

Friends of ACADIA Journal

Summer 2015
Volume 20 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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FRIENDS OF ACADIA

SALUTING AN OUTSTANDING LEADER AND FRIEND

I am often asked about the key to Friends of Acadia's long-standing success as a park partner with a national reputation for leadership and impact. While a committed board of directors, hard-working staff, and an inspiring team of members and volunteers are high on my list, just as important is the quality of the working relationship between FOA and our federal partners at Acadia National Park. Without a strong shared commitment to the partnership, without trust and respect for the other's priorities and roles, and without good communication, Friends of Acadia's job would be extremely challenging.

At Acadia, we enjoy all of these benefits; and while I have never taken them for granted, I have been spending more time thinking about them since receiving the news from Acadia's Superintendent Sheridan Steele that he will be retiring this fall from a distinguished National Park Service career, capped by a twelve-year stint leading Acadia.

Sheridan has been the best friend that a partner like FOA could have. Early on in his tenure here, he identified ambitious goals around land acquisition, youth engagement, visitor experience, and historic opportunities in the Schoodic district of the park. He then maintained laser-like focus on these priorities and did everything within his power to harness the interests and abilities of everyone around him—on the park staff, among a wide circle of partners well beyond FOA, and throughout the community—to realize progress and success. He never missed an FOA board meeting and always made himself available to our board, staff, and supporters for tours of park operations and projects.

He also ensured that we had fun along the way, and tried to conduct as much business as possible out in the park, not inside conference rooms. Nearly all of the pivotal work discussions I have had with Sheridan over our twelve years of collaboration took place outdoors, walking Acadia's trails and



**Walking Acadia's trails....
[Sheridan's] pace would
quicken as he grew excited
about a new project, and we
would polish off the Witch
Hole loop in no time.**

carriage roads. His pace would quicken as he grew excited about a new project, and we would polish off the Witch Hole loop in no time. No matter how busy my day might be, when Sheridan called and said "Hey, let's go for a hike," I would accept the offer and always returned to the office energized by our time together.

Sheridan has been a committed NPS employee who also saw tremendous upside to maximizing the profile and role of partner organizations like FOA, which can be more nimble and flexible than the federal government. He was not shy about asking for our help, nor in heaping thanks and giving credit to others.

Friends of Acadia honored Sheridan with the Marianne Edwards Distinguished Service Award at our annual meeting last month. Making the presentation, I recognized his leadership and singled out the re-

markable accomplishments he has realized for Acadia through the lasting protection of the 1,600-acre Schoodic Woods property. He helped turn this extremely strategic tract from the single biggest threat facing Acadia into a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the park, which will offer outstanding public benefits to park visitors and the surrounding communities when its trails, bike paths, and campground open in early September. As anyone who has been part of the dreaming, planning, strategizing, nail-biting, and execution on the Schoodic Woods project over the last dozen-plus years knows, this project never would have been possible without Sheridan's vision and persistence.

Friends of Acadia is proud to have been part of the Schoodic team, since the very early days of FOA leading opposition to a proposed clear-cut of the property's woodlands in the 1990s to our current role of partnering with the National Park Foundation to expedite delivery of grant funds to Acadia to enable its purchase of new equipment and the hiring of staff needed to manage the property's start-up this fall.

Sheridan's tenure at Acadia National Park has truly been historic in its impact—and his legacy will only increase over time as many of the seeds he has planted, particularly among young visitors, interns, and employees at Acadia, continue to grow and blossom in the years to come.

I am certain that the superintendent post at Acadia will attract a strong pool of candidates; we will no doubt benefit from another terrific partner to lead Acadia into its second century. All of us at Friends of Acadia wish to salute Sheridan for his incredible service, and we pledge our continued commitment to the worthy goals in which he so passionately believed. *Thank you, Sheridan!* 🍄

—David R. MacDonald

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Who are we? And How and Why we do what we do!



2016: THE ACADIA LEGACY

Walking along Acadia's rocky coast last summer, I really loved hearing a little boy of 7 or 8 yell to his parents above him, "Come down here! This is awesome!" Knowing that kids are finding inspiration in Acadia truly makes my day—especially as we look ahead to the dual centennial in 2016 for both the National Park Service and Acadia National Park. The purposes and approaches for these celebrations will be very different, just as each park is unique. But what is universal, from Acadia to Zion, is the truth that these special places are our nation's natural and cultural heritage and are amazing tributes to the foresight of those who worked so hard to establish them.

The intent of the Acadia Centennial is to invite Maine communities, organizations, and businesses to participate in celebrating the importance of Acadia to area residents and the economy of the region. Its centennial is also a great opportunity to look ahead to Acadia's second century and lay a solid foundation to address modern-day challenges. Enthusiasm for Acadia's centennial spreads across the state and beyond, and already we know that more than 170 Acadia Centennial Partners will contribute to the celebration. The great response is a testament to both the power of working together with a common goal and the love we share for this amazing place. The centennial effort was started more than two years ago by the community-generated Acadia Centennial Task Force, which created many community working groups to reach out to individuals and organizations across Maine. For more information about how to get involved, visit www.acadiacentennial2016.org. This excellent website was developed by staff at Friends of Acadia and is another example of how this partnership contributes significantly to Acadia's success.

In my role as Acadia's superintendent over the last twelve years, I have chosen to focus on four goals that I believed will

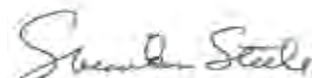


Peter Travers

best position the park to begin its second century. These are 1) protecting the land, 2) preserving a high-quality visitor experience, 3) assuring the success of the Schoodic Education and Research Center, and 4) making meaningful connections with the next generations of park stewards. With our partners Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust, we have acquired almost 500 acres in 31 parcels to "fill in the holes" within the park's boundaries and we have added another 1,300 acres in conservation easements that will prevent incompatible development on private land surrounding the park. We have seen the former Navy base at Schoodic transformed into a beautiful new campus, and our newest nonprofit partner, the Schoodic Institute, work together with park staff to significantly improve education and science programming. Better science means better park management and lifelong learning is more important than ever to a growing number of people. With the increasing popularity of Acadia National Park and associated additional traffic, we are working hard to develop a better plan for dealing with transportation issues in the future. Fortunately the Island Explorer buses have been immensely helpful; last summer they carried more than a half-million people, who were then not driving

and parking in the park. The new facilities at Schoodic Woods will help us serve more visitors and hopefully get them out of their cars and into Acadia's spectacular natural environment. Finally, Friends of Acadia has provided strong leadership in our efforts to engage young people with programs like the Youth Tech Team, the Ridge Runners, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and the Acadia Teacher Fellows. I hope these priorities will prepare us for continued success in the second century of ANP.

I believe that the most enduring legacy of Acadia is a meaningful connection between millions of people and their national parks. In a word, it is inspiration. Those who felt that inspiration a century ago donated or sold their undeveloped land, built trails that today are "historic," or helped to construct the Park Loop Road and carriage roads. This great tradition of sharing in the effort of sustaining a spectacular national park continues today with thousands of donors and volunteers helping in myriad ways. Thanks to an amazing history of "private action for public benefit" and key partners like Friends of Acadia, the Schoodic Institute, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and Downeast Transportation, we have been fortunate to make great progress in forever protecting Acadia and improving quality services to the millions of people who come for relaxation, education, outdoor recreation, lifelong learning, science, or just good memories. Acadia is truly an extraordinary place that will always inspire new generations of park supporters. The rapidly approaching Acadia Centennial will provide many opportunities to reaffirm that commitment, redefine our involvement, and shape our shared responsibilities in its future. Join us for the activities, events, and discussions about the next century's challenges and opportunities for Acadia National Park. 🌲


—Sheridan Steele

Thanks for the Trailwork

I noticed last year the construction around Jordan Pond. We were up for one day last week, and—wow! I walked the trail around Jordan Pond and it was great! You all are doing an excellent job in preserving Acadia. Thank you.

—Rose and Paul Duquette
Northborough, Massachusetts

Planning Ahead for Acadia's Centennial

Wow...that [the Acadia Centennial website] looks awesome. Good thing all of you started so early with this. We should really shine the Centennial year.

—Sherry Rasmussen
Bar Harbor, Maine

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Journal submission form

www.friendsofacadia.org

*Letters may be edited
for length and style.*

More on Carriage Road Courtesy

The article "Carriage Road Courtesy for All" in the winter issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* prompts me to write this letter. The carriage road system is a unique and special part of Acadia. All users are blessed to have such peaceful pathways through the forests, which lead to exquisite vistas and which provide for a wide range of recreation options.

Signage is clear as to who is to yield to whom when using the roads, but courtesy is more than yielding right-of-way and not blocking the roads. It also pertains to respecting the "rights" and pleasures of others as they experience the carriage road system. Little can compare with the exhilarating scent of fresh forest air, a warm breeze wafting off a pond in summer, or a cool refreshing zephyr from the ocean. These are Maine at its finest. Unfortunately, such pleasures are often overwhelmed by the fresh stench of horse manure. Likewise, a pleasant walk or bike ride is often interrupted by the necessity of avoiding fresh horse droppings.

As a dog owner who frequently walks on the carriage roads, I am expected to clean up after my animal. The same is true if I am on a hiking trail in the mountains or on a sidewalk downtown. While in some cases this might be "the law," in general it is simply the courteous thing to do: showing respect for the "rights" and experiences of others.

Acadia's carriage roads are a treasure and a blessing to all of us. We, all users, are in many ways as much responsible for their upkeep and cleanliness as are the park maintenance personnel. We must keep them clean: from litter, from animal droppings, etc. Let's have a "one-size-fits-all" "equal opportunity" carriage road system. If you or your animal drops something, pick it up. It's courteous, considerate, and appreciated by all.

—Hank Chary
Newmarket, New Hampshire
and Bar Harbor, Maine

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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.

The Journal is published three times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome. See <http://friendsofacadia.org/news-publications/friends-of-acadia-journal/submissions/> for guidelines.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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BAMBI PUTNAM: A “CAN DO” FRIEND

Have you ever had a “Can Do” friend? She or he is someone who, whenever you need a hand or a favor, steps in to make your life easier. Bambi Putnam has been a “Can Do” friend for all of my years at Friends of Acadia...although Bambi doesn’t actually say “I can do that.” Her words are: “I would be happy to!”

I first met Bambi in early 2005 at a planning meeting for the FOA benefit event. I was a young buck in the benefit business but Bambi had been involved since the early years of the auction, when it was held at the Neighborhood House in Northeast Harbor. She, like many of our volunteers, had been recruited by a friend to help plan what was then a very nice fine art sale. (Now in its 26th year, the Annual Benefit Auction has become Friends of Acadia’s single largest source of annual operating dollars.)

But Bambi didn’t stop volunteering after that first year nor did she stick to benefit auction work. For many years Bambi has been a gracious host, opening her home to an array of guests and for many purposes, including holding committee meetings in New York City and Maine, hosting events to introduce members to FOA President David MacDonald when he first came on board, and housing FOA staff members on trips to reduce our travel costs for the organization. Bambi has served as a great source of knowledge about the early years of Friends of Acadia and our sizeable membership. And in addition to supporting the benefit, Bambi has given to the membership program, the annual fund, trail restoration, land protection, capital campaigns, and the ever-important operations of Friends of Acadia. A true full-spectrum friend and volunteer!

With all her volunteer work for FOA and other nonprofits plus a busy family life, I am amazed that Bambi still has the time to sail, golf, hike, and play tennis. But it doesn’t surprise me that she makes the time for that enjoyment. She likely learned it from her parents who learned it from their parents; longtime summer residents of



Bambi Putnam stands with David MacDonald during an event she hosted recently in New York City. Says David, “From her warm welcome during my very first days on the job to her quick and easy way of helping me and FOA grow as we approach Acadia’s centennial in 2016, Bambi has been a true friend of this organization and this park.”

Mount Desert Island, her family purchased their first home on the shores of Seal Cove in the 1930s.

Universally beloved by the young, the old, and all those between, Bambi has a friendly, fun, and calming demeanor that I especially appreciate during the busy days of summer. Her passion for the park and MDI is deep, endless, and appears to be ingrained in her being.

Most important for me is that when Bambi Putnam says she is going to do something, she is 100% reliable—and always gets the job done with a smile on her face and a twinkle in her eye. I will always be grateful for her kindness, generosity, and constant support of my work to help preserve and protect Acadia. 🐾

—Lisa Horsch Clark



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**You are a part of Acadia's history.
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July 8, 2016 will mark the 100th anniversary of the founding of Acadia National Park. Throughout 2016, all who love Acadia will come together for a yearlong, community-based, world-welcoming celebration of the Acadia Centennial. Everyone who lives here and everyone who loves this place is invited to join the celebration.

Your business or organization can benefit by being part of the centennial. Visit the Acadia Centennial website at **www.acadiacentennial2016.org** to learn about the 2016 celebration and find out how to get involved.

Join

170-and-counting Acadia Centennial Partners by planning an event, selling a Centennial product, or donating to support the celebration

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Where in Acadia?



Friends of Acadia

Where in Acadia? There's nothing quite like a summertime hike on one of Acadia's granite-domed mountains. Expansive views to distant horizons, pink glacier-shaped bedrock, dark green spruce-fir forests, and brilliant blue waters are common themes enjoyed by hikers from "first-timers" to "old hands." But can you tell one horizon from another? How well do you know your Acadia summits and waters? If you think you can name the mountain from which this photo was taken and the closest body of water, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory from this place. Extra credit: name any of the other landscape features pictured. We'll print our favorite response in the next issue of the *Journal*, and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writer.



Winter 2014 Where in Acadia?

This scene is under the bridge on the Park Loop Road along the Gorge Trail. The trail crew has done a remarkable job of rehabilitating this trail over the past year... and it is a most beautiful trail to connect the Kebo Brook area and Cadillac Mountain summit. I have travelled it many times in all seasons.

—Maureen Fournier
Mount Desert

BARBARA PATTERSON'S BIRDS: A LIFETIME PASSION LEADS TO A TREASURE OF DATA

By Anne Kozak



Barbara Patterson's 23 years of banding birds resulted in six ledgers and six boxes of 5x7 index cards—all of which are now part of the Patterson archives at Acadia National Parks. Both the index cards and ledgers contain detailed information about the individual birds she banded. In the ledgers, Patterson listed the date, weight, height, sex, age, and observations such as previous banding records and whether the bird was a returning bird. On the index cards, which are arranged chronologically, Patterson not only noted the date and type of bird but also kept a running tally of the number of birds she handled.

For Nick Burnett, going out with his grandmother to band birds was a special treat, but as a 10-year-old, he didn't realize just how special it was or that his grandmother was a respected ornithologist. In her 23 years of banding birds, the late Barbara Patterson banded approximately 30,000 birds—most of them songbirds although she occasionally banded terns, gulls, and other seabirds at the request of researchers, according to Acadia National Park wildlife biologist Bruce Connery.

In a 1980 article in the *Bar Harbor Times*, the late Marion Kane, then a staff writer, interviewed Patterson, a woman who had a lifelong passion for birds. She explained that it was not until 1957, when her children were grown and leaving home, that Patterson applied for a federal bird-banding license.

"It's been a wonderful experience," she told Kane. "I enjoy the opportunity to handle and examine the birds and still get excited when I receive a notice of bird sightings containing my bands." And reports of those sightings came from as near as Brunswick, Maine and as far away as Alabama, Michigan, and Nova Scotia; sometimes these reports came within a day or two after she attached the band. "I once banded three pine siskins one winter afternoon at 3:15 p.m. and they were recorded the next morning at 6:45 a.m. in Brunswick."

"Although she never published most of the material gleaned from her bird banding experiences," wrote Kane, "her statistics have been used by other ornithologists in their research projects. She weighs and measures each captured bird and estimates age by checking the bird's skull for complete ossification before banding and releasing it."

Patterson did all of this in 10 or 15 minutes, since she was concerned about keeping a bird too long in captivity. She recorded the information on index cards and in ledgers.

Each year Patterson submitted her data to the Bird Banding Laboratory in Washington, D.C., and data collected after 1960 have been transcribed and are available electronically.

"While rewarding, the hobby is time-consuming and can be expensive," wrote Kane. "In addition to checking the nets ev-

ery 45 minutes when they are in use, there is a lot of paper work involved in recording and filing the statistics she compiles. Patterson is supplied with banding forms and bands containing her registration number by the federal government, but she must pay for the nets, traps and other equipment she uses." But Patterson could deduct these costs, including birdseed, as a business expense on her income tax.

Some of the birds she banded have become friends, Patterson told Kane. "I've had purple finches and chickadees come back every year for as long as 10 years in a row." A pair of red-eyed vireos flew into her net side by side one year and returned together the following year.

To capture most of the birds for banding, Patterson used three mist-nets erected in the woods near her home in Somesville during migrations. "Bird banders are careful not to net or disturb birds during the early summer nesting season," wrote Kane. The nets were made of fine meshed nylon that Patterson furled at night or during high winds, for "if a bird is caught upside down in a net during a bad rain storm, it could conceivably drown," Patterson told Kane.

"Barbara has a specially designed apron with pockets in which she places birds while waiting to weigh and measure them. 'The pockets keep the birds calm,' she states, 'and reduce the handling time.'"

Burnett recalls that as she removed the caught birds, she'd carefully place them in the apron she had designed and made—an apron that had six pockets. "Once in the pockets, the birds would immediately calm down, and we'd head to the station for banding. I remember that she was always writing in her ledgers and journals, recording every move. But my best memory is of the birds—amazingly light and delicate and remarkably unfazed by the process. She had a connection with them, and even as a kid I picked up on the passion she brought to the process."

Patterson told Kane that she did not use gloves while banding "because most of the birds are too small to handle with bulky hand coverings. The result is an occasional peck or claw marks on her hands or knuckles. 'The only birds that give me trouble are the woodpeckers and grosbeaks, and they calm down quickly if I cover their heads with a dark cloth.'"

Patterson told Kane she considered her work to be very small in scale compared to that of others working on studies of songbirds along the Atlantic flyway. "Some banders set two or three miles of netting and employ 30 or 40 workers [while] I estimate that I catch less than one percent of the birds passing through this area."

Describing the significance of Patterson's research today, Bruce Connery explained that in the 1960s ornithologists knew that large numbers of birds congregated along the coast of Maine during the migration season, but what they did not know is how the birds dispersed southward to their wintering locations, how long they stayed along Maine's coastal habitats, and what conditions triggered the continuation of their flights south-



In this 1980 Marion Kane photo from the *Bar Harbor Times*, a banded songbird sits on Barbara Patterson's hand before taking flight again. Her grandson Nick Burnett recalls both his grandmother's passion for her work and how comfortable and unfazed the birds were while being banded, weighed, and measured.

Sean, courtesy of Acadia National Park

ward. Recent studies suggest that factors like fat reserves play a major role in whether birds go slightly inland or make longer flights across the ocean.

“Similar studies conducted in spring suggest that birds coming north may scatter along the Gulf of Maine or continue north to places as far as Labrador while others turn northwest or west toward Hudson Bay or central Canada. Patterson’s work will help the park and others better understand the pathways that songbirds and other migratory birds use in completing their life histories,” explained Connery.

“Perhaps I am incorrectly attributing more to Patterson’s work than is warranted, but what appears evident is not only the concern she had for songbirds’ migrations but her effort—whether intentional or perhaps unintentional—to document their numbers by species, demographics, time of year, habitat, and condition prior to making the difficult and dangerous trip to their wintering or summer areas,” said Connery.

Despite her six ledgers and six boxes of index cards, it is not clear whether Patterson understood that only through the power of numbers and data would researchers and the world realize how human actions and other variables are changing ecosystems—ecosystems that are as important to humans as they are to birds.

“What to me is particularly amazing,” said Connery, “is that Patterson worked alone, and did all of this without any institutional affiliation or support. She joined only a few other women of the time, each taking a different but important leadership role, in promoting the conservation of species and ecosystems.”

A significant gift

In summer 2014, the Patterson Trust gave Acadia National Park all of Barbara Patterson’s data on the approximately 30,000 birds she banded between 1957 and 1981 as well as correspondence with leading ornithologists from around the US, reprints of two of her publications, and other clippings, including Marion Kane’s article in the *Bar Harbor Times*.

“Once we became aware of just what a treasure trove of work she left behind, it was an easy and natural decision for our family to donate it, knowing it has significant value

to the field in numerous ways,” said Nick Burnett. “We’re proud and impressed by what she achieved, and heartened to know she’s receiving the recognition that she clearly didn’t seek while alive, but recognition she clearly deserves.”

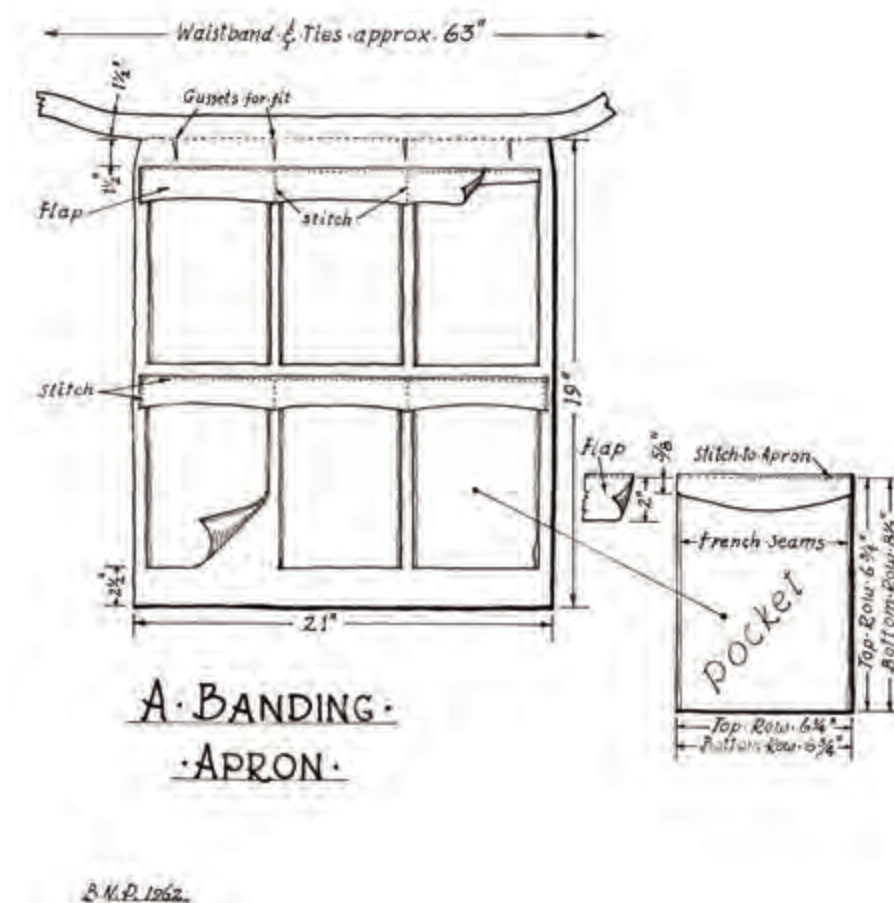
“Most researchers are excited to get 10 years of data, and we have 23 years,” said Acadia’s wildlife biologist Bruce Connery. “Most of the ornithologists we contacted or who have done cursory reviews call this collection a ‘gold mine.’” Brian Olsen, an ornithologist at the University of Maine, Orono, feels that just reviewing the historical data and comparing it to existing data would be sufficient for two doctoral theses.

Using the information Patterson collected and recorded, one could look at whether or how songbirds have been affected by climate change, habitat change, the number of farms in the study period compared to those today, and changes in

land density. “The data are so rich, and we have aerial photos going back to the 1940s to aid in such studies,” said Connery.

“The Patterson Collection represents one of those amazing examples of the passion of citizen scientists for contributing to science at Acadia National Park,” said ANP superintendent Sheridan Steele. “We are very grateful that Barbara Patterson’s family agreed to donate her important records to the park. They will be widely used by researchers, park managers, other citizen scientists, and youth for research and education programs.”

A freelance writer and editor, ANNE KOZAK teaches writing and directs the writing program at College of the Atlantic. Currently she is co-authoring a book on the history of the Wild Gardens of Acadia; the book will be published in spring 2016 by Arcadia Publishing as part of its “Images of Modern America” series.



Since she worked alone and often retrieved several birds simultaneously from the mist-nets, Barbara Patterson designed and made an apron of dark green denim with six pockets. Placing birds in individual pockets not only calmed the birds and kept their feathers clean and unruffled but also prevented them from escaping. She chose green denim because it provided ventilation without letting in too much light and it “permitted thorough cleaning in a washing machine.”

WAYSIDES EXPRESS VIEWS

By Lynne Dominy

Many visitors experience national parks through the windshields of their cars, stopping occasionally at scenic overlooks, short trails, and key destinations. To help these visitors understand the significance of the places they are visiting and develop a deeper understanding of the nature, science, and history related to those views, the National Park Service began placing wayside exhibits in parks in the early 1900s. With its historic roads and carefully planned views, Acadia an ideal park for these exhibits.

For the past three years, the park interpretive staff has been using special funding from the National Park Service to develop new wayside exhibits to create meaningful interpretive experiences across Acadia. These exhibits were installed in the fall of 2014 on overlooks along the Park Loop Road and at key destinations including Sieur de Monts, Cadillac Mountain, Wildwood Stables, Jordan Pond, and Eagle Lake.

Wayside exhibits provide context and meaning for scenic views and park resources—stories that would otherwise remain untold. They showcase the park's four interpretive themes, which encompass past, present, and future human influences on—and responsibilities to—this park and its surrounding landscape. Granitic and glacial geology is shown where these stories are most relevant, such as on Cadillac Mountain and at the Bubble Rock overlook. Biodiversity is showcased in ocean, freshwater, forest, and mountain habitats across the park. Critical park resource issues such as air and water quality are examined at relevant and visible locations. From Wabanaki traditional land uses to French exploration history to the conservation efforts leading to the park's establishment, human history highlights are also told across the park to create context for visitor experiences today.

Improving accessibility for all visitors was an important part of this project. Audio descriptions for every exhibit are being



NPS/Lynne Dominy

Visitors at Fabbri Memorial read about the history of the Otter Cove community. Another nearby wayside in the picnic area shares the radio station history at Otter Cliffs and at Schoodic.

created now and will be available to park visitors in 2016 via headsets and the park website. Physically inaccessible exhibits were relocated and installed directly into granite blocks, which can be set on undisturbed ground, rather than on concrete pedestals. Sensory exhibits were added on the Jesup Path to encourage visitors, especially children, to use their senses to explore nature along the wheelchair-accessible boardwalk. A loop of the Ship Harbor Trail was recently renovated to remove obstacles to accessibility, and three habitat exhibits added there to enable visitors to explore the sights and sounds of the marsh, forest, and ocean habitats on this uncharacteristically (for Acadia) flat trail.

New orientation exhibits will help visitors find their way in “hub” areas. One shows how to reach the Beehive, the Ocean Path, and Schooner Head trail from the Sand Beach parking lot. Maps at Sieur de Monts and atop Cadillac now help hikers to locate the trailheads. Ill-prepared hikers arriving at the Precipice will find nearby trail options and strong safety advisories. Visitors arriving at Jordan Pond can see how to locate trailheads, carriage roads, and the popovers that await them in the restaurant.

Quality photography by a variety of Maine photographers captures different

styles, perspectives, and seasons. Panoramic, aerial, historic, and repeat photography has been used to showcase stories in different locations. Using historic photos to capture the story of early transportation systems that enabled 19th century visitors to reach the summit of Cadillac Mountain, one wayside overlooks the location where a steamboat once took visitors to a cog railroad to ascend the mountain. A panoramic wayside exhibit on Cadillac and a repeat photography wayside exhibit at Jordan Pond both show the views in different seasons because most visitors visit in only one season. Some exhibits use graphics instead of words to explain complex processes, such as the glaciers that created Jordan Pond. Repeat photography is used to show air quality and night lighting impacts on the views from Cadillac.

These exhibits are part of 100 waysides replaced across the entire park in preparation for Acadia's 100-year anniversary in 2016. Take the time to read these new exhibits the next time you revisit your favorite places. 🌲

LYNNE DOMINY is the Chief of Interpretation & Education at Acadia National Park, following 28 years of service in four other NPS areas.

A PERIPATETIC EDUCATION: MR. DORR'S ISLAND "WANDERINGS"

By Ronald Epp

Note: This article is adapted from the forthcoming biography of George B. Dorr, to be published in spring 2016 by Friends of Acadia. This is the second in a series of excerpts to be featured in the Journal, leading up to Acadia's centennial year.

During the last two decades of the 19th century, George B. Dorr would routinely leave behind the comforts of his family's Oldfarm residence in Bar Harbor for the challenges of the rugged landscape of Mount Desert Island. In due course he became very familiar with the seasonal strengths and weaknesses of its landscapes. In effect, Dorr opened himself to the environment, enabling the island and its surrounding waters to educate him about the power of this place.

Family heritage, education, and extensive travel through Mediterranean and European countries well prepared Dorr to pursue on the coast of Maine the natural landscapes where human events flourished and then faded. On lands historically contested by the English and French, he was most interested in the enduring landscape features that survived those recurring conflicts—which is not to say that he was disinterested in how the character of the landscape inspired humankind to realize new heights.

Dorr used his wealth to protect lands that were not fully healed from damage done in earlier generations. Each outing on the island's network of footpaths acquainted Dorr with continuing threats to land wrecked by logging and fire. One prominent tourist guide, Clara Martin, described the island environment in the years following the Civil War: "The forest primeval is gone; but huge stumps and scathed trunks show what the axe and the fires have done. The three western mountains...are covered with a second growth, but the other summits are bleak and bare."



Mrs. Annie C.S. Kane and George B. Dorr walk on the Kane Path, on what is now named Dorr Mountain.

What Henry David Thoreau called "bare and pathless rock" forced Dorr and others to judge carefully where to plant the next step, a difficult decision when bare granite stretched for hundreds of feet—and the footpath disappeared. Thoreau's favorite mode of walking was 'cross-lots' on a compass line, a risky strategy that trespassed private land. When Dorr instead followed the island topography and the limits im-

posed by the surrounding sea, he surely recalled his countryside walking experiences in England, where footpath rights-of-way were deeply ingrained in common law.

Walking was not undertaken for exercise. Dorr's goal was akin to what Thoreau referred to in his posthumously published essay on *Walking*: "What business have I in the woods if I am thinking of something out of the woods." The sheer joy of explo-

ration and of recovering one's bearings after getting lost was balanced by Dorr's persistent effort to commit to memory exacting details of his journeys. This reservoir of detail proved critical in planning future trails, acquiring conservation properties, identifying biological resources and geological features—not to mention the importance of this stored experience for later recommendations to the National Park Service and John D. Rockefeller Jr.

In planning new trails to wend their way through the island landscape, Dorr applied some advice contained in an *Atlantic Monthly* essay published a month after he entered Harvard College in 1870. Therein, a family friend, Unitarian minister, literary figure, and social reform activist, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, extolled the benefits of footpaths. "Instead of striking across the natural lines, [the footpath] conforms to them, nestles into the hollow, skirts the precipice, avoids the morass. An unconscious landscape-gardener...there are a thousand concealed fitnesses in nature, rhymed correspondences of bird and blossom, for which you must seek through the most hidden paths."

Higginson claimed that well-designed footpaths provided intimate knowledge of both nature and the walker. "It is only in the footpath that our minds, like our bodies, move slowly, and we traverse thought, like space, with a patient thoroughness."

The summer after that essay was published, while hiking in Italy's Lake Como region, Dorr experienced what Higginson had described. Even earlier, in 1868, when the Dorr family first visited Mount Desert Island, Dorr's memoirs reveal a young man unconsciously mimicking Thoreau, who "would fain forget all my morning occupations and my obligations to society." Many of us who have experienced Acadia's trail system may identify with Higginson's feeling that "he had never experienced so much, existed so thoroughly, lived so truly, and been so wholly himself, as during his travels on foot." Dorr clearly felt the same.

Dorr and Waldron Bates, widely considered the island's two preeminent path-makers, believed that Native American footpaths frequently provided the best guidance for trail direction. In his correspondence with National Park Service



For early summer visitors to Mount Desert Island, like this group atop Sargent Mountain around 1903, expeditions on foot to the island's summits and coastlines were an important social activity.

officials, Dorr often referred to these pre-European paths as single-lane footways only wide enough for one person. A central principle that Dorr promoted—and that was adhered to by Native Americans—was that the "earth led the path, not human inclination to 'challenge' the landscape." Path refinements were not intended to manipulate landscape but to adapt to it.

Some excursions were rambles; others were focused efforts to decipher the power of place. Each new hike enlarged his consciousness of that power implicit in the extraordinary natural variation within the island's one hundred square miles: that is, seascape, coastline, rugged headlands, mountains, valleys, freshwater lakes and ponds, watersheds, wildlife, and more than four hundred species of plants.

As cottage development during the last two decades of the nineteenth century accelerated, from his various footpath perches Dorr saw the loss of landscape as prominent families "from away" rapidly developed the shoreline. In his memoirs Dorr reflected on the consequences of residential development, of increased footpath use, of landscapes privatized and no longer open to public access.

Might not the best response to the dizzying consequences of rapid residential development lie beneath Dorr's feet? After all, had not Frederick Law Olmsted shown that landscape possesses the power to transform human aspirations? Might it be feasible to develop natural reservations to

restore and sustain historic and indigenous conditions? Through repeated exploration of the land and seascape, Dorr came to realize that "The earth is our common heritage. It is both right and needful that it should be kept widely free in the portions that the homes of men, industry, and agriculture do not claim."

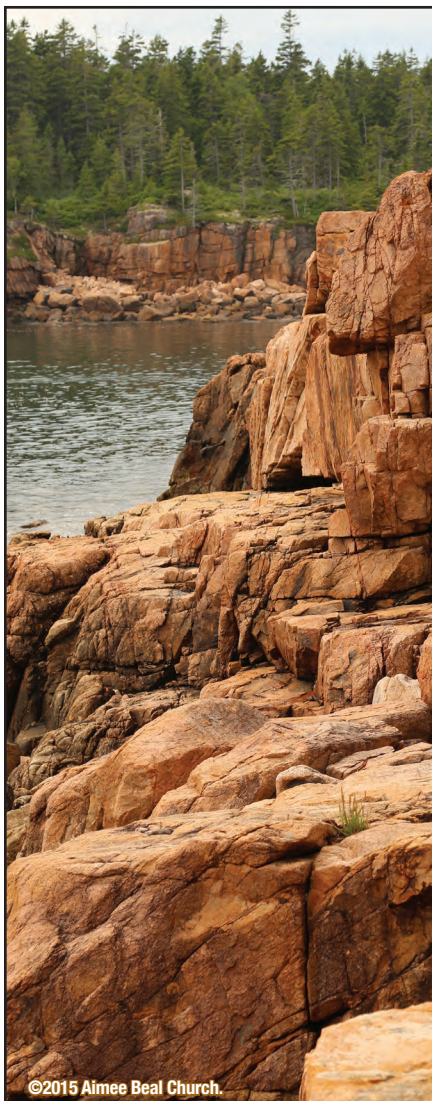
William James, the father of American psychology, grasped the melding of the natural forces that Dorr experienced, the "strength" and "character" of Mount Desert Island. He wrote to his wife, Alice, that his "Mt. Desert visit was a success, especially yesterday with its fine weather, which [he and Dorr] spent on a big walk over the Mountains. I had no idea of the strength of that Island." On that same day, in a letter to experimental psychologist James M. Baldwin, James referred to "a glorious day yesterday—steam launch to Seal Harbor then over Sargent's Mountain...I never saw so much *character* in so few miles."

As the close of the nineteenth century neared, new path development as well as the marking of established paths attracted larger numbers of island residents, seasonal residents, and tourists. No other resort could offer anything aesthetically comparable to the island's "walk and talk" opportunities, and only on Mount Desert Island did a person's social prestige depend on the number of pedestrian miles accomplished up and down the torturous trails each summer.

Dorr allied himself with Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association Roads and Paths Committee chairmen Herbert Jacques, Waldron Bates, and Edward Rand. The BHVIA initially led the way developing path-making techniques, stabilizing path conditions, erecting and standardizing signs, building footbridges, and publishing sophisticated island maps. Dorr collaborated with Jacques on a half-mile connector path—for walking and carriages—through a heavily wooded area from Schooner Head Road to the base of Champlain Mountain to Otter Creek Road.

Two years earlier, as chair of the BHVIA Bicycle Path Committee, Dorr completed construction of a nearly mile-long path around the Beaver Dam Pool on Bear Brook Valley land that he owned. This lovely sheltered sanctuary on the flank of Champlain

Mount Desert Island Historical Society



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Mountain held special significance for his mother, Mary Gray Ward Dorr. Her friend, Marian Lawrence Peabody, described Dorr's path as "heavenly smooth with pine needles and the sun just flickering through."

Dorr reveled in the familiarity of his favorite places. From these sites he inhaled the fragrance of the flora and the soil that nourished it, straining his weak eyes seaward to watch shorebirds skirt the white crests of distant waves moving shoreward. To be sure, he retraced his steps, climbing one more peak even though he had been there too often to keep count. New observations, photographed images, and questions received attention later when he consulted specialized publications in his extensive libraries at Oldfarm and the adjacent Storm Beach Cottage.

These "wanderings," as Mary Dorr described the island journeys of her son, were often in the company of relatives, friends, and village improvement acquaintances. Even in their company, Dorr scrutinized trail conditions, paying attention to the effects of erosion, glaciation, distinctive landforms, water level fluctuations, and the ways in which the trees and plants responded to human intrusion by overuse or logging. New trail routes were mapped and routing consultations with others took place, then rigidly supervised work crews constructed the trail.

The pull of unfamiliar places both on and off island still vied for Dorr's attention. In October of 1895, he took a two-week canoeing and camping trip through the northern Maine wilderness, from Moosehead Lake north through Chesuncook Lake and ending on the second longest river on North America's Atlantic coastline, the Saint John. The adventure followed a route familiar to students of American literature—through the wilderness described by Thoreau in 1846 and 1853.

Of the woods seen from his canoe Dorr wrote, "...even if they be fine in themselves are monotonous when one sees them stretching on unbroken by civilization, unrelieved by open ground or any sign of human homeliness...[for] if the woods be open, one should walk *in* them, under and among the individual trees to realize their beauty and grasp the feel of their charm." One core landscape value articulated here

is that "individual features of the landscape and its play of light and shadow" must not be "swallowed up in an unbroken sea of mixed foliage."

Dorr's years of European travel, immersing him in both formal and picturesque aesthetics, informed his belief in an aesthetic superiority of landscape that included open space, cultivated terrain, or human habitation. His emerging conservation philosophy was both pluralistic and cumulative. Dorr's uncle, aesthetician and banker Samuel G. Ward, expressed this view as well within the context of European culture: "Painters' mountains must be varied with peaks and hollow curves and associated with human habitation or occupation to relieve their austerity." Dorr saw varied terrain elements as necessary for the sake of the larger whole, suggestive of the ecological philosophy that would be developed by the scientific community a half-century later.

As the new century beckoned, Dorr would repeatedly travel across America through landscapes with neither footpaths nor seascapes. In 1902 he engaged in field research and exploration with Harvard colleagues in the southwestern states and two years later spent several months bushwhacking the eastern Sierras and climbing pathless Mt. Whitney. Whether or not there was an existing path to follow, Dorr's course was clear: Mount Desert Island held untapped resources that could—and should—be turned to public purpose. ■

RONALD H. EPP, Ph.D. has worked in university teaching, scholarly publishing, and academic library administration, and is the retired director of Shapiro Library at Southern New Hampshire University. His longtime research into Acadia's early history and personages has led to published articles in the magazines and newsletters of many Acadia-area organizations. Ron and his wife Elizabeth, who passed away in 2013, first joined Friends of Acadia in 1995.

WATERMAN FUND GRANT SPURS SUBALPINE TRAIL PROJECT

By Charlie Jacobi and Gary Stellpflug



Ridge Runners and Acadia Youth Conservation Corps members work together to lug a large stone to the worksite on Sargent Mountain. The high-tech “gurney” they’re using was designed and built through the generosity of Morris Yachts.

NPS/Charlie Jacobi

A hiker ascending the south ridge of Sargent Mountain in early July of last year would have been surprised to encounter a small army of trail workers a couple hundred yards from the summit. Mattocks bobbed up and down as if drilling for oil. Earth flew from the business end of shovels. Teams of two or four gave big rocks free gurney rides from far off the trail. Others wrestled those rocks into two solid sidewalls. A steady stream of workers marched back and forth from the summit cairn, toting sacks of stones. A group of hardy teens swung pickaxes to reduce those stones to gravel.

The ANP Trail Crew, Recreation Technician (Rec Tech), Ridge Runners, and Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) had converged on the mountaintop to build a short causeway to protect the fragile subalpine zone. This was the first time all these work groups—and these three organizations: Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and the Waterman Fund—had joined forces.

The Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund, founded in memory of conservationist and Leave No Trace pioneer

mountain habitats are technically subalpine, there is nothing “sub” about them in our minds. They harbor some plants found on alpine peaks like Katahdin; the soil is thin; the environment is severe; and like high, open peaks everywhere they attract thousands of hikers annually. Acadia National Park staff has long been a part of this network and the fund includes our peaks within its purview.

We were here because standing water on this section of trail was prompting hikers to walk around the puddles and mud—widening and “braiding” the trail, trampling the vegetation, and eroding the soil. Our aim was to provide a stable and inviting trail that hikers would be inclined to stay on. As we planned for this project we knew we would need a lot of crushed rock for the trail tread. Where would the materials come from? Plucking rocks from the thin soil was not an option—each rock supports a pocket of soil directly uphill. Move the rock, and the soil—which might have taken thousands of years to accumulate—will soon disappear. There are some loose rocks scattered around the ridge, but those provide habitat too: invertebrates

Guy Waterman, was created to foster the spirit of wildness and conserve the alpine areas of Northeastern North America. Working from a small endowment, the fund supports trail work, education, and research projects related to alpine stewardship and co-hosts a biannual Alpine Stewardship Gathering to share new information and practices.

Though Acadia’s

use them for cover, and debris accumulating around the rocks might eventually offer a foothold for new plant colonies. Quarrying rock off the side of the ridge and out of sight was possible but still a major impact—and a lot more work, too. Then we turned our sights to the enormous summit cairn.

Over the past 100-plus years, well-meaning hikers have altered the natural environment by following a longstanding tradition of rock relocation: adding a rock to the summit cairn. It’s mind-boggling to consider where all those rocks came from and what the summit might have looked like to its first peak-bagger. So we pirated rocks from the summit cairn and put them to a higher use: big ones for the sidewall and small ones to crush for the trail tread. Fear not, though—a substantial summit cairn remains.

Over two days of work, we constructed about 75 feet of rock-lined causeway. We narrowed the trail and transplanted vegetation disturbed during construction, which, along with new growth, will soften its edges over the next few years. All Waterman Fund grants require an education component, so Ridge Runners and the Rec Tech spent time before and after, observing hiker routes to evaluate the project’s effectiveness and educating hikers (181 in all) about the importance of staying on-trail. Observations of hikers showed they were, as intended, following the new route.

It was fun for all these groups to work together, learn from one another, and get to know more of the many people collaborating to make Acadia’s trails more sustainable. 🌲

CHARLIE JACOBI is a visitor use specialist at Acadia National Park and president of the Waterman Fund. GARY STELLPFLUG is the trails foreman at Acadia National Park.

GETTING AROUND IN ACADIA

By John Kelly



The original design of the Cadillac Summit parking area has little changed since it was opened in 1932. Photo: NPS/Archives.

Since the mid-19th century, visitors have been coming to Mount Desert Island to escape an increasingly urban lifestyle and delight in the beauty of its mountains and shoreline. Creating ways for visitors to travel to and around the island has often been challenging and, at times, controversial.

As early as the 1880s, summer residents—the rusticators—began seeking ways to improve access to the island's mountains and scenic vistas. Communities organized village improvement associations, which constructed walking paths connecting villages to mountaintops, creating a well-crafted, island-wide hiking trail system.

At the same time, local entrepreneurs benefitting from the growing interest in tourism to Mount Desert Island began to develop new ways to access the island and its most popular destinations. In 1883, Frances H. Clerque of Bangor, Maine, constructed the Green Mountain Railway to bring visitors from the southern end of Eagle Lake to the summit of what today is named Cadillac Mountain. The success of the 1.2-mile cog railroad, however, was short-lived, and service shut down after the summer of 1890.

In 1884, Maine Central Railroad began offering rail service from Boston to MDI by way of Hancock Point. The final leg of the journey was a six-mile steamship ferry

ride down Frenchman Bay to Bar Harbor. In 1887, the railroad carried 15,000 passengers to the island. Despite the advent of the automobile, the rail and ferry service continued until 1931.

As tourism and subsequent development grew so did concerns of summer residents who sought to preserve the scenic character of Mount Desert Island. In 1901, a group of prominent men led by Charles W. Eliot (president of Harvard University) formed the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations (HCTPR) to protect land on Mount Desert Island. By 1913, the group had preserved about 5,000 acres—raising concerns among some residents about shrinking the property tax rolls. When the tax-exempt status of the HCTPR was threatened by a bill in the state legislature to revoke its charter, George B. Dorr turned to the federal government and arranged for the land to be donated to the nation. On July 8, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed a Presidential Proclamation that established Sieur de Monts National Monument under the authority of the Antiquities Act of 1906. The U.S. Congress expanded and reauthorized the national monument as Lafayette National Park in 1919, and then Acadia National Park in 1929.

In 1913, John D. Rockefeller Jr. began constructing carriage roads on his estate and

later on land held by the HCTPR. By 1944 the carriage road system extended 57 miles; today about 45 miles are located within Acadia National Park. The carriage roads continue to provide non-motorized access to some of the park's favorite destinations on Mount Desert Island.

The establishment of Sieur de Monts National Monument and development of the carriage road system coincided with the popularization of the automobile. Beginning in 1903, some summer residents, including Rockefeller, actively opposed allowing automobiles on the island and in some towns they were banned. The controversy and debate continued until the town of Bar Harbor lifted its ban in 1913, followed by the towns of Seal Harbor and Northeast Harbor in 1915. This new means of transportation to and within Acadia National Park forever changed the landscape, as it did in other national parks across the country.

As the use of automobiles in the national parks rapidly grew, the National Park Service (NPS) sought to accommodate their use as an important way for visitors to enjoy the parks. In 1927, NPS Assistant Director Arno B. Cammerer provided the following justification for developing a motor road system in the park:

The great mass of visitors to a national park... do not desire walking trips over rugged

territory or strenuous climbs; for these, youth and activity, the habit and love of exercise, are necessary. For the older, the less strong and active, or less strenuously inclined, who constitute the vast majority, means must be provided for making reasonably accessible the features of interest and beauty in the park.

Despite his opposition to autos on Mount Desert Island, Rockefeller took a lead in envisioning and initially funding a motor road system for the park. Rockefeller together with Dorr, now park superintendent, worked closely to develop a motor road system that connects popular park destinations, highlights scenic views, and fits harmoniously with the landscape.

In 1924, after less than a mile of the motor road between Eagle Lake and Jordan Pond had been completed, several summer residents spoke out in opposition to constructing roads through the undeveloped heart of the island. U.S. Senator George W. Pepper of Pennsylvania was among those who argued against the expansion of roads through the park, which resulted in a congressional hearing on the question. Dorr and Rockefeller prevailed, however, with the support of Interior Secretary Hubert Work.

The park's historic motor road system was built between 1922 and 1958, and includes approximately 27 miles on Mount Desert Island and 6 miles on the Schoodic Peninsula. The motor road system complements the carriage roads and hiking trails, together offering a range of recreational experiences across a network of travel corridors in the park.

As the motor road system was nearing completion, Acadia National Park experienced a growth in visitation similar to growth across the entire National Park System during the post-World War II economic boom. In the following years Acadia's popularity and use have grown while its capacity to accommodate visitors has remained the same. The park service, charged with preserving the historic roads and associated parking areas, the trails, and the carriage roads in a manner consistent with their original design, has resisted making changes to Acadia's transportation infrastructure to meet the ever-growing demand.

In 1992, the NPS prepared a General Management Plan for Acadia to define the resource conditions, visitor experiences,

and management actions needed to achieve the park's mission: to protect its resources and values while providing for a high-quality visitor experience. A major planning issue that the plan identified was the negative effects of crowding and congestion on the character of the visitor experience. As a result, the NPS adopted management objectives that included establishing an island-wide shuttle bus system, limiting parking to the existing capacity, and improving non-motorized access to the park.

The Island Explorer was established in 1999 and now operates 28 buses on eight routes on Mount Desert Island and the Schoodic Peninsula from June to October. The Island Explorer has carried more than 5 million passengers since 1999 and last year set a record by carrying more than 500,000 passengers in a single season. Further, as part of the Acadia Trails Forever partnership a network of Village Connector Trails have been constructed to make it easier for visitors to travel on foot into the park from surrounding communities.



Every Island Explorer bus can carry bicycles and wheelchairs, enabling visitors looking to explore Acadia in a variety of ways—without their cars.

Despite the success of the Island Explorer and other efforts, visitors to Acadia continue to experience crowding, congestion, and—at times—unsafe conditions. Large numbers of visitors during the short summer season result—in certain locations and at certain times—in congestion on roadways and crowding at popular destinations. During peak-use times, demand for parking spots, travel lanes, and seats on the bus may exceed the available capacity. Large vehicles and mixed uses may be incompatible with existing historic transportation infrastructure in the park. Aca-

dia is also confronted with the challenge of accommodating an increasing number of shore excursions from cruise ships visiting Bar Harbor, which have increased from 36 in 2000 to 142 in 2015. Looking ahead, the opening of the new campground and bike paths on the Schoodic Peninsula in September will place increased demand on ferry service and Island Explorer.

In response to these concerns and challenges, the NPS has initiated a transportation plan for Acadia to determine how best to provide safe and efficient transportation and high quality experiences to visitors in Acadia, while ensuring the protection of park resources and values. The plan will comprehensively examine several management options to improve safety on park roads and reduce crowding and congestion at key visitor destinations and travel corridors. The goals of the plan are to:

- Establish desired conditions for natural and cultural resources and visitor experiences at destinations and travel corridors throughout the park
- Identify strategies to address parking and roadway capacity limitations and associated impacts to resources, safety, and visitor experiences
- Evaluate and establish guidance to improve safety and reduce conflicts among oversized vehicles (e.g., buses, RVs, campers), motorcycles, bicyclists, and passenger cars operating on park roads
- Identify potential transportation infrastructure improvements to increase safety and enhance resource stewardship, sustainability, and NPS operational efficiency.

The NPS is gathering data and seeking public input to support the development of a range of management alternatives that will address congestion, safety, and user conflict issues. The NPS will prepare a Draft Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Statement by summer 2017, with a final plan expected for release in early 2018. Please visit <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan> to learn more and share your views and experiences on transportation in Acadia. 🐾

JOHN KELLY is the management specialist and public information officer at Acadia National Park.

JUST A PEACEFUL RIDE IN THE PARK

By Bonnie Tai and Vince Messer

“Buildings, too, are
children of Earth and Sun.”

-Frank Lloyd Wright



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Bonnie

Clouds thinly veiled the sky, and the day felt more like October than mid-May. It would be a chilly ride, at least until we hit the first uphill. When I arrived at Fabbri picnic area, the parking lot was already full of cars, bikes, and riders in dayglo green jackets. More than a dozen people had gathered with us to enjoy the park's first “car-free” experiment on this cool Saturday morning.

Aside from a handful of cyclists, I looked at a lot full of unfamiliar faces. The first person I rode with had come from Biddford and was a bike commuter like myself. The difference was that Wally biked to work year-round, his bike sporting impressively fat tires and two panniers ready with tools in case someone's bike should need a quick fix. This was Wally's first ride around the Loop Road; although it had been many years since I had ridden the loop, I was happy for this excuse to revisit the vistas I had once enjoyed with an old school friend of mine up for a weekend from Cape Cod.

Wally and I were supposed to co-lead a group of “no-drop” (don't ask me what this means; I still don't know) riders—those who were interested in a slow, “stop and smell the roses” experience. However, no one aside from us chose to bike at this pace, so we ended up all riding more or less in a large pack, taking turns riding front or back of the pack depending on our fitness, willpower, stamina, or efficiency on the hills.

I found myself frequently peddling alongside Ken, someone who also prefers to ride leisurely; resisting any competitive urges we enjoyed a mind-expanding conversation with a new acquaintance between the fir, granite, and surf from Otter Cove to Blackwoods Campground. It turned out that Ken works in the energy policy arena, and our conversations turned easily throughout the morning from public policy to education and many things in between.

Ken thanked every park ranger and FOA volunteer we passed, spreading gratitude like the Pope offers blessings.

After some stops for photo ops coordinated by an energetic Lili Pew, our accordion bike gang expanded once again. Heading up the long hill from Bubble Pond, I met Michele, who is an active leader of a cycling community in the Bangor area. As we pushed up the hill past South and North Bubble and overlooking Eagle Lake, I learned about some upcoming rides her group was organizing.

Our group split one last time at the base of the Cadillac Summit Road as some ventured to the top for the first time. Ken and I enjoyed a relaxed ride back to Fabbri, passing more smiling volunteers in deck loungers tallying riders, as well as other cyclists enjoying the freedom to ride several abreast without worrying about lines of cars and buses shouldering past in a cloud of exhaust fumes. One last gentle hill up to Otter Cliff Road—we exchanged contact information and promised to stay in touch. I wished Ken luck up that dastardly steep hill just before the intersection to Route 3, and then we rejoined our motoring neighbors.

Vince

It was not the greatest day for bike riding in Acadia National Park. The sky was overcast and there was a constant, chilly breeze coming off the ocean. The riders wore tights to keep their legs warm, three layers of shirts, light weight jackets, windbreakers, and riding gloves. As we gathered, however, the excitement of participating in a historic first in a national park we all love—and love to ride in—added a layer of warmth.

We were to leave the Fabbri Picnic Area in three groups organized according to the riders' self-identified average speed. I was supposed to “lead” the second group, riding



Lili Pew

FOA board member Lili Pew (third from left) led this trio of first-time ascenders up the Cadillac Summit Road during the Acadia car-free morning in May. Another car-free morning will take place Saturday, September 26, 2015.

12 to 16 miles per hour. But it was more than difficult to organize a crowd of 40 or 50 cyclists when they were busy chatting about bikes, the weather, or how great this event was going to be. Everyone was ready to ride—the plan to ride in groups crumbled, someone shouted let's go!, and we were off. Groups formed and shifted as we rode.

The so-called “organized” riders weren't the only people on the Loop Road. Many cyclists were already riding, alone or in groups with friends. I saw a few families walking, some with children in strollers, and having just as much fun as the bikers. The atmosphere wasn't quite electric, but there was most certainly something special in the air. Many people who already knew Acadia well were experiencing it in a unique way. Sure, a few years ago when the government shutdown closed the park, many of us rode the Loop Road with no traffic. Then it felt as if we were trespassing, and I suppose we were. Now it felt like we'd been invited, and, in fact, we had. Park management had listened to the requests of so many cyclists and agreed to experiment with a car-free park morning. From start to finish it was a success, and everyone I talked to had the same response to the Park's experiment: Let's do it again!

Riding the Loop Road on other days can be solitary and sometimes challeng-

ing. One has to be always on guard for cars and buses. Even on the one-way section of the road, it can be difficult to interact with other riders. This day was different. Everyone was talking. People were stopping just to gab and enjoy the views. By the time I arrived at Jordan Pond House, any notion of an organized group ride had dissipated. I saw fifteen or so riders gathered recharging with snacks and liquids, and having a great time. Riders with cell phones were snapping pictures. A group of ten Boy Scouts and their leader rode in. They had come from Massachusetts to ride in Acadia and by luck had picked this car-free morning. They, perhaps, had the biggest smiles of all. Then it was back to riding. I huffed my way up Cadillac with some friends and cycled back to Fabbri on a road free of cars. 🚲

VINCE MESSER worked as a consultant in organizational development and serves as chair of the MDI Hospital Board. He is also a trustee and board member at Camp Beech Cliff. He can be found biking, hiking and skiing in Acadia and fly fishing elsewhere in Maine. He lives in Bar Harbor.

BONNIE TAI is director of the Educational Studies program at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, never met an outdoor sport she didn't like, and enjoys yoga, making music, and exploring new places.



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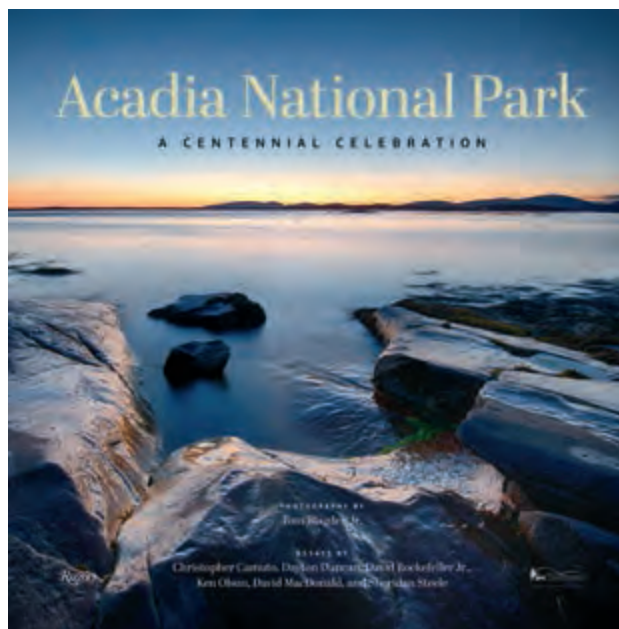
Updates

Acadia's Centennial in Images and Words

Friends of Acadia has partnered with noted landscape and wildlife photographer Tom Blagden to produce a lavishly illustrated book celebrating the centennial of Acadia National Park: *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration*. To be published in spring of 2016 by Rizzoli, this gorgeous portfolio of 250 color photographs reveals Acadia's diverse habitats and brings home the contrasts of pounding ocean and silent coves, bald mountain summits and deep forest valleys, as never before seen.

The essays—by writers including superintendent Sheridan Steele, David Rockefeller, Dayton Duncan (co-producer of the documentary *The National Parks: America's Best Idea*) and FOA president David MacDonald—convey the unseen story of Acadia: its history as a national park, the critical role of the founding families in its creation, the past and current importance of private stewardship, and its status as a unique park forged in a particular time and place in history. *Acadia National Park: A Centennial Celebration* celebrates the essence of this special place and offers a cherished journey into its past, present, and future.

To learn more about Acadia National Park's 2016 centennial celebration, visit www.acadiacentennial2016.org.



Centennial Challenge

Acadia National Park will receive \$165,000 in extra funding this year as part of a Centennial Challenge program funded by Congress. The goal of the program is to help prepare national parks for their "second century" by challenging park friends groups and similar organizations to raise private funds to match congressional appropriations for park maintenance and youth engagement programs. Congress dedicated \$10 million to the challenge for the 2015 fiscal year. FOA and ANP staff brainstormed a long list of projects that might be eligible for the program, and the park was successful in three of those applications.

The park will receive \$85,000 to cut vegetation and restore vistas along the carriage roads and \$30,000 for rehabilitation of the drainage systems, retaining walls, log cribbing, and surfacing along the Ocean Path, Jordan Pond Trail, and Ship Harbor Trail. The park also received \$50,000 for a special project to improve 0.8 miles of the Deer Brook Trail by adding checks and rock cribs, improving drainage, and restoring natural trail tread. With support from donors and the Acadia Trails Forever and carriage roads endowments, Friends of Acadia will match these appropriations and help the park address critical maintenance needs. The park and FOA have also put forward another round of matching projects for consideration in the FY 2016 and FY 2017 budget years in hopes that Congress will continue to fund this successful public/private matching program.

Four Stars for Friends

In May, Friends of Acadia was again awarded a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest evaluator of charities in the US. Charity Navigator's rating system examines the fiscal responsibility of an organization's day to day operations, its commitment to accountability and transparency,



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Perhaps the most visible project of the Cromwell Brook Wild Acadia initiative is the replanting of the Sieur de Monts Spring Pool. Old photographs of the pool were used to guide the landscaping, and Friends of Acadia provided funding to purchase native plants from local garden centers.

and the sustainability of its programs. In its award letter, Charity Navigator stated that “only 12% of the charities we rate have received at least 3 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Friends of Acadia outperforms most other charities in America.” This top designation offers FOA members added confidence that their support will translate into tangible benefit for Acadia National Park.

Keeping Acadia Wild

Visitors to the Sieur de Monts area can see a variety of projects being implemented as part of the Wild Acadia initiative to restore Acadia National Park’s natural resources and help native plants and wildlife become more resilient to rapid environmental changes caused by climate change, invasive insect infestations, fire, and other disturbances. Friends of Acadia has received funding from the BAND Foundation, Canon U.S.A., and the National Parks Conservation Association to help the National Park Service and partners comprehensively study and monitor the natural resources of the Cromwell Brook watershed (including Sieur de Monts), where Wild Acadia’s watershed-based restoration approach is being piloted.

Funding will also be used to implement projects to improve resource conditions in the watershed, including the removal of invasive plants, water quality monitoring inside and outside the park in Cromwell Brook, and native landscaping at the Sieur de Monts spring pool. In addition, the funding will support citizen science projects to gather historical records of flora and fauna in the watershed and to plan for future biodiversity monitoring. Friends of Acadia has also made a grant to the Maine Natural History Observatory to hire Brian Henkel, an engineer with a specialty in groundwater hydrology, to serve as the coordinator of the Wild Acadia initiative. Mr. Henkel’s role is to ensure that all research and restoration activities in the watershed inside and outside the park are shared among partners and communicated to the public.

Wild Gardens of Acadia

A late snowmelt and voracious deer had the Wild Gardens of Acadia volunteers extra busy this spring as they worked to prepare the gardens for visitors, raise critical operational funding, and engage the next generation of park enthusiasts. In April, the volunteers participated in Acadia National Park’s Junior Ranger Day.

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FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Mountain laurel blooms in the Wild Gardens of Acadia.

Volunteer Helen Koch organized a "Scents and Sensibilities" activity, in which young people were encouraged to use all their senses to learn about native plants in the gardens. They felt the difference between "friendly firs" and "spiky spruces," spotted wood frog and salamander egg masses in the pond habitat while listening to recordings of their calls, and smelled white spruce leaves (cat urine scent) and yellow birch twig bark (wintergreen scent) followed by tasting a wintergreen candy.

In June, the volunteers were actively gathering donations of plants from area businesses, estates, and individuals for the Wild Gardens Benefit Plant Sale at St. Saviour's Episcopal Church. The sale was a record year, generating critically needed funding to support the maintenance and staffing of the gardens. Stop by the Wild Gardens of Acadia this summer for your own orientation to the native plants of Acadia.

Looking Deeply into the Clearest Lake in Maine

Thanks to continued funding from Canon U.S.A., the water quality data buoy is once again anchored in Jordan Pond. Operated through a partnership between Acadia National Park, the University of Maine, and Friends of Acadia, the buoy has a number of water quality sensors that track water

quality characteristics including temperature, pH, oxygen, algae growth, and more. Powered by solar panels, the buoy takes readings from these sensors every 15 minutes, and relays this information via radio signals to a base station at the Jordan Pond House. At the same time, a weather station at the Jordan Pond House gathers readings onshore, such as temperature, wind speed and direction, precipitation, and solar radiation. The project scientists are able to access all this data remotely and track what is happening in the lake in near-real-time; if something changes dramatically they can quickly collect additional samples manually or perform experiments to help determine the cause and effect of the changes.

Some of this information will now available to visitors at the Jordan Pond House, thanks to an interactive kiosk that is scheduled for installation at the end of July. The kiosk will feature a video display with a short introduction to the buoy project and the resource values of Jordan Pond, as well as two fixed tablets for viewing data-driven, interactive features. The video presentation is being produced by the University of Maine Media and Public Relations office. Information about the project is also available to the public online, at www.jpbuoy.com.

Replanting the Rooftop of Acadia

With funding from donors and the 2014 Benefit Auction, Friends of Acadia is entering into a partnership with the New England Wild Flower Society (NEWFS) to survey vegetation on Cadillac Mountain this summer, in preparation for restoration of the summit area. Park studies have shown that 75% of Acadia's visitors go to the summit at some point during their trip. High levels of visitation have resulted in trampling of the alpine/sub-alpine vegetation that survives harsh wind, ice, and snow in poor soil conditions there. Under this partnership, NEWFS scientists will walk the entire summit, cataloguing the diversity of species that they see, recording all instances of six rare vascular plant species known to be there (such as alpine clubmoss and mountain sandwort, a tiny white flower), and surveying previously documented locations to understand population levels, changes, and associations. By the end of the summer, the scientists will identify and prioritize areas of the summit to be revegetated—work that will be continued and funded by the National Park Service in future years. This initiative combined with educational signage and visitor contacts by the Cadillac Mountain Summit Stewards will help ensure long-term sustainability for the summit's natural resources.



This alpine clubmoss was photographed just off the Cadillac North Ridge Trail, approaching the summit. The species is considered threatened in the state of Maine.

Recreation Technician

The summer "Rec Tech" position, hired each year by Friends of Acadia and detailed to work with Acadia's resource management staff, has been extended by several months for the 2015 season. The Rec Tech's role is to assist park staff in studying recreational use of the park, with duties including main-

taining electronic trail counters on carriage roads and trails, using GPS to map and record condition of social trails and other sites of interest in the park, administering visitor questionnaires and performing other routine monitoring and research tasks, and compiling collected information into reports and maps for park managers and the public. The longer season will allow for a more comprehensive data set at a time when the park is looking closely at visitor use around the question of transportation.

FOA veteran Abby Seymour is currently in her second summer in this position. She has previously worked as a Ridge Runner for two seasons and helped pilot the Cadillac Summit Stewards in the fall of 2014, and her experience and productivity are a great asset to the program. This year Abby has already prepared five maps for a recent workshop and will prepare more for the Acadia Science Symposium at SERC and the Northeast Alpine Stewardship Gathering in Baxter State Park, both held in the fall.

Stewardship Volunteer Program

From the first week of June to mid-October, volunteers from all over the world come to care for Acadia's carriage roads and trails. Volunteers assist with many essential projects, like cutting back vegetation, rebuilding small rock retaining walls or drainages, maintaining historic vistas, closing "social" paths to preserve natural areas, and cleaning up at picnic and scenic areas. It's simple to join a project—visitors arrive at Acadia National Park Headquarters on any Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday morning to assist with a work project till lunch time.

The stewardship volunteer program in Acadia is acknowledged to be one of the best in the National Park System and is used as a model by other friends groups around the country—as did the Friends of Virgin Islands National Park last winter when they hired FOA Stewardship Coordinator Anna Adams during their busy season. Why is the program so successful? First: because of wonderfully dedicated volunteers. Second: because of the strong partnership between ANP and FOA, which provides consistency in staffing and resources. Third: because the program is designed to make it easy for participants. Individuals do not need to register or provide their own tools, and the time

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- I give, devise, and bequeath _____ % of the remaining assets of my estate to Friends of Acadia, a Maine charitable corporation, for its charitable purposes...
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You are strongly urged to discuss your gift intentions with Friends of Acadia at an early stage in your planning. Please call the Friends of Acadia office, or have your attorney or financial advisor call, if you have any questions or require additional information. If you have already included Friends of Acadia in your estate plans, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, Director of Development, at 800-625-0321 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org to document your plans and be recognized as a member of the George B. Dorr Society. Your gift, regardless of size, will be both welcome and important to Friends of Acadia. Thank you.



Some of the fishermen of Islesford pose with their colorful lobster buoys. Photo: Friends of the Islesford Historical Museum.

commitment of one morning is very appealing to vacationers. One of the current trends in volunteering is a growing interest in one-time service opportunities, instead of long-term volunteering. Offering such a quality drop-in program meets this current trend, especially in a place with such high numbers of short-term visitors. We are grateful to the local and visiting volunteers who make such a positive impact on the park. If you have a free morning this summer or fall, stop by headquarters and join a work project! It's fun to make a difference.

Celebrating an Island Fishing Community

In June, The Friends of the Islesford Historical Museum, working in cooperation with Acadia National Park and with support from Friends of Acadia, opened a community-curated exhibition celebrating the men and women who have fished the waters around Little Cranberry Island for generations. The exhibition is located at the Islesford Historical Museum, where the rich history of the Cranberry Isles has been celebrated since 1927.

challenging work and the many rewards of lobster fishing in Downeast Maine. See www.islesfordhistoricalmuseum.info for more information.

Yellow Bus Fund

Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are collaborating to enable more K–12 students to experience one of their national parks. Recognizing that transportation costs may be prohibitive for some schools wanting to plan a field trip to Acadia, Friends of Acadia began offering transportation scholarships this spring for day trips to attend programs on Mount Desert Island, at Schoodic, or at Saint Croix Island International Historic Site. “Friends of Acadia is excited to be expanding our role in youth engagement over the next two years,” said FOA President David MacDonald. “We are looking for ways to assure that school children can use Acadia as an extension of classroom learning. Young children need the chance to have hands-on learning experiences with park rangers in Acadia—uncover Maine’s glacial history, explore the homesteading life of early Mainers, discover unique shoreline and forest habitats, and understand issues that will influence Maine’s future. Acadia is a national treasure and dynamic outdoor classroom. Every Maine child should have access to this special landscape.” Schools from Ellsworth and Union, Maine, were able to attend field trips to Acadia this spring because of the Yellow Bus Fund.



Heather Calarco

Girl Scout Troop 7193 from Pennsylvania, here with FOA stewardship coordinator Anna Adams (front right), volunteered in Acadia during their visit to the park in June. The group fundraised for two years to make the trip.

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Celebrating Acadia's Starry Skies

The 7th annual Acadia Night Sky Festival will be held September 10th through 14th, in locations throughout the Acadia region. The 2015 festival will feature keynote speaker Dr. John Grant III of the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum. A geologist with the Center for Earth and Planetary Studies, Dr. Grant has been involved with the Mars Exploration Rovers program since 2002, helping to select landing sites and organize science planning. In addition to the keynote lecture, retired astronaut Dan Barry will give two talks about his process and training to become an astronaut and what the experience is like to lift off into space; solar astronomer Alasdair Davey will speak about his work at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics; and several volunteer astronomers working at Acadia will present topics ranging from constellations and their stories to the reasons Pluto is no longer considered a planet. These lectures will be joined by photography workshops, author talks, solar viewing, boat tours, star parties, and more. For information on the festival and a complete listing of events, visit www.acadianightskyfestival.com.

News of Friends

NEW FRIEND ON THE BOARD

The Friends of Acadia Board of Directors has welcomed a new member, LINDA JENSEN of Mount Desert, Maine. Linda serves as the Chief Financial Officer at the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, where she oversees budgets and planning, financial services, and treasury. Prior to joining the laboratory, she was the Vice President in Finance and Chief Financial Officer at Select Energy Services in Natick, Massachusetts, for 18 years. She earned her MS in Management from Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her BBA from the University of Michigan.

Linda volunteered on the FOA Finance Committee for several years before joining the board. She notes that she enjoys



The 2015 Acadia Night Sky Festival poster, featuring "Starry Night Over Acadia" by Katherine Noble Churchill of Bar Harbor.

bicycling and hiking in the park with her husband, Mickey Shattow, adding, "It is a wonderful place to share with visitors. I am honored to join the Board of Directors and work to protect a very special park for future generations."



Friends of Acadia

NEW FRIENDS IN THE OFFICE

The Friends of Acadia office staff grew this spring with two familiar faces taking on new roles. A regular office volunteer in 2012,

CAROL PAGE-POTTER is the new Finance & Development Assistant, a position created to improve the integration and efficiency of those two departments. She brings 20 years' experience in human resources plus, most recently, two years as Executive Assistant at Schmitt & Ongaro Marine Products in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. Regarding her move to Bar Harbor from Pennsylvania, Carol explains, "In December of 1999, my husband and I celebrated the new century in Acadia. While here, we were dreaming about living on

MDI and I said that if I lived here year round, I would want to work for Friends of Acadia. Later I returned to live on the island for a year, finding healing (as so many people do) after the death of my husband. I knew then that this was where I wanted to build a new life. Circumstances have conspired in a most happy way to bring me back to live and work here, with—yes, FOA! It's a wonderful feeling to come to work each day knowing that I am helping to support the place I love most in the world."



Friends of Acadia

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is the Communications Assistant in Digital Media, returning to the FOA communications office for an extended season

and an expanded focus. In 2014 she spent the summer months working on videography and social media; in addition this year Julia will manage FOA's digital communications and spend more time photographing FOA programs and events. A 2013 graduate of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Julia has also studied documentary photography at the Salt Institute for Documentary Studies and during the winter months is a freelance photographer in Sarasota, Florida. She says, "As the importance of connecting on a digital level increases, I want to help people feel connected to Acadia, even when they can't be in the park physically. Hiking, biking, swimming, boating, or just sitting in the stillness of Acadia has a special, almost magical, feel to it. I hope to convey that sense of magic through my camera lens and keyboard. I feel so fortunate to be able to live and work in such a beautiful place and hope that through my work I can inspire others to love Acadia as much as I do, even if they haven't visited yet. As Jacques Cousteau said, 'People protect what they love.'"

FOND FAREWELL

Our loyal ANP Volunteer Coordinator, JONATHAN GORMLEY, retired from Acadia National Park this spring after a remarkable career. He came to Mount Desert Island directly from high school in the fall

of 1973 to attend College of the Atlantic, then in its infancy with 30 students and no accreditation. Jonathan graduated and married his wife, Nina, 5 years later; his early career included stints at the MDI Biological Laboratory, the Bar Harbor Times, and Thomas College. Jonathan began his career at Acadia National Park in 1987 at Blackwoods Campground, remaining in that role for ten years. He helped coordinate and even customize countless camping groups, making visitors feel extra welcome while on vacation.

Jonathan was an interpretive ranger for the 1997 busy season, then became Acadia's Volunteer Coordinator in the spring of 1998. The many volunteer programs at Acadia have grown significantly under Jonathan's watch and some of the programs have become highly respected throughout the National Park System. During his seventeen-year tenure, Acadia reported over 700,000 hours of volunteer service donated to the park by more than 50,000 volunteers, including international volunteers from 9 countries. Jonathan says "I have made lifelong friends during my 28 years including campers, co-workers from the park and FOA, and the always-inspirational volunteers." Friends of Acadia salutes and greatly appreciates Jonathan's dedicated service, his friendly and fun demeanor, and his love for Acadia.



Jonathan Gormley celebrates volunteerism with inimitable style at the 2014 Take Pride in Acadia Day.

Friends of Acadia

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Linda Archambault
Patricia and Andy Bazar
Peggy Bensinger
Taylor Bigler
Patricia Bowie
Louise Brodman
Sam Bulger
Norvell Bullock
Café Drydock & Inn
Dr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Carew
Mary Cary
Rob Center
Julia Cheston
Kate Clark
Will Cogswell
Samantha Collins
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Paul Haaland
Ann Hackeling
Christopher Hayden
Brian Henkel
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Elizabeth Hodapp
Lester Hodgdon
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John Israel
Lazlow Jones
Julie and Michael Jurgiewich
Katahdin Photo Gallery
Laurie Keller

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Nest Egg Auctions
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Bruce Denny-Brown
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Donna Reis
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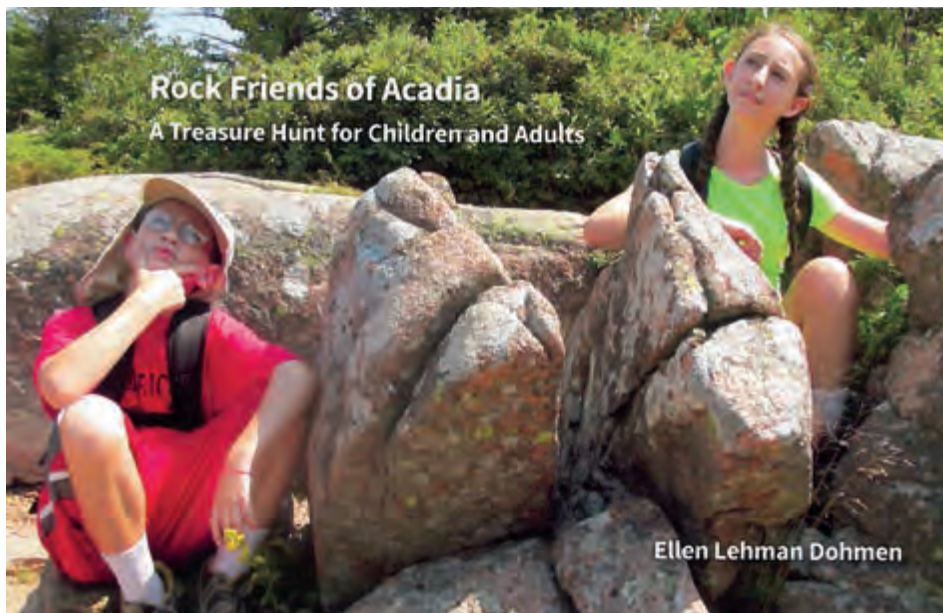
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*Rock Friends of Acadia:
A Treasure Hunt for Children and Adults*
By Ellen Lehman Dohmen
Self-published, 2015
56 pp, Softcover

So many of us have been blessed with childhood experiences in Acadia National Park—a first hike, a first swim in a pond, or a first tidepool exploration. In her recent book, *Rock Friends of Acadia: A Treasure Hunt for Children and Adults*, Ellen Lehman Dohmen skillfully brings together her early fascination with rocks, her skill at finding faces in the surrounding environment, and her love of Acadia's trails (Ellen is a Waldron's Warrior volunteer, and a longtime FOA member) to foster youthful exploration and wonder in Acadia's outdoors.

The book displays 24 examples of rock faces and figures that can be found on Acadia's trails, carriage roads, and shorelines. Because beauty is in the eye of the beholder, Dohmen helpfully provides an outline of each "friend" in case the photograph doesn't immediately bring to mind an animal or character. Some, such as the "shark," are easier than others.

The book is entertaining on its own as a guessing game to figure out what animal or character the rock portrays, but the true joy comes in trying to find the rock forma-

tions on the trails. Dohmen has identified the trails and approximate locations where her rock friends reside, and the book is small enough to carry with you on the trail. Families can either choose a hike by the rock friend to find, or consult the book as they set out on a hike to see if there are any rock friends along the way.

Imagination is a gift, and I can almost hear the family conversations that will be inspired by this book. Clouds no longer rule in stirring creativity; rocks can also be your friends, and they have more permanence!

—Stephanie Clement


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ACADIA ADVOCACY FAR AND NEAR

Friends of Acadia volunteers and partners were active this spring lobbying on Capitol Hill, at the Maine Statehouse, and on the local level to support park interests and programs.

Dave Edson, a Friends of Acadia and Maine Coast Heritage Trust (MCHT) member, participated in a fly-in organized by the national Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) coalition. As a member of MCHT's Mount Desert Island Committee, Dave is well-versed in FOA and MCHT's Acadia Land Legacy partnership to purchase and hold properties that come up for sale within the park's boundaries. Acadia National Park relies upon LWCF appropriations from Congress to acquire these properties and permanently incorporate them into the park. Dave's role in the fly-in was to highlight Acadia's land acquisition needs and urge Congress to fund LWCF at the highest level possible. Had the President's \$400 million recommended funding level for LWCF been appropriated, Acadia would likely have received more than \$2.4 million to support acquisition of several high-priority land parcels to protect water quality, improve wildlife habitat, and preserve scenic views. While Congress has not yet taken action on the Interior Appropriations bill, the House and Senate have set budget caps that are so low that they will likely not support \$400 million for LWCF. Senator Collins was successful in submitting an amendment that increased the amount of LWCF in the Senate version of the bill by approximately \$14 million, but since Acadia's land projects were ranked 23rd on the list of LWCF needs for the National Park Service, it is not likely that they will be funded.

National Park Service operations fared slightly better in Congress this year as the National Park Service prepares for its centennial. The House Interior Appropriations bill recommended \$2.328 billion in operational funding, and the Senate Appropriations Committee approved \$2.323 billion. The National Park Service did not

Friends of Acadia members are truly passionate about Acadia National Park. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated group to ensure that the park remains a great resource for the next generation to enjoy.

recommend Acadia for a base budget increase in FY 2016. Representative Pingree spoke in favor of national parks and the need for more funding on the House floor. The House Interior Appropriations bill has been stalled, however, by the number of controversial riders that have been attached. Some believe that the bill will not be acted upon by October 1st, the beginning of the new federal fiscal year.

Friends of Acadia Advocacy Committee member Ted Koffman also participated in a national fly-in that brought attention to a law that was instrumental in Acadia's founding. The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives the President the authority to designate special natural, historical, and cultural areas as national monuments. President Wilson used this law in 1916 in founding Sieur de Monts National Monument (re-named Acadia National Park in 1929). The Antiquities Act has increasingly been under threat by members of Congress who would like to require Congressional approval of all national monuments, limit the size of them, or prohibit their designation altogether. Presidents from both parties have used the Antiquities Act to protect important cultural and historic sites, as well as valuable habitats ranging from Pacific coral reefs to desert lands. Should Congressional approval of national monuments be required, it is likely that some important areas would be lost to political battles. Imagine if our own park had never received federal protection!

At the Statehouse in Augusta, Friends of Acadia Advocacy Committee Chair Jill Goldthwait closely monitored the progress of L.D. 652, "An Act to Authorize the Carrying of Concealed Handguns without a Permit." The bill was of concern to Friends of Acadia because of the possibility that firearms laws affecting Acadia would be loosened. Several years ago, FOA volunteers and staff achieved a compromise with the legislature that prevented *open carry* of firearms in the park but allowed concealed firearms with the proper permits. While ultimately L.D. 652 was passed into law, the requirement to have a concealed firearms permit in Acadia remains as law in Title 12 of the Maine Revised Statutes. Maine will still issue the permits, and residents and visitors still need to have them to carry a firearm inside the park.

On the home front, Friends of Acadia staff and dozens of members participated in public meetings on Mount Desert Island and at Schoodic for the Acadia National Park Transportation Planning Initiative. Participants were asked to identify parts of the "Acadia experience" that they valued most, transportation-related issues in the park, elements of existing transportation systems that are useful, and ideas for transportation-related improvements. Public comments varied widely such as support for re-establishing a rail link to the Cadillac Mountain summit, encouraging more Island Explorer service, hosting more car-free days, and establishing bicycle lanes.

Friends of Acadia members are truly passionate about Acadia National Park. It is an honor to work with such a dedicated group to ensure that the park remains a great resource for the next generation to enjoy. We thank Dave, Ted, Jill, and all Friends of Acadia members and partners for their efforts to help protect and provide resources for our beloved national park. ♡

—Stephanie Clement

Friends of Acadia Journal

WHO ARE WE? AND HOW AND WHY WE DO WHAT WE DO!

With the 2016 Acadia Centennial fast approaching, we've been hearing a lot about the farsighted individuals who created this park from scratch, drawing on their great love for this remarkable place, their huge drive and energy to make it happen, and their significant personal wealth. Many, many people contributed to the young park, but the names Eliot and Dorr and Rockefeller loom large in our minds. For decades the young park demanded relatively little of the federal government because these and other individuals were so committed to its development and upkeep. In fact, Acadia is the only National Park created exclusively and solely with land donated by private individuals.

However, it wasn't long after Acadia's 50th anniversary that funding for trail maintenance, carriage road upkeep, and similar essential work began to run short. The old guard had passed on and, while many Acadia-area residents and visitors had the love and the drive to protect this place, a new model was needed to direct private dollars to this public treasure. It took a new group of farsighted individuals to find the way to continue the amazing legacy of public/private partnership that had given us all the gift of Acadia, and to craft the tool through which *all* of us who love this place can be for Acadia what Mr. Rockefeller, Mr. Dorr, and Mr. Eliot and others once were. That tool is Friends of Acadia.

Who are we?

We are TEAM FOA. We are all of you who love and appreciate Acadia! Friends of Acadia is comprised of many passionate individuals who pool their effort and resources to help protect and preserve Acadia National Park and the surrounding areas for the enjoyment of both the visitors of today and those of future generations.

Friends of Acadia can also be described as a world-class group of paid professionals supported and aided by a collection—an assemblage, if you like—of people who *voluntarily* donate their time, skill, and, yes,



Friends of Acadia/Amee Beal Church

some of their money to provide the vision, leadership, horsepower (i.e., *human effort*), time, and financial resources to create, support, and champion efforts in partnership with the amazing Acadia National Park staff, other partners, or our own employees and volunteers to help protect and preserve this beloved and special place—Acadia National Park and the surrounding area—with a focus on the visitor experience and the protection and preservation of natural and cultural resources.

How do we do what we do?

We are an independent organization working particularly closely with our primary partner, Acadia National Park, and also with other partners if that will help us to meet objectives more quickly, effectively, or efficiently. Sometimes park management comes to us with a need that cannot be achieved without FOA's involvement, input, or fundraising. Sometimes we bring forth ideas that we work on together with the park, or on our own. We do not replace the federal government nor its obligation to Acadia National Park, and one of our jobs is to remind the government of that obligation.

Our approach can be well described as seeing a need, threat, or opportunity; then working to better understand the issue and discover and create possible solutions;

then working with ANP staff to get the job done or help get it done.

We have adopted best-practice management tools with the FOA board and staff to a) conduct a strategic/situational analysis, and b) develop a focused strategic plan that includes program, staffing (paid and volunteer), and financial requirements.

The resources to do all this come from our members, volunteers, and supporters, working together.

Why do we do what we do?

The short answer is, *love and passion*. We are united in our love and passion for Acadia National Park. Love for the timeless beauty, the peaceful serenity, the healthy opportunities for hiking, biking, walking, climbing, contemplating, refreshing, and more.

Love for the opportunity the park offers to nurture relationships—with our families, our friends, and even *ourselves*—that deepen with each footfall or iron rung grabbed or whirr of a bike's tire; with contemplation of a scenic view, sighting of a bald eagle or peregrine falcon, smelling a warm zephyr of pine scent, being overcome with the sound of the wind in the trees, or with silence, or with a brilliantly starry night sky that reminds us of our insignificance while enabling us to experience the sky as humans did when they first looked up.

Thank You for the role you play on TEAM FOA!

Our work is so unquestionably the work of a team, and everyone on the team counts and is so very important.

With you, and with the entire TEAM FOA, Friends of Acadia will continue its long history of importance, significance, and relevance to the preservation and protection of the beauty, health, and inspirational qualities that are Acadia National Park. ♡

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ed Samek'.

—Edward L. Samek

A REJUVENATED SENSE OF PLACE

By Bobbie Burdick



Bobbie Burdick x2

Echoes of Acadia's sub-alpine rocks and vegetation can be seen in Bobbie Burdick's landscape designs. Right: Bobbie atop Cadillac Mountain.

In a few weeks I will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of my love affair with Acadia National Park. That first visit, I was on the Park Loop Road as a beautiful morning mist rolled in with the tide. I didn't have to wait too long for it to roll back, revealing some of the most stunning scenery I have ever experienced. Everywhere were postcard-perfect views. Here I grew my deep appreciation of the mostly undisturbed land, and here I made a commitment to supporting its preservation and using the beauty of the place to support my life's work. I will never forget my first visit to Acadia, nor will I ever stray too far or too long from this magnificent gift of nature.

My connection to Friends of Acadia and the park has deepened through the years. I have found favorite places and had new experiences in now-familiar ones. In Acadia, I feel like I am reliving my childhood in a whole new way. As I am a nature girl with many interests I can never go wrong—cycling the Loop Road, riding on the carriage roads, hiking up a favorite peak, or swimming in any of Acadia's pristine waters.

I must say, though, that I feel most deeply connected to Acadia on my road bike. I know the Loop and Cadillac Summit roads like the back of my hand—the

pleasant surprises that come around every corner, the change in air temperature in certain areas, the views that take my breath away. I love the anticipation of each moment. Acadia is my refuge, and the pace I deliberately choose allows me to take in the park's beauty. Cycling in Acadia lets me explore nature differently than in other places. The granite keeps me feeling grounded, the forest is safe and calm, the trails simply magical.

Likewise, my work is made easy as a result of the beauty of where I live. As a Landscape Architect, I design harmonious and enduring settings in a way that translates my clients' visions into landscapes of lasting beauty, places where daily life reflects the elegance and joy of Mount Desert Island. I wouldn't be able to do this were it not for the magic of this place. Just as I listen to what the land tells me in my personal relationship with Acadia, I am a careful listener for my clients. My beliefs about land preservation—my commitment to preserving native flora and the natural Maine shoreline—go hand-in-hand with my understanding for the importance of my clients' needs. Only then can I begin to imagine designs that will connect people to the land. And so, my work is directly reliant on my relationship with Acadia and MDI.

While I have traveled extensively in recent years and live in Byron Bay, Australia for part of the year, I am always eager to get home to one of the most beautiful places on Earth—to get out on the trails, ride my bikes, or have a picnic at the magical Wonderland beach. The gifts that Acadia has given me continue to be my motivation to give back. I respect and honor the work Friends of Acadia has and continues to do to preserve the land. I am proud to be a FOA sponsor and volunteer, and a landowner on Mount Desert Island dedicated to preserving the natural character that has drawn visitors to the island for over a hundred years. I am very lucky to reap the benefits of my support in the ways that I do. Acadia National Park is and will forever be a part of me. 🌿

BOBBIE BURDICK has been designing Maine landscapes for over 20 years, and is the owner and principal of Burdick & Associates Landscape Design (burdickassociates.com). Bobbie holds B.S. degrees in Landscape Architecture and Horticulture from the University of Connecticut. She is a member of the American Society of Landscape Architects, Friends of Acadia, Maine Preservation, the New England Wild Flower Society, and Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.

BE A FRIEND OF ACADIA!

Our 4,300 members from all over the world help to fund essential park projects and new initiatives, benefitting trail and carriage road maintenance, youth programs in the park, land and resource conservation, and much more.

Member benefits include a subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, published three times annually, plus the satisfaction of knowing that you're a vital part of FOA's work to preserve Acadia for this generation and for all time.

Help us to protect Acadia by joining Friends of Acadia. To renew your membership or become a new member, you can visit the friendly FOA membership table volunteers at the Jordan Pond House entrance this summer! Or use the envelope provided in this magazine, call the Friends of Acadia office at 1-800-625-0321, or visit our website.



For more information visit
www.friendsofacadia.org



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Julia Walker Thomas

Summertime boating on Eagle Lake

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.