those who made the decisions that made this sculpture knew the transforming passage of light through a day or seasons through a year. They anticipated our illumination.

Artistic intent flows through the elements of the great work of art carved on our island. Rockefeller, Dorr, Olmstead, Farrand, and Charles and Paul Simpson worked together on the passage of the park roads through nature. Drive down the Stanley Brook Road to Seal Harbor. Walk down the Seven Sisters to Gilmore Meadow. Through their enduring design, you change—every time.

Thousands of Artisans

The sculpture was formed by many hands. Some were resourceful people from away: Bates, Brunnow, Dorr, Jaques, Stebbins, Olmsted, Farrand, Attebury, Bosworth, Stoughton, Patterson, and Rockefeller. Some were of this place: Simpson, Clement, Candage, Liscomb, Norton, Hartford, and thousands of unremembered artisans and CCC boys. And some still serve: Stellpflug, Barter and Farnsworth.

Thousands of artisans, some renowned, most unknown, placed personal signatures on some part of this work. Visionary conservationists, local stone workers, great artists, island artisans, guiding philanthropists, and poor boys from across Maine labored together to open paths and roads for all. Their retaining walls stand strong. We climb today on rungs they placed. All were trail workers, and together they created a great work of art.

The hiking paths, carriage roads, and motor roads of Acadia National Park are a magnificent cultural achievement. These linked Acadian passages form a great sculpture carved into ancient stone by the patient hands of a diverse community who worked with common purpose through more than a century. The great Acadian sculpture they created is part of the world’s cultural heritage. In proper time, may such recognition and honor come.

JACK RUSSELL, a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, was born and grew up on Mount Desert Island. He writes occasionally on the history and culture of his native island and Acadia National Park.
Sierra Fletcher was enjoying a magnificent late-August day in Acadia National Park. She’d just climbed Penobscot Mountain’s Jordan Cliff Trail for the first time in more than twenty years and was walking past the Jordan Pond House entrance, feeling appreciative that the fun and challenging trail she remembered was something she could still return to. The scent of popovers wafting from the restaurant entrance was perhaps reminding her of visits long ago, when a smiling man approached, asking, “May I tell you about Friends of Acadia?”

He was Peter Obbard, one of the dedicated volunteers who staff the Friends of Acadia membership table by the Jordan Pond House. Since 2007, more than 80 volunteers have spent summer afternoons talking about Acadia with visitors, sharing information and enthusiasm for FOA’s work in the park, making it easy to join or renew, and putting a friendly face to the organization. Cumulatively, they have signed up 1,500 new members in the past six seasons. Along the way, they’ve talked with thousands of visitors about how Friends of Acadia pools private resources, including donated funds and volunteer labor, to benefit the public treasure that is Acadia National Park.

Members’ relationships with Acadia and their reasons for joining vary, but a common theme is appreciation. Sierra Fletcher notes, “I grew up in Maine and have visited the park for years—first camping with my parents, then bringing groups of Middle Eastern environmental experts to visit and learn about the National Park Service, and now with my partner, who is from Ohio and appropriately wow-ed by Acadia’s combination of mountains and ocean.” She adds, “I think that government has a responsibility to protect places like Acadia for the public good, but also believe that those of us who particularly cherish or make use of special places should step up and help out a little more as we are able.”

For Tim Weber and Debbie Luzynski-Weber, this summer’s visit to Acadia was their first. They were exploring the carriage roads by bicycle when they passed by the membership table and got to talking with the volunteers. Says Tim, “When we found out that FOA is responsible for maintaining [the carriage roads], we felt like that would be a good cause to support.” The volunteers made it easy for Tim and Debbie to join, even mailing the membership packet to their home so they wouldn’t have to carry it on their bike ride. “The whole process was pretty quick, which allowed us to get back to enjoying the park. That was important to us.”

“Giving back” is a common theme in the stories that membership table volunteers tell. Frank Zito and his wife, Diane, note that “people like to be asked to give back,” recalling one young man who told them he’d been coming to Acadia for 30 years. Frank said, “that’s pretty amazing—you look like you’re 31” and it turned out that he had indeed just turned 31. Frank said, “sounds like you want to give back at this point.” The man answered, “That’s a great phrase—I do. I want to join now, and I’ve got a couple of friends that I want to get to join, and I want our picture taken with the whole family.”

Veteran volunteer Georgia Munsell recounts one visitor who “didn’t say no but just couldn’t say yes. So I told him about the Journal. Still no yes. I asked if this was...
his first visit. No, it was his 5th, upon which I said, ‘time to think about giving back, isn’t it?’ Still nothing, but he didn’t leave. Then I said, ‘and today we’re taking photos of all our new members!’ Then he said, ‘OK, I’ll join.’ I thought what, he’s joining just for a photo? When it was time to fill out the photo release, he said, ‘No, I don’t want a photo. It was the ‘giving back’ that got me.’"

One category of park visitors that particularly ‘gets’ the idea of giving back is young people. Georgia was approached by a teenager and her dad one day. She asked if she could tell them about FOA and the teenager enthusiastically replied, “Yes!” But then the girl said, “You need to talk to my dad because he has the money.” Georgia replied, “But it’s kids like you who are our ambassadors to your parents. You get what we’re trying to do to protect and preserve this park as volunteers.” In the end, the father said they would pass. But about an hour later, the teen returned with her mom and they joined. Says Diane Zito, “It’s often the children, especially teenagers, who know their parents have been bringing them here every year and really encourage their parents to join.” Why? More schools include community service in the regular curriculum, and certainly more kids today are exposed to environmentalism as things like reusable shopping bags, recycling, and hybrid cars become mainstream. At the same time, multiple studies show that today’s young people are less environmentally conscious than youth in previous generations. Insufficient exposure to nature is a commonly-cited cause.

Kids in Acadia, however—especially those just coming off a hiking trail or bike ride—are in the middle of a fabulous dose of nature. Volunteer Peg Emple recalls two teenaged boys who got talking with her, and later brought their parents over to join. She says she initially approached them because they looked so “engaged in the activity of being here.”

In fact, visitors of any age who have been out enjoying the park are the people most likely to join at the membership table. Peg says, “You can’t pre-judge anybody. All sorts of people join. But the best people to approach are those in hiking or biking clothes. You can tell they’ve been out enjoying the park. When you say that we’re trying to help and preserve this beautiful park, they immediately agree: Yes! It’s so beautiful.”

Some people will join in honor of a special personal connection they feel to Acadia, and being able to tell the volunteers about it is one of the pleasures of joining at the membership table. One family had a young daughter, Cadia, who was named after the park. Cadia asked her parents to join because—of course!—she wanted to be friends with her namesake. Couples join who have gotten engaged in the park, and one couple made a gift of $36, telling volunteer Barbara Loveland that “in the Jewish culture 18 is the number for life, and we are donating two lives.”

In 2012, the membership table volunteers signed up 360 members—ten percent of Friends of Acadia’s total membership. But the numbers don’t tell the whole story of the volunteers’ positive impact. They create and maintain bonds among the far-flung individuals who are Friends of Acadia, strengthening and deepening their affection for the park and their commitment to Friends of Acadia’s mission.

Diane Zito mentions that some people have always felt connected to Acadia, “but they didn’t have a way to prove it, to say Yes! Because I love Acadia National Park, that’s why.” She adds, “And others have rejoined, saying, We know we can do it online, but we were just hoping you’d be here so we could tell you how glad we are to be back again.”

Georgia Munsell approached a woman with a very nice camera around her neck and asked if she had been getting some good photos in the park. The woman started “telling me about all the photos she had taken at sunrise, sunset, etc. Finally, I asked if I could tell her about FOA. She replied, ‘No, I know all about you. And the first time I heard about you, I knew I wanted to join.’” Georgia says, “It’s so rewarding when you hear, yes, I’ve been meaning to do this or yes, I’ve been coming for years, and it’s time to give back. I think all the volunteers who work at the table are really committed to the park. And when you believe in something passionately, it shows through.”

Peg Emple, when asked why she volunteers at the membership table, describes “the satisfaction that people have joined and there’s money coming in to keep this park running, and to make needed improvements—trail work, whatever. Just to know that I can come here until I’m old and gray and crippled, and it’s going to be here for my kids, and their kids. It’s just wonderful. And I love it so much that I want other people to love it, and to come back, and to invest in it.”

“AIMEE BEAL CHURCH is the communications and outreach coordinator at Friends of Acadia.

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In their stylish “Friends of Acadia Volunteer” T-shirts, membership table volunteers Diane and Frank Zito show their FOA pride.

“...It’s often the children, especially teenagers, who know their parents have been bringing them here every year and really encourage their parents to join.” —Diane Zito

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eave Mount Desert Island by car, take Route 1 northeast to Route 186 south, and you'll eventually pass through the scenic coastal communities of Gouldsboro and Winter Harbor. Follow the signs a little further and you'll come to the Schoodic Peninsula Park Loop, where you'll be rewarded with spectacular vistas of Schoodic Point and its surroundings, the only mainland section of Acadia National Park.

For a visitor discovering the remote majesty of Schoodic for the first time, it may come as a surprise that this pristine waterfront wilderness, now encompassing 2,366 acres (roughly 3.7 square miles), has been an integral part of Acadia National Park since 1929, and is in fact the reason for its name.

How did this come to be? That such a superlatively beautiful stretch of oceanfront and primeval Northern Forest was saved from development is astonishing. It is, after all, widely acknowledged as home to some of the most spectacular views and important marine habitats along the eastern seaboard.

The Schoodic Peninsula includes some of the last nearly pristine large land parcels on the Atlantic Coast. How did this jewel of a peninsula pass intact, first to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations and finally to what is now Acadia National Park?

Few would guess that the answer involves a global panoply of people and events. Schoodic's path to becoming an integral part of the park drew together the world's most famous philanthropist, eminent Mount Desert Island summer residents, a local Mainer who made a fortune on Wall Street, even members of the English nobility, and involved an act of Congress before it was over.

And it began with another Acadia landmark: a dinner 90 years ago at the Jordan Pond House.

In September of 1922, George B. Dorr, a prominent summer resident of Bar Harbor and trustee of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, dined at the restaurant with some friends. One of the group was Mrs. Louise Hartshorne Moore Leeds, wife of New York industrialist Warner M. Leeds and widow of Maine financier John G. Moore.

Louise also hailed from New York, and
with her husband lived a life typical of the upper echelon of society in the early twentieth century. Consummate entertainers—that their parties were regularly covered by the New York Times for two decades—they wintered at Plandome, their 300-acre Long Island manor, and summered at Greenway Court, their enormous Bar Harbor estate.

Her duties as a socialite hostess left Louise little time to consider other matters. These included, for instance, what to do with the 5,400-plus acres of land in Gouldsboro, Winter Harbor, and Steuben she and her two stepchildren had inherited on the death of her first husband, John Moore, in 1899. Moore was a classic example of a local boy made good: born in nearby Steuben, he made a considerable fortune on Wall Street and spent a significant portion of it buying and improving land in and around his boyhood home, in the process hiring hundreds of workers and injecting millions of dollars into the region’s economy.

One of Moore’s many achievements was to develop the first summer colony north of Bar Harbor, Winter Harbor’s Grindstone Neck (still in existence today). However, he was less successful with his holdings on Schoodic Peninsula. He died prematurely, at age 51, before he could realize his dream of developing it as an exclusive summer alternative to Mount Desert Island. Moore’s will called for a three-way division of his Schoodic property, between his widow, Louise, and his two daughters by an earlier marriage, Ruth and Faith.

That September of 1922, over dinner at the Jordan Pond House, Moore’s widowed wife—now Mrs. Louise Leeds—listened politely as Dorr enthusiastically explained his desire to acquire more land for the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations, a nonprofit organization (also still in existence today) which in turn would deed the properties to the new Lafayette National Park, established in 1919.

Louise casually asked Dorr if the Trustees would be interested in acquiring her one-third interest in her late husband’s Schoodic property...for free. Before Dorr could reply, Louise added that she would talk to the other two property holders, her stepchildren Ruth and Faith (both of whom were living in England), about handing over their interests in the property, also at no cost.

Over in England, Ruth and Faith were pouring their energy and vast fortunes into renovating and furnishing Chequers, a grand mansion in rural Buckinghamshire. When this was completed, the sisters turned it over to Ruth’s husband, the dashing Lieutenant Colonel Arthur Hamilton Lee, a prominent English politician who was made a baron and later viscount for his services in World War I. Lord and Lady Lee then deed-ed the property to the English nation and vacated the magnificent estate in 1921.

Louise kept her word to Dorr and dutifully sailed to Europe in late 1922 but died the next year, before she could speak with her two stepdaughters on the matter. The idea of Schoodic being attached to the park languished.

Or so it might have seemed. But George Dorr was a singularly persistent and tenacious individual. It took him nearly five years—until 1927—of considerable international, national, and local diplomatic maneuvering, cajoling, and pleading. But in that year the property so painstakingly put together by John Moore decades earlier finally was signed over—at no cost—to the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations.

To get this far, Dorr undertook some truly herculean efforts—including traveling to Augusta in a blinding snowstorm to convince the Maine State Legislature and then to Washington the next day to convince the United States Congress of the merits of his plan—all to interest the United States government to accept Schoodic as part of the national park. But the story wasn’t over yet. Dorr still had to convince one more important player in this now-international effort.

When all was said and done, the individual who proved most difficult to persuade turned out to be the trustee for the late Warner and Louise Leeds’ adopted daughter Joy. (Warner had died in 1925, two years after Louise.) Twelve-year-old Joy—suddenly made one of the richest children in the world by two massive inheritances—had no interest in, and indeed had never seen, the Schoodic property she received from Louise’s will.

But her trustee, an English barrister, saw things quite differently. After several attempts to persuade him to relinquish Joy’s one-third share in Schoodic had failed, it was pointed out in no uncertain terms that her two American-born step-aunts, Faith Moore and Lady Ruth Leeds, not only were willing to give their shares to the Trustees at no cost, but had deeded the immensely valuable Chequers property, furnishings and all, as a gift to the English nation. Dorr summoned as many individuals to his cause as he could—including John D. Rockefeller Jr. (who later underwrote many of the costs associated with Schoodic’s infrastructure)—and sufficient transatlantic pressure was put on the reluctant lawyer, who at last agreed that the property would be donated to the park.

True, Joy’s step-aunts had proved much easier to convince...except on one count. Staunch anglophiles, they attached a provision to their gift requiring the park—then still known as Lafayette National Park—be renamed something suitably “English.” After all, Lafayette was unmistakably French, and the sisters were by now English. It simply wouldn’t do to have all that property handed over from the British to an American national park bearing a French-sounding name.

Dorr once again rose to the occasion, and suggested changing the park’s name from “Lafayette” to “Acadia.” The sisters loved the name and agreed to the change. And so, ten years after one act of the United States Congress established it as Lafayette National Park, a second act of Congress was required to approve the park’s new name. In that same year of 1929 some 2,000 acres of the Schoodic Peninsula at last were added to Acadia National Park.

Moore might have had the last laugh, although he remained silent on the matter. But what is known is that the word “Acadia” was given to the region in 1604 by the explorer Samuel de Champlain...who was one-hundred percent French.

Author or co-author of several best-selling travel guides and regional histories, GEOFF GROESBECK’s works have been translated into 12 languages. He still makes an annual pilgrimage to Mt. Desert Island, where his ancestor Louis Hebert, the Sieur d’Epinay, in the company of Samuel de Champlain, claimed the island in 1604...for France. He is grateful to Allen Workman for his kindness in sharing his research on Schoodic Peninsula history.
Acadia Gateway Center Design Changes

With funding from the National Park Service and the Maine Department of Transportation, AECOM Technical Services has been hired to work with local stakeholders, including Friends of Acadia, to begin the design of future phases of the Acadia Gateway Center (AGC) in Trenton. When originally conceived, the AGC welcome center building was sized to replace the current Hulls Cove Visitor Center. Over time, however, the National Park Service decided to retain Hulls Cove as the main visitor center to avoid requiring visitors to drive back to Trenton from Mount Desert Island to get information. Because the need for space in Trenton has been reduced, plans for the welcome and transit center building have been scaled back in size.

In July, AGC partners gathered with AECOM consultants to select a preferred design among four concepts for the information and transit center. The winning concept was a single two-story building with an outward appearance of a large Maine barn and an inner open floorplan that allows visitors to access information from the National Park Service and area chambers, purchase park passes, browse historical and informational displays, and wait for Island Explorer buses. If warranted, a portion of the building, including restrooms, could be kept open in winter, and a connected building housing small theaters could be added as funding allows.

Partners will continue to meet over the next year to refine the concept design. It is anticipated that the building will include a large number of environmentally friendly design elements including low-flow water fixtures, natural lighting, and salvaged materials and/or FSC-certified wood products. Completion of the preliminary design will set the Maine Department of Transportation and partners on a good course for securing the necessary funds for construction.

Trenton Community Trail

In October, Lester Kenway of Trails Services, LTD, installed the cedar bog bridging, boardwalk, and viewing platform on the Trenton Community Trail, behind the Acadia Gateway Center. Volunteers, including groups from Ellsworth High School and The Church of Latter Day Saints-Maine and many Trenton residents, have contributed hundreds of hours clearing brush from the path, limbing trees, and hauling building materials to various sites along the trail route. The 1.8-mile trail is expected to be completed and opened to the public in the late spring of 2013, after installation of a trail kiosk, trail signage, and interpretive panels.

Schoolic Planning

The fate of 3,200 acres threatened by development adjacent to Acadia’s boundary at Schoodic has long been a focus of Friends of Acadia’s advocacy, conservation, and funding efforts. Last winter, we were thrilled with the purchase of the land by the Lyme Timber Company and private conservation investors as a major step toward lasting protection of the land. The new owners immediately conveyed a purchase option to our partners at Maine...
Coast Heritage Trust, giving the Trust time to raise funds to acquire a highly restrictive conservation easement to be held by Acadia National Park on the southern half of the land—roughly 1,500 acres, including all of the tract’s coastline and the entire common boundary with the park. Since then, FOA has helped ANP and MCHT by bringing nearly one-third of the $1 million easement price to the project and assisting with community outreach.

At a public meeting in Winter Harbor at the end of summer, the Lyme Timber Company and its investors shared some of their potential plans for the land with community members. Friends of Acadia spoke in support of the proposed conservation easement and the possibility of new hiking trails and bike paths allowing more public use of the land. Public comments showed particular interest in the concept of a small campground on a portion of the land, to allow more low-impact public use and generate more economic activity among other small, local businesses. The new owners indicated that their planning and due diligence would continue in the coming months, with no immediate changes in store for the other half of the acreage north of Route 186. If you have questions or would like to support FOA’s work on the Schoodic Land Conservation Initiative, please be in touch with David MacDonald or Stephanie Clement at the FOA offices.

New Park Trails
Over the past dozen years and as part of the Acadia National Park Hiking Trails Management Plan, the ANP Trail Crew has been rehabilitating a number of abandoned trails, extending some existing trails, and building new trails to connect with existing ones or with the villages on Mount Desert Island. The purpose, according to the plan’s summary statement, is to “preserve the outstanding design and craftsmanship of park trails while protecting natural resources.” It also is intended to “perpetuate the original intents of the historical hiking trail system...to provide an opportunity for recreation and to connect local villages with features of interest within Acadia National Park.” Construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of park trails is partially funded by the Acadia Trails Forever program, for which Friends of Acadia raised an initial $9 million and the National Park Service provided $4 million. Fall of 2012 marked the opening of the latest trail to be built under the management plan, the Kebo Brook Connector.

The Kebo Brook Connector starts as a spur off the eastern end of the Great Meadow Loop, which links to downtown Bar Harbor. It threads its way between Kebo Valley Golf Club and Holy Redeemer Cemetery before crossing into Acadia National Park. Once in the park, new connections to the Gorge Path, the North...
In Gratitude

In-Kind Donors
- Berry Dunn
- Kathy and Joe Bonaventura
- Jordan Chalfant
- Chris' Farm Stand
- Floy and Spencer Ervin
- Downeast Transportation
- Greenrock Company
- Hannaford Supermarket
- Home Depot of Ellsworth
- Jerry Miller & Company
- Anne Kozak
- Susan and Edward Leiter
- MacRevival
- Nature Valley
- Quiet Side Cafe
- Ann Smith
- St. Saviour’s Episcopal Church
- Trenton Marketplace
- Village of Seal Harbor
- Jill Weber
- Mavis and Caspar Weinberger

Silent Auction Volunteers
In addition to the 154 members of the Benefit Committee, the following volunteers helped make the Benefit Auction a success:
- Marshall Ginn
- Dee Lustusky
- Marsha Lyons
- Adrienne Redhair
- Jane and Robert Sanderson
- Lynne Stagg
- Rita and Mel Timmons
- Sara Veteran
- Diane and Frank Zito

Membership Table Volunteers
- Len Berkowitz
- Linda Eddings
- Peg Emple
- Mary and Phil Galperin
- Karol Hagberg
- Priscilla Hirschenhofer
- Alison Lawrence
- Susie Hokanson
- Barbara Loveland
- Georgia Munsell
- Judy and Peter Obbard
- Rita and Mel Timmons
- Diane and Frank Zito

Wild Gardens of Acadia Volunteers
- Pauline Angione
- Dennis Bracale
- Bobbie Cole
- Doug Coleman
- Laura Cooper
- Lucy Creevey
- Leah Rae Donahue
- David Dunton
- Floy Ervin
- Judith Fischer
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- Sue Leiter
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- Sophia Muschell
- Olivia Muschell
- Kathy Olson
- Mary Opdyke
- David Opdyke
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- Lili Pew
- Esperanza Pimentel
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Barbara Rappaport
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Barbara Tennent
Sari Thomas
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Christiann van Heerden
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Ruth Werier
Sandy Werier
Marilyn Wilberley

Trenton Community Trail Sponsors
The Davis Conservation Fund
National Parks Conservation Association
Nature Valley
Yawkey Foundation

Trenton Community Trail In-Kind Donors
Downeast Transportation
Trenton Community Trail Committee
Trenton Marketplace

Take Pride in Acadia Day Sponsors
Bar Harbor Bank & Trust
The Bluesoe Inn
The First
The Knowles Company
Oli's Trolley
Window Panes

Take Pride in Acadia Day In-Kind Donors
Janet Anker Cakes
Coastal Kayaking
Downeast Transportation
Hannaford Supermarkets
MDI YMCA
National Park Tours
National Park Sea Kayaking Tours
Quietside Cafe
Wallace Tent & Party Rentals

Champlain Mountain summit.
Ridge Trails of Dorr and Cadillac Mountains, and a planned Island Explorer bus stop on Paradise Hill create myriad new possibilities for car-free exploration of the park. The project plan also called for the closure of a section of the Gorge Path where it was rerouted in 1980, and the reconstruction of the original, historic Gorge Path. This beautiful and unique path follows Kebo Brook between Cadillac and Dorr mountains, crossing the pink granite stream bed in multiple locations and passing under a beautiful stone bridge where the Loop Road runs along the brook.

For two summer seasons dedicated ANP trail crewmembers worked side by side with the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and hundreds of volunteers—both individuals and groups from organizations like the Appalachian Mountain Club and Frost Valley (Claryville, New York) YMCA—led by Friends of Acadia volunteer crew leaders. Notes Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug, “Folks have already been using this, even before work was complete. As you look at the map, the fantastic opportunities for loops and leaving your car behind become apparent.”

Family Fun Day

On Sunday, July 15th, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park coordinated the sixth annual Family Fun Day at Sieur de Monts. A celebration of summer in Acadia, this fun-filled day is geared towards instilling a sense of stewardship and a connection with the outdoors in children of all ages. More than 500 attendees took part in a whole range of park-themed activities including rock climbing, pony rides, nature yoga, and camping and hiking activities. Family Fun Day was hosted by many community partners including the Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company, Camp Beech Cliff, Iron Slipper Farm, U.S. Fish and Wildlife and the Wild Gardens of Acadia. Also, in honor of their 100th anniversary this year, L.L.Bean and their Outdoor Discovery School led fly fishing and other activities, and L.L.Bean’s famous Bootmobile was stationed at Jackson Lab parking area for participants to enjoy while they waited for the Island Explorer to transport them to Sieur de Monts. Family Fun Day is generously underwritten by the Vanoff Family and event sponsors Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Bluenose Inn, The First, the Knowles Company, Oli’s Trolley, and Window Panes. Additional community partners include the Island Explorer and the Jackson Laboratory, as well as dozens of volunteers.

Alewives Make Significant Comeback in Somesville

Have you ever driven past the mill pond in Somesville in May and seen a bald eagle sitting on a branch across from the dam, numerous gulls at the mouth of the stream, and an osprey hovering overhead? Most likely, it was alewife spawning season.

With support from FOA member Frank Blair, who made a gift in memory of his father, Ed Blair, Friends of Acadia has granted funds over the past two years to the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary for monitoring of alewife (Alosa pseudoharengus) populations at this site and at the entrance to Long Pond. One of Maine’s “river herring” species, alewives are an important food source for ospreys, eagles, mammals, and predatory fish species such as striped bass and cod. They also are important as bait for the lobster industry. An anadromous fish species, alewives are born in freshwater lakes and ponds, migrate to the ocean, and return as adults to their native lakes to spawn. The fish serve as important links, carrying nutrients between saltwater and freshwater environments.

Alewife populations have declined over the years in many areas of Maine, including Mount Desert Island, as rivers and streams were dammed. More than eight years ago, the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary...
undertook an initiative to restore fish passage along the mill pond drainage system, which connects the ocean to Somes and Long Ponds. When Somes-Meynell began monitoring fish passage in 2005, only 361 adult alewives were counted returning to the mill pond in Somesville. Thanks to the efforts of the Sanctuary to fix and construct fish ladders along the stream to Somes Pond and Long Pond, and thanks to efforts by the Department of Marine Resources to stock alewives on a limited basis (600–1,500 fish each year in either Somes or Long Pond) for the past five years, the number of adults returning to spawn in the lakes has burgeoned to more than 32,000 in 2012!

Friends of Acadia’s contributions have helped the Sanctuary fund an intern and maintain a comprehensive monitoring program for returning alewives at Somes and Long Ponds. A counting weir added at the entrance to Long Pond has shown that the percentage of fish making it all the way to Long Pond is increasing, from 2.4% of the total fish returning to the mill pond drainage system in 2010 up to 29% in 2012. FOA will contribute again to monitoring in 2013 to see if the total fish population returning continues to increase—an indication of the success of the stocking program—and whether the percentage of alewives returning all the way to Long Pond continues to grow. FOA is pleased to have played a small role in such a significant conservation success.

Celebrating a Brighter Future for Acadia

Members of the George B. Dorr Society and other special guests gathered aboard Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company’s Friendship V for “Cruise Acadia.” The gathering was FOA’s 8th annual appreciation event for George B. Dorr Society members and volunteers who work throughout the year to protect Acadia. In addition to Dorr Society members, attendees included FOA board members and trustees, development committee members, investment and finance committee members, Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteers, Family Fun Day volunteers, membership table volunteers, office volunteers, Schoodic volunteers, silent auction docents, and Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers. The group cruised along the shores of MDI and Schoodic while enjoying interpretation by Bar Harbor Whale Watch Company’s Zach Klyver and Acadia National Park’s Todd Miller. Greetings and thanks were extended by Friends of Acadia President & CEO David MacDonald, and a picnic dinner was provided by the Jordan Pond House.

The George B. Dorr Society was established in 2005 to recognize FOA members and friends who have documented provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. To become a member of the George B. Dorr Society, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 1-800-625-0321 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

Wild Gardens of Acadia

Fall is a very busy season in the Wild Gardens of Acadia as leaf peepers and cruise ships converge upon the park. Eighty cruise ships were expected in port from Labor Day through Halloween. Many cruise ship passengers opt for bus tours through the park, some of which stop at Sieur de Monts for brief visits to the Nature Center, the Abbe Museum, and the Wild Gardens. Wild Gardens volunteers worked with Friends of Acadia staff in late summer to produce and distribute a one-page briefing sheet to inform tour bus drivers and guides about the Gardens, the habitats displayed, and the informational brochures and postcards available. A reprint of the article “Our Wild Gardens” by David Donovan from the summer 2012 Friends of Acadia Journal was also distributed, to provide additional background on the Wild Gardens and their uniqueness among national parks as an educational resource.
Fall Partnership Events

Strong ties with community partners were the theme of three community-based events this fall that Friends of Acadia helped to coordinate. In each of these efforts, organizations and individual volunteers worked together to build awareness and act on several community issues, while having fun and connecting with nature in the process.

On September 7th Friends of Acadia partnered with dozens of other organizations for the Third Annual Clean Water, Clean Shores (CWCS) event. The CWCS project is designed to create awareness of pollution and its effects on the shorelines of MDI and surrounding islands. Cleanup sites included Gotts, Opeechee, Placentia, Swan, and Mount Desert Islands. Volunteers filled hundreds of bags with trash and assorted marine debris. This highly successful event ensures the continued protection of several area islands and brings some light onto an ongoing trash problem. The cleanup is organized by the combined efforts of Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Coastal Program, Maine Island Trail Association, MDI Paddlers, the Nature Conservancy, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife. Boat transportation, water, and snacks were provided to all volunteers.

The Fourth Annual Annual Acadia Night Sky Festival was held September 13th through 17th on Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula. FOA is a founding co-sponsor of the festival, participates on the planning team, and staffs some of the events. Highlights included a keynote presentation by Polynesian navigator Chad Kālepa Baybayan; star parties at Seawall, Cadillac, and Schoodic; and an inflatable planetarium at the MDI YMCA for two afternoons. Community partners, including ANP, Bar Harbor Whale Watch, the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, College of the Atlantic, the Jackson Lab, and SERC, have a shared goal: to create a community celebration to promote the protection and enjoyment of the night skies as a valuable natural resource through education, science, and the arts.

In late September, Friends of Acadia joined numerous organizations, agencies, and companies throughout the state to host the Great Maine Outdoor Weekend, which focused on outdoor activities encouraging people to explore the state’s great natural assets. Various events were marketed throughout the state with a concentration on the Downeast Area. This event is organized by the new Maine Outdoor Coalition, of which FOA is a member. Other statewide partners include Acadia National Park, Chewonki, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and L.L. Bean—just to name a few. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park planned a volunteer project with area schools on the Trenton Community Trail, and volunteer projects on both MDI and at Schoodic.

In addition to our strong community partnerships, the success of these events can be attributed to the many people within our community who are looking to volunteer and “give back” to the outdoor resources they enjoy in and around Acadia. They are the cornerstone of these events!

Take Pride in Acadia Day

More than 400 enthusiastic volunteers descended upon Acadia’s carriage roads with rakes and tarpas for Take Pride in Acadia Day on Saturday, November 3rd. Together, they raked the leaves and cleared drainage ditches from nine miles of carriage roads in preparation for winter. The well-coordinated volunteer effort, now in its 22nd year, focused on areas where clogged drainage ditches and culverts could result in significant damage to road surfaces during the freeze-and-thaw cycles of a coastal Maine winter.

Approximately half of the day’s volunteers were youth groups, including scouting troops from around the state and student groups from Maine colleges and universities. Veteran volunteers and first-timers all felt the enthusiasm and festival spirit of the day. David MacDonald, president of Friends of Acadia, remarked: “Everyone with whom I spoke was indeed ‘feeling the pride’ for Acadia and enjoying a day of camaraderie and work.” After the morning’s work, crews returned to park headquarters for a hot lunch—the event’s traditional “CCC” meal of chili, cornbread, and cider (plus an extra “C” of cake). Many area businesses and organizations (listed on page 18) donated equipment, food, and more to make the day a success.

During lunch, teams completing the Acadia Quest—the summer-long experiential scavenger hunt organized by Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park—were honored and winners for the Quest grand prizes were drawn. The grand prizes, three $500 gift cards generously donated by
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 P.O. Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/support.shtml to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call 800-625-0321 or visit our 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 FOA as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement asset, and pass funds to Friends of Acadia free of taxes.

Gift of Property
Give real estate, boats, artwork, or other 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.
L.L. Bean, went to Team Fingerglow from Pennsylvania, Team Sullivan from Massachusetts, and Team St. Amand from Tremont, Maine. Team Baron from Old Town, Maine won a $300 gift card to the Acadia Shops for completing the most Quest activities.

**Acadia Winter Trails Volunteers Are Ready—Are You?**

Preparations are well underway for the 2012–2013 cross-country ski season in Acadia National Park. In October, the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) had its first organizational meeting and park staff began to tune up the grooming equipment.

After disappointing snow in 2012, the 18 AWTA volunteers are eager for the new season. As in years past, the volunteer groomers will use trail grooming equipment, when weather permits, to prepare the carriage roads for classic and skate cross-country skiing. The volunteers are based in two geographic areas, with equipment housed at the Brown Mountain Gatehouse and the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. When conditions allow—including minimum snow depth and a firmly frozen roadbed—each team starts at its respective area and grooms routes as outlined in our agreement with the park. The volunteers typically log hundreds of hours per season keeping Acadia’s carriage roads primed for skiers.

The Acadia Winter Trails Program is sustained thanks to the Elizabeth R. Bright Endowment of Friends of Acadia. The fund was established in memory of Elizabeth “Leila” Bright, in recognition of her love for Acadia National Park. The income earned by the endowment fund supports the program’s annual operating and capital expenses including the purchase and maintenance of grooming equipment, fuel, safety training and equipment, volunteer and staff training and support, marketing expenses, and other annual and capital needs of cross-country skiing and grooming in Acadia National Park. Thanks to the generosity of the Bright Family, Friends of Acadia was able to grow the cross-country skiing program from five to eighteen groomers with the purchase of a second set of grooming equipment.

As the Acadia Winter Trails program has grown, so too has the need for better communication regarding grooming status. Skiers can check the FOA website at www.friendsofacadia.org/projects/awta.shtml for updates of current grooming conditions, follow Acadia National Park on Twitter, or call the Friends of Acadia office at 207-288-3340. In addition, skiers are invited to post about recent ski conditions they’ve observed on the FOA Facebook page, at www.facebook.com/FriendsofAcadia. Please mention the date, time, and specific route name, so that other skiers can benefit from the information. Visitors are asked to keep in mind that the Acadia Winter Trails Association is a volunteer committee; grooming is done at times that are both convenient and safe for our volunteers. And let’s all start to think snow!
We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

- Jodi and Marc Abrams
- Julia and Neil Adam
- Peggy and Tom Adams
- Jean Adams
- Mary and Thatcher Adams
- Diane Adams and Daniere Kaufman
- Ira Adelman
- Leslie and John Akula
- Elizabeth Allan
- Fred Andre
- Barbara and Gregory Andrusulous
- Lynn Applebaum
- Richard Aquirre
- Jenk Arai
- Elif Armbruster
- Craig, Meta, and Dardalus Arnold
- Marce Ashe and Larry Orman
- Mary and David Babson
- Susan Baker
- Chris Anne Barnes
- Amy Baron
- Jay Barr
- Brett and Lori Barrett
- Megan and Andrew Barringer
- Edward Barsamian
- Arlene and Robert Bartlett
- Pamela and Peter Bartolotta
- Nandkumar Bathija
- Alston Beal
- David Beck
- Alice and William Becker
- Daphne Bell
- Sarah and David Bello
- Cheryl Bernstein
- Bette and Bob Bibee
- William Birch
- Lauren and Jeremy Blackman
- Jake Blaine
- Michael Blake
- Mr. and Mrs. Ken Blanchard

New Members

- Donald Carpenter
- Gail and Joe Caruso
- John Casagrande
- Anne Cassidy
- James Cassel
- Amy and James Cate
- Abby Caultkins
- Kathryn Cavanaugh
- Cent Communications, Inc.
- Hasnah and Robert Chaiken
- Sharaene Charms
- Gary Chen
- Miles Cherkasky
- Austin Childs
- Dennis Clements and Martha Ann Keels
- Jill and Larry Clements
- Jeanne Cline
- Joseph Cloutier
- Amy Coe
- Irena and Martin Cohen
- Coldwell Banker
- Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate
- William Collier
- Julia Comeau
- Susan Copen
- Mary and Jay Cosentino
- Kathleen and William Costigan
- Donna and Vernon Crane
- John Creber
- Dolores and Lamar Crumely
- Liz Cutter
- Carol and Daniel Daigneault
- Josh Danzai
- Suzanne Davis
- Karen David
- Robert S. Davis, DMD
- Jerry and Darlene De Lorenzo
- A.T. Wall II and Maria DeCarvallo
- Paul Decker
- JoAnn and Neil DeForest
- Depenbrock Family
- George DeQuatro
- Joan DeRango and Greg Webb
- Cesco DelRge
- Antony Detre
- Joyce and Tim Dever
- Julia Dewar
- Arthur Dexter
- Ann Diamond
- Claudia Dick
- Susan Dickey and Ethan Foote
- Regina and Donald DiGioria
- Jane Doherty
- Caroline Donnelly
- Deborah and David Douglas
- Louise Dow
- Georganne and Mac Dow
- Downeast Blue Clothing
- Jerry Wayne Doyle
- Maria Drocle
- Sue Drum and Paul Degnan
- Heather Drucker
- Eileen and Howard Dubner
- Kirsten Dudick
- Gloria Lomax and Christine Duncan
- Paul Duquette
- Mr. and Mrs. Wade Duyom
- Greg Dworkin
- Dita and Ken Dymond
- Sheila and David Edision
- Susan Edgar-Smith
- Donald Edwards
- Mike Elvin
- Richard Eppler

- Marca Fagerberg
- Brenda Fair
- Lisa Fern Falcon
- Lynn Fantom
- Charlotte and William Farrar
- Ray Fauzal
- Elaine and Jerry Ferguson
- Kathy Fields
- Anne Fischer and Frederick Turner Jr.
- Susanna Fischer
- Jim Flahive
- Flanagan-Glenn Family
- Sierra Fletcher
- Lynne Fordham and Joe Inzalaco
- Marilyn and Warner Forsell
- Krista Forsgren
- Lucette and Andre Fortier
- Donna Foster
- Linuta Foster
- Rosemarie Foster
- Valerie Frantz
- Pegger Frawee
- Michele and Bill Frymoyer
- Nancy Gable and John Holt
- Leah and Chris Gailey
- Kathleen and Mike Galano

- Linuta Gallinano
- L.J. Ganser
- Katherine and Bruce Garren
- Robert Gear
- Jim and Linda Gerrnall
- Vicky Gerber and Ross Reder
- Maureen and Robert Giffen
- Sharon and Lynn Gilbert
- Judy and Paul Giovannelli
- Audrey and John Gleisek
- William T. Glidden
- Dr. Allan Gold
- Rush Goldman
- Lewis Gordon
- Elose Gore and Allen Hile
- Denise Gorman
- Lisa and Peter Graham
- Risa Granick
- Erica and Robert Graser
- Bridget Gray
- Michael Roberts and Jennifer Greamany
- Joseph Greca
- Aaron Green
- Colita Greenberg
- Catherine and Thomas Gregg
- Donna and Geoff Gregory
- Ekaterina Grimanelli
- Elizabeth and Timothy Groves
- Deruse and Ray Grysko
- Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Inc.
- Linda and Charles Gutfeld
- Wayne Hamilton
- Pamela and Charles Hanley
- Linuta and Oliver Hansen
- Alan Hardy
- Mackenzie Harrington
- Kate Harris
- Norma Harris
- Chauncey Harrison
- Hastings Family
- Maureen Hays
- Jane Healy
- Glenn and Craig Hechert
- Sarah and Charles Hedrick
- Hanna Henderson
- Martha and Douglas Henderson
- Pam and Kim Herlan
- Catherine and Steven Hill
- Dana Hines
- Donna Hinzmann
- Jodie and David Hoffman
Friends of Acadia has joined with 46 other organizations in a coalition to encourage Congress to protect national parks from future funding cuts. The first activity of the National Park Funding Alliance was to draft a letter to be sent to Congress and President Obama outlining the potential effects of appropriations cuts and the budgetary sequester.

The letter stressed that national parks are widely supported by the American public. A recent bipartisan poll commissioned by the National Parks Conservation Association and the National Park Hospitality Association showed that 88% of those surveyed felt that it was extremely important or quite important for the federal government to "protect and support" national parks. Ninety-five percent of survey respondents felt it was an appropriate role for government.

The letter also highlighted the value of national parks as economic generators by drawing international tourists, supporting more than $30 billion in spending in local communities, and making possible the employment of more than a quarter-million people. Michigan State University estimates that Acadia's visitors in 2010 spent more than $186 million, resulting in over 3,100 jobs and almost $80 million in labor income. Despite these figures, the budget of national parks is 1/13th of one percent of the federal budget, which is down from 1/10th of one percent twelve years ago.

In September, Congress passed a six-month continuing resolution that will fund the government through March 27, 2013. The Department of Interior will receive over those six months an appropriation equivalent to approximately half of their full year's 2012 appropriation. The National Park Service operating budget in FY 2012 was $2.240 billion. The House Appropriations Committee has recommended decreasing this in FY 2013 to $2.228 billion, and the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, of which Senator Susan Collins is a member, has recommended a slight increase to $2.256 billion.

If the budgetary sequester happens in January 2013, national parks will likely see an 8.2% budget cut. Acadia National Park has been creative at addressing budget cuts in times of increasing costs but will have to consider more drastic measures to absorb a greater budget cut. This could include elimination of lifeguards, reduced visitor center hours, decreased ranger programs, and less frequent cleaning of restrooms.

Friends of Acadia and the members of the National Park Funding Alliance are united in their efforts to encourage Congress not to decrease funding of national parks in an era of strong bipartisan support for preserving our national heritage and outdoor recreation opportunities. Please help by voicing your support for national parks with your members of Congress.

Advo cacy Corner

The National Park Funding Alliance
You can see both an architect's hand and Acadia-lover's eye in Stanley Ira Hallet's remarkable collection of black-and-white sketches. Hallet is an architect and the former dean of the School of Architecture and Planning at the Catholic University of America, so there's little surprise that the book includes some beautifully-rendered images of local architectural gems, including Brown Mountain Gate Lodge. But it's the landscapes and natural details, captured in those same attentive lines, that convey a powerful love of place. Many focus on Mount Desert Island's rocky shores along Frenchman Bay, often with hints of distant islands or peninsular tips on the horizon line. With expressive incompleteness the drawings evoke Acadia perfectly; moments of fine detail are framed by the merest suggestions of landforms, ocean, and trees.

The book includes a forward by the artist, describing his unanticipated purchase of a house on Mount Desert Island in 1975 and how his learning to draw was the direct result of that event. For Hallet, the act of drawing seems inextricably linked with the distinctive coastline of this place. Many focus on Mount Desert Island's rocky shores along Frenchman Bay, often with hints of distant islands or peninsular tips on the horizon line. With expressive incompleteness the drawings evoke Acadia perfectly; moments of fine detail are framed by the merest suggestions of landforms, ocean, and trees.

The book includes a forward by the artist, describing his unanticipated purchase of a house on Mount Desert Island in 1975 and how his learning to draw was the direct result of that event. For Hallet, the act of drawing seems inextricably linked with the distinctive coastline of this place. Certainly, his marvelous sketches touch a powerful chord in this reader—meditating on a view of Compass Harbor, or ledges along Ocean Drive, it's easy to get lost in the lines and emerge with a glad feeling—ahh, home.

—Aimee Beal Church

With all that Acadia has to offer, a visitor with only a short time on Mount Desert Island might not experience the 45 miles of carefully maintained carriage roads and stone bridges that were John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s gift to Acadia National Park; or they might take a short walk from the Jordan Pond House but never realize what a treasure they are traveling upon. Even visitors and residents who walk, bike, ride horses, or ski regularly on Acadia's carriage roads might take for granted the excellent condition of these well planned and expertly built roads. Thanks to the second edition of Ann Rockefeller Roberts' Mr. Rockefeller's Roads: The Story Behind Acadia's Carriage Roads, we can all be reminded not only of how these unique and wonderful roads were constructed, but also how they were saved and restored in the early 1990s.

The first five chapters of this new edition tell the story of how the author's grandfather was inspired by the beauty of this extraordinary island, how he purchased many acres of land, and how he loved planning, building, and using these crushed stone roads. The results of his efforts, his financial commitment, and the skilled workmanship of local craftsmen are part of Acadia's cultural heritage and unique to the national park system.

Readers of the book's first edition, published in 1990, may be disinclined to "dive into" this new version. That would be a mistake! Numerous, beautifully achieved color images by noted photographer Mary Louise Pierson have been added along with an interesting selection of Rockefeller Archive Center photos. The most exciting addition is a chapter on the story of the restoration of Acadia's carriage road system as told by Ed Winterburg, the first "Carriages of Acadia" concessioner and an early believer in the importance of revitalizing these elegant and graceful roads. With the successful completion of the restoration, and the financial commitment of Friends of Acadia along with additional funding from the National Park Service, all of us can today enjoy this national treasure.

For those who love the carriage roads, Mr. Rockefeller's Roads is a "must have"!

—David Donovan

Briefly Noted

Acadia National Park (4th edition)
by Hilary Nangle
Moon Handbooks, 2012 | 292 pages | Softcover
This comprehensive guidebook is truly packed with up-to-date information and thoughtful commentary to help visitors make the most of their time in Acadia—and better appreciate what they see here.

Doggy Walks and Destinations (3rd edition)
by Marie C. Taylor
On Point Inc., 2012 | 136 pages | Softcover
Organized by recommended time of day for each outing, this sweet, dog-centric guide includes destinations both in and outside of Acadia National Park, and could be useful for anyone seeking gentle walking options in the area.

Hiking Acadia National Park (2nd edition)
by Dolores Kong and Dan Ring
Falcon Guides, 2012 | 292 pages | Softcover
This excellent hiking guide, written by two true Acadia trail aficionados, has maps, trail descriptions, and photographs to assist anyone setting out on their first (or hundred-and-first) hike in Acadia. ❧
It is no small task to describe in just a few paragraphs how my father Stan MacDonald has forged a special bond with Friends of Acadia ever since he became involved during the organization’s early days. As someone who was crazy about the park and also very dedicated to community service, Dad found an ideal outlet for both passions at FOA. The fact that he was able to contribute to the cause by drawing on such diverse interests as playing his banjo and grooming ski trails did not hurt either!

Being a commercial loan officer at Bar Harbor Bank and Trust for many years, he naturally had an inclination toward innovative start-up business ideas—and he liked what he saw in FOA from the start when Somesville neighbors Don Straus and Linda Lewis recruited him onto the board. I always felt he was ahead of his time when he spoke about bicycle rentals and kayak guiding and grooming ski trails did not hurt either!

He lived for the winter, however, and more specifically for the snow and a chance to be out on the carriage roads on his cross-country skis. My mother claims that whenever a storm was forecasted to come our way (usually in the middle of the night), he would be up and peering out their bedroom window with a flashlight to be sure he saw the first snowflake fall. Before winter trail grooming came to Acadia, he was often the first out to break trail in the fresh snow. While Eagle Lake and Witch Hole and the Amphitheatere were the regular outings, I can recall wild and wonderful runs with him down Jordan Stream or Seven Bridges. I also remember being astonished to come upon ski tracks one day while on a winter hike with a friend at the Canada Cliffs Trail on Beech Mountain—and, later, learning that they were Dads!

Most of my colleagues here at FOA and at the park recall Dad’s patience and diplomacy in working through the ups and downs and ultimate success of the winter trail grooming program in its earliest years. There were many winter nights when he and our family friend and Somesville neighbor Dr. Bob Massucco would hash over the program at our kitchen table. Dad took great pleasure in seeing so many other volunteer groomers step up to assume ownership of the program when he and Bob were ready to pass the mantle. He finally stepped down as president of the Acadia Winter Trails Association this past spring, after serving for 16 years. He not only groomed the trails, but like any good leader, he groomed his successors well, and the program is thriving now with the support of so many community members who continue to donate their time and expertise.

Similarly, Dad knew when to pass the baton on the FOA summer benefit as it began to gain momentum as a social and philanthropic highlight of the summer season. Before the event was at the Asticou, before it was at Wildwood Stables, and before it was at the Neighborhood House, it was a Hangar Dance up at the Bar Harbor Airport in Trenton, and Dad’s Dixieland Jazz Band provided the entertainment. He loved the teamwork and energy of the event even in those very early years.

For his years of board service to FOA, for his love of Acadia throughout all four seasons of the year, and for instilling in me a sense of wonder in the great outdoors, I thank and salute this very special person. You can bet that he will be ready for that first snowflake whenever it comes our way this winter.

—David MacDonald
Share Acadia
with Someone You Love

Give a gift membership your friends and loved ones will enjoy throughout the year—and for generations to come.

A $40 GIFT MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE INCLUDES:

- Summit Blocks on Acadia Mountain and Other Classic Scenes, a packet of six lovely art photograph note cards
- A one-year subscription to the Friends of Acadia Journal
- A Friends of Acadia window decal

- The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve Acadia National Park for current and future generations

To give a gift membership, simply mail the below form (or a copy) along with a check for $40 payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided in this magazine. Or contact us at 1-800-625-0321 or visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org.

All contributions to Friends of Acadia are used to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.

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MESSAGE YOU WOULD LIKE ON THE CARD:
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.