



Friends of ACADIA Journal

Fall/Winter 2016
Volume 21 No. 3

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

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FOA AT 30

When a handful of volunteers at Acadia National Park and forward-looking park staff together founded Friends of Acadia in 1986, their goal was to provide more opportunities for citizens to give back to this beloved place that gave them so much. Many were avid hikers willing to help with trail upkeep. Others were concerned about dwindling park funding coming from Washington. Those living in the surrounding towns shared a desire to help a large federal agency better understand and work with our small Maine communities.

These visionaries may or may not have predicted the challenges and opportunities facing Acadia at the dawn of its second century—such as climate change, transportation planning, cruise ship visitation, youth engagement, and habitat fragmentation—but they anticipated perfectly that Acadia would benefit and thrive from greater community involvement. They might not have predicted that FOA would grant more than \$25 million to Acadia National Park and surrounding communities over its first three decades. But they understood that the needs going forward would be great, and that an organization like FOA would need to be built to last. Thirty years is not a long time for an organization that is “in the perpetuity business,” but thanks to all of you, the collective impact we have already had is significant and lasting.

I have often thought of FOA's founders during 2016, as we work to make our organization stronger and more sustainable to carry on the mission they began. Our Second Century Campaign, announced this summer, is providing vital financial resources to protect our park from threats posed by changes in our world, like growing visitation and a warming climate. And our deep involvement in the community-driven Acadia Centennial celebration is strengthening a network of businesses



and partners whom we hope will remain committed to the long-term stewardship of Acadia.

I am often asked by our members if FOA's success might tempt Congress to pare back funding for Acadia in favor of “needier” parks with less philanthropic or volunteer involvement. Our experience has, in fact, proven just the opposite. Since FOA raised funds to restore Acadia's trail system through the Acadia Trails Forever campaign more than a decade ago, the amount of federal grants that the park has received for trail work has increased dramatically.

Meanwhile, as appropriations for park operating budgets have remained largely flat during that time, the only glimmer of hope for additional federal funding has been in the form of challenge grant opportunities. FOA's ability to provide dependable matching funds from the private sector makes Acadia very competitive in applying for these new federal dollars. Last year, Acadia won a Centennial Challenge grant, which FOA matched, to help reclaim scenic vistas from Acadia's motor and carriage roads; this year, we matched Centennial Challenge funding that helped to bring more Maine schoolchildren to visit Acadia.

And the impact of this work extends beyond Acadia: this fall I attended a conference at the Grand Canyon, where I heard how several other friends groups from around the country are modeling their efforts after FOA's best practices and historic successes. Closer to home, community members in northern Maine have already reached out to FOA for tips as they contemplate a friends group for the newly-established Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument.

As the brilliant fall colors seemed to hang on longer than ever at Acadia this year, I enjoyed a late-October morning on the Precipice Trail. The young peregrine falcons had fledged, and the re-opened trail featured a few new rungs and hand-holds made possible by a generous FOA donor. I miraculously had the route all to myself—until I approached the summit, where I heard voices and a cell phone beeping. I was trying not to feel grumpy about sharing the mountain, when I suddenly took in the gist of the conversation: a young couple had just gotten engaged atop Champlain, and they were calling to tell their parents the news.

Winded from my climb and more than a bit weary from this wild and wonderful centennial year at Acadia, I felt a jolt of excitement for this new beginning and raised my water bottle in a toast to the couple. I hope that 2016 will always be a special year for them, as it will be for me and all of us at FOA. Thanks to everyone who has helped Friends of Acadia climb to new heights over its first thirty years—and now, onward to the trail leading into Acadia's second century!

David MacDonald
—David R. MacDonald

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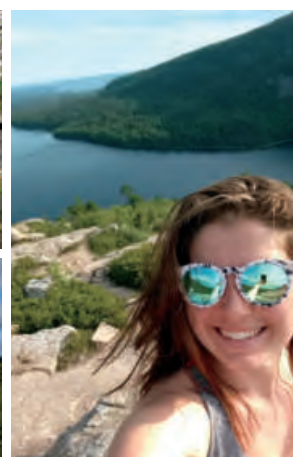
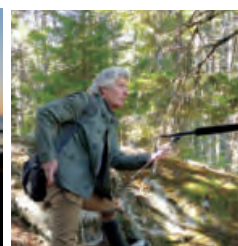
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GETTING THERE FROM HERE IN ACADIA

As I write this column, Acadia National Park is releasing the preliminary concepts for its long-needed transportation plan. The transportation plan represents an important moment for Acadia as we try to determine how to best provide safe and efficient transportation and maintain a high-quality visitor experience, while also protecting the integrity of park resources and values.

This summer, I saw for myself just why a transportation plan is so important to Acadia's future. I saw parking lots overflowing with cars, visitors unable to park, and Island Explorer buses jammed to capacity. This summer we closed the Cadillac Summit Road on nine occasions due to extreme congestion. To me, these conditions indicate real issues that *must* be addressed.

In addition to the challenges we are experiencing now, we also need to be prepared for the future. As of September, the park's year-to-date visitation was up 17 percent over 2015—on top of a 35 percent increase in visits between 2006 and 2015. Suffice it to say that we are busy and getting busier! This is why coming up with an innovative system to manage parking and congestion is so important now.

Paradoxically, I also learned this summer that Acadia's congestion problems are closely related to specific locations and times of day. For example, you can visit Sand Beach for a spectacular picnic dinner and often enjoy a prime parking spot in the bargain. Similarly, I covered plenty of delightful miles on hiking trails and carriage roads that were rarely crowded.

This summer, I also heard some of your ideas, concerns, and perspectives about transportation in Acadia. These conversations have been vital to me as I settle into Acadia, learn the park and the communities, and assimilate many different ideas and perspectives.



NPS/Kristi Rugg

The preliminary concepts for the transportation plan are conversation starters and represent a variety of possibilities. Ideas include establishing a reservation system for private vehicles, using queuing to manage traffic levels, replacing private vehicle access with an expanded bus system in certain park locations, and restricting vehicle length on some roads. Some of the preliminary concepts include strategies that would be in place only during particular seasons or times of day; others include adaptive strategies that would be implemented only if and when triggers or thresholds are reached.

The transportation plan is important to the quality of life for people living in the many communities that surround the park. Acadia's boundary is highly integrated with neighboring towns. There are many points of entry, and many ways that residents use park roads. The Island Explorer bus system, roadside parking on state roads, and one-way directionality of the Park Loop Road all impact transportation in Acadia's surrounding communities as well as within the park. The transportation plan is intended to help reduce congestion and safety issues on roads on both sides of Acadia's boundaries.

Friends of Acadia is playing a critical role in the transportation planning process. FOA

funded the development of a model analyzing congestion on the summit of Cadillac Mountain, which will help us identify levels of traffic that lead to traffic problems there. FOA's Cadillac Summit Stewards have been key to helping us manage visitor use on Cadillac. Dollars raised through FOA's Second Century Campaign can help with potentially significant costs of implementing pieces of the preferred alternative, once it is identified.

Friends of Acadia is also an important and well-respected voice in the public discussion about transportation in Acadia; as part of the FOA community you are a part of that. Although the public comment period for the preliminary concepts will be over by the time this column is published, you will have the opportunity to review and comment on the draft plan and environmental impact statement in 2017. And I continue to benefit from the one-on-one conversations I've had with many of you and I know those will continue.

As we move through our transportation planning process, I encourage you to stay involved and engaged. Visit the plan's website at parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan. It is only with the help of many that we will come up with a solution that ensures high quality experiences for Acadia's visitors for years to come, protects the park's incredible natural and cultural resources, and better serves the neighboring communities.

—Kevin Schneider

Thanks for the lift

I broke my leg on Huguenot Head on the morning of August 5th, on a “routine” hike on a trail I hike often. It was my greatest fear come true—a serious injury up on a mountain. Now what? Great cell phone reception and rapid action by the park dispatchers quickly got the ball rolling—and the young women and men of the Ridge Runners arrived to help on the carry-out. I want to thank all of them for their selfless action in helping others and their genuine compassion and concern during the carry-out, all while maintaining a sense of humor. FOA and the Ridge Runners epitomize the strong community spirit on our island and we are lucky to have you as a resource.

I now have a titanium rod in my leg and am healing nicely. Thanks to all of you.

—Jim Denegre, eternally grateful hiker
Southwest Harbor

What could be more satisfying?

I have lived in Bar Harbor all but one of my 73 years. My greatest passion is being able to walk in Acadia, which I find to be very spiritual as well as wonderful exercise. What could be more satisfying than walking past Bubble and Jordan Pond and Eagle Lake and gazing at the mountains and the clear blue

sky or the autumn foliage, or walking up to the bridges to stop for a picnic lunch and seeing the beautiful waterfall created from melted winter snow. On this Centennial year I have made a promise to myself that I will walk every inch of every carriage road before snow flies. As of this writing I am three-quarters there and loving every moment.

I am not a “certified” volunteer for Acadia, but hardly a day goes by when I am walking out there that I don’t see someone looking bewildered or lost. I stop and ask them if I can help with directions, and we end up having a wonderful conversation about Acadia and their home.

Lastly, I would like to compliment FOA for the Explorer buses. I have always loved to walk from Ledgelawn Avenue down to Thunder Hole and beyond, knowing I can always get a ride home no matter where I end up in Acadia. Thank you FOA, park rangers, and all the men and women for your dedication in keeping Acadia National Park at its best.

—Norma Wilbur Spurling
Bar Harbor

Correction

In the summer 2016 issue, a photo caption on page 7 misidentifies one of the two scientists taking soil samples at Great Meadow. They are Celeste Mittelhauser (left) and Glen Mittelhauser, both from Maine Natural History Observatory.



Snowshoe track on Jesup Path boardwalk.

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and Surrounding Communities

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/>

Opinions expressed are the authors’.

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New snow at Otter Point
Cover photo by Tom Blagden



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BRENDA BECKETT AND HOWIE MOTENKO: USING THEIR PASSIONS

Ask Brenda Beckett and Howie Motenko how they first heard about Friends of Acadia, and they'll just laugh. "It seems like FOA has always been there," explains Brenda. The couple became members long before moving to Bar Harbor, back when they lived in southern Maine and visited for a week every winter. They made a plan to move here, someday. Says Howie, "then one year we came in the summer—and at the end of a magical week we looked at each other and said, *what are we waiting for?*"

It was the following year, after they'd found jobs (he as a software engineer at the Jackson Lab, she as a physician assistant at MDI Hospital) and made the move, that their FOA connections started to grow. A workshop on light painting, a technique of nighttime photography where the subject is lit up with flashlights, inspired the idea of light-painting Acadia's historic carriage road bridges. They'd get some friends to wield the flashlights, Howie—a talented photographer—would wield the camera, and Brenda would supply her amazing home-baked treats to entice the friends. They knew that Friends of Acadia's campaign to restore the carriage roads had been an integral part of the organization's formation, so they decided to sell prints of the photos and donate the proceeds to FOA.

The project was a runaway success: drawing upwards of 50 volunteers outside, at night, in winter for each photo shoot and in the process building community, camaraderie, a deep appreciation for Acadia's cultural treasures, and an increased awareness for FOA. Plus, they worked with FOA development director Lisa Horsch Clark to set up an exhibit of the photos, which



Howie Motenko and Brenda Beckett, near Upper Hadlock Pond.

generated \$4,000 in sales that they happily donated; they later gave three of the images for FOA to reproduce on the notecards that accompany FOA gift memberships.

Ask Lisa what Howie and Brenda do for FOA, and she'll just laugh. "What don't they do?" Following the Painting Bridges success, their involvement snowballed. It quickly became clear that Howie's photographic talents, combined with the couple's unstinting enthusiasm for any proposal, would make them valuable allies. They began making in-kind donations to the Annual Benefit Auction, giving photographic prints as well as excursions in the park through their "Acadia Photo Safari" business. When FOA needed nighttime before-and-after photographs of new dark-sky-friendly lighting at Blackwoods and Seawall campgrounds, Howie was there. When a project for the Second Century Campaign needed a group of gorgeous

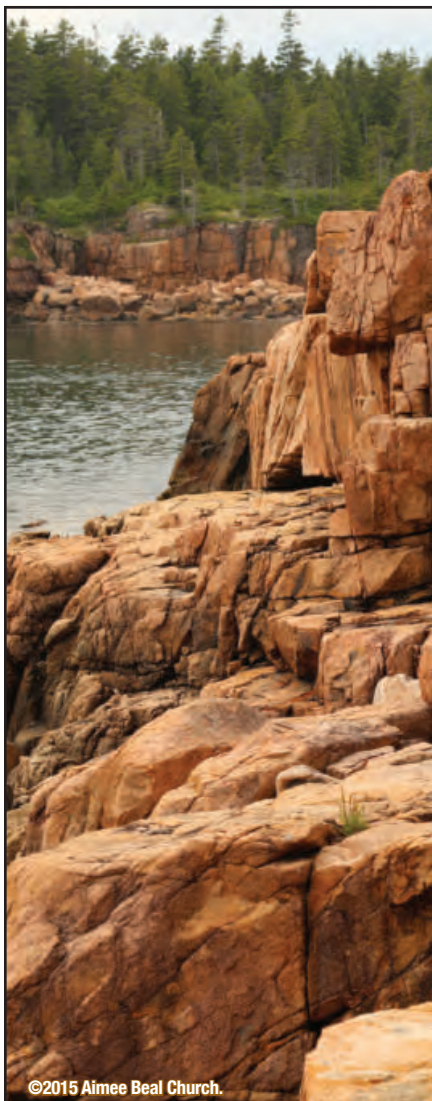
photos on specific subjects immediately, he delivered a thumb drive within a few days. And when area businesses were invited to become Acadia Centennial Partners and create official centennial products—and donate at least five percent of proceeds—Brenda and Howie hosted two "Lobster Picnic Photo Safaris" aboard their 28-foot "lobster yacht" and donated *all* of the profits. Says Lisa Horsch Clark, "Brenda and Howie are fun people to work with—easy, creative, generous. They're just joyful givers. And they love the park."

Their giving is not limited to photography. They are among the youngest members of FOA's George B. Dorr Society and show up for the society's gathering every year—just appearing in the group picture from that event is a

reminder to all that it's never too early to include FOA in one's estate plans. And this past February, Howie was appointed to the 16-member Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, which was formed by Congress to consult with the National Park Service on matters relating to the management and development of the park.

When asked what advice they might give to somebody first looking for a way to give back to Acadia, Brenda points out that FOA makes it easy to get involved, saying, "don't feel intimidated—just show up." Howie adds that "using my skills and my passion is the best way I can make a difference for Acadia. If people look to the resources they naturally have, they're likely to end up achieving something they believe in." ✱

—Aimee Beal Church



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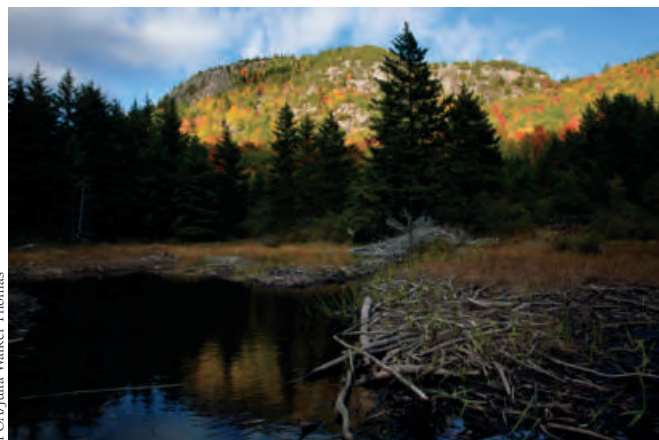
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Where in Acadia?

Where in Acadia? Did you ever stand at the base of a mountain in Acadia and look up to see tiny figures wending their way to the summit? Or stand on the brink of a steep trail and wonder if the hikers you could see far below were taking note of your achievement? These two photographs let us experience both moments at the same time: the first was taken from a lakeside trail, looking up at a summit; the second was taken from that very summit, looking down at that very same point on the trail. Do you think those three figures knew they were being photographed? The two pictures were taken this fall within a few weeks of each other.

If you think you can identify the mountain and the lakeside trail pictured here, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory about either or both. 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.

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas



Howie Motenko



Summer 2016 Where in Acadia?

My wife and I discovered this spot, The Bowl, and spent a few hours reading, swimming, having lunch, and relaxing at the water's edge. It was summer, but somehow we had the place to ourselves almost the entire time. The water was clean and perfect temperature to cool us off. The sun was bright and we took several dips to cool off again. It was the perfect afternoon. The

next time we visited, we tried to recreate that experience. It was much busier, not as quiet or relaxing, and we saw a leech or two. Ever since then, one of our family's favorite sayings is "You can't recreate perfection." We visit this spot pretty much every trip, and we plan to retire and live within walking distance of this and many of the other Acadia prime attractions.

—Jon Suiter, *Fairpoint*, New York



Charlie Jacobi

A LEAD GIFT FOR YOUTH AT ACADIA

One of Friends of Acadia's goals for this centennial year has been to "inspire Acadia's future." A historic gift from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation to the Tomorrow's Stewards pillar of FOA's Second Century Campaign will do just that: the \$2 million grant is the largest ever in FOA's history to be dedicated toward youth engagement programs at Acadia.

"At a time when our children are inundated with technology and media, I believe exposing them to a national park like Acadia will awaken a sense of awe for the beauties of nature and have a profound effect on their attitudes and memories," says Diana Davis Spencer. "And, youth is Acadia's future!" Diana has been spending summers in Northeast Harbor most of her life and inherited a passion for all things Acadia from her mother, Kathryn Wasserman Davis. Diana and her daughter Abby Moffat are also continuing Kathryn's strong tradition of philanthropy and community involvement through the foundation's support for efforts such as the Second Century Campaign.

The \$2 million grant establishes the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation Endowment for Youth Programs in Acadia, which will allow Friends of Acadia to work with Acadia National Park, area schools, and partner organizations to expand opportunities for young people to learn, work, and serve in the park through academic programs as well as summer jobs. Already, the gift has helped hundreds of Maine fourth-graders to make field trips to Acadia this fall, and has funded several internship opportunities for teens interested in working in the park. A portion of the grant will create a permanent endowment to ensure FOA's ability to continue these vital opportunities well into the future.

"This gift is truly an inspiration to all of us at Friends of Acadia," commented FOA's president David MacDonald. "It affirms our commitment to do all that we can to involve young people in the park

through all stages of their growth and development, from the younger years of play and discovery, as well as study and learning and finally employment and leadership. We are so grateful to Diana and Abby for their leadership and generosity in helping to ensure Acadia's future."

Campaign Update

Since Friends of Acadia publicly announced the Second Century Campaign at our annual meeting on July 8th—the actual hundredth birthday of Acadia—we have been overwhelmed by the spirit of generosity and commitment that so many have shown toward this historic initiative.

Whether it was the stirring testimonials shared by our campaign co-chairs on July 8th; or the excitement around the 2016 Acadia Centennial; or concern around pressures facing the park due to rapidly-rising visitation—the interest in this campaign has been tremendous. Hundreds of gifts of all sizes from near and far have brought us within striking distance of our \$25 million goal—but we still have more than \$1 million to raise between now and year-end.

We are very grateful for a \$1 million challenge grant issued by the Martha and Alexis Stewart Foundation that has played a huge role in our progress and momentum in recent weeks. As Martha Stewart commented: "Acadia National Park is very special to me and my family and we are happy to support Friends of Acadia in this centennial year. With this special challenge grant, we hope to encourage and inspire others to 'give back' to Acadia—a truly magical place." The family has chosen to direct its support toward the Wild Acadia initiatives as part of the campaign—ensuring healthy woods, waters, flora, and fauna at Acadia in the face of rapid environmental change and pressures on park habitats. All campaign gifts, from the start of the challenge in early fall until we reach the \$1 million goal, will auto-



FOA/Aimee Beal Church

Today's young people, like these proud Centennial Junior Rangers, are vital to Acadia's future. Now FOA can do more to excite their curiosity and strengthen their connections to this remarkable place.

matically be matched dollar for dollar.

The Second Century Campaign is already playing a meaningful role in Acadia's resource protection, youth engagement, visitor experience, and trails and carriage road work—and this impact will only grow over time as permanent endowments ensure a sustained emphasis on these priority areas at our park. Please join us as we stretch to meet our ambitious campaign goals by year-end! ✱

—Lisa Horsch Clark

Join the Celebration! **Support the campaign by** **making a gift today.**

To make a gift:

- Use a credit card on our secure online page at friendsofacadia.org/secondcentury
- Call the office at 207-288-3340 to discuss the campaign or make a pledge or credit card gift
- Mail a check, made payable to Friends of Acadia, to:

Second Century Campaign
P.O. Box 45
Bar Harbor, ME 04609

30 CANDLES FOR FRIENDS OF ACADIA

Compiled by Aimee Beal Church

We're tooting our own (party) horn! Friends of Acadia marked its 30th anniversary in 2016. This organization has come a long way from its founding in 1986 and its first modest fundraising efforts and small—but enthusiastic!—volunteer events. These 30 achievements illustrate our growth over the years.

1989 FOA's first fundraising campaign raises \$25,000 to relight Bear Island Light.

1989 An FOA grant to Acadia purchases a leaf vacuum for use on the carriage roads.

1991 The first annual Take Pride in Acadia Day draws 57 volunteers to rake Acadia's carriage roads.

1991–1996 The Carriage Road Campaign leverages a \$6 million federal commitment to reconstruct the carriage roads, creating a privately-funded \$4 million endowment for maintenance and establishing FOA as a significant park partner.

1997 FOA hires its first field crew leader to lead volunteers on work projects in Acadia.



FOA

1997 The Ridge Runners program is established and endowed to educate hikers on Acadia's trails and open doors for young adults interested in outdoor recreation and conservation careers.

1997–2015 Schoodic Woods goes from an impending clear-cut to Acadia's newest asset.

1998 Working with the park, FOA achieves a first-in-nation jet-ski ban on all ponds in Acadia.

1999 FOA co-develops and co-funds the Island Explorer bus system, a first step toward addressing Acadia's transportation challenges.

1999–2001 Acadia Trails Forever raises \$13 million in public and private funds, with gifts from more than 1,100 donors, making Acadia the first national park with an endowed trail system.

1999 The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps is endowed to assist Acadia's road and trail maintenance crews and connect area teens with the park.

2000 The first Earth Day Roadside Cleanup is held, promoting outdoor volunteerism in Acadia's surrounding communities.

2001 The Great Meadow Loop is inaugurated, establishing the first Village Connector Trail from downtown Bar Harbor into Acadia.



FOA



NPS/Kristi Rugg



NRCM/Allison Wells

2005 The Acadia Winter Trails Association is endowed to support cross-country ski trail grooming on Acadia's carriage roads.

2007 FOA purchases and protects 25 acres on Acadia Mountain, threatened by development.

2008 Acadia Quest is introduced, challenging young people and their families and mentors to explore, discover, and protect Acadia.

2009 FOA partners to celebrate Acadia's starry night sky as an important park resource in the first annual Acadia Night Sky Festival.

2010–2011 A formal relationship with the Wild Gardens of Acadia is established, and an endowment fund initiated, to ensure their future viability.

2011 The Acadia Youth Technology Team is established to use technology as a tool, not a barrier, to youth engagement in Acadia.

2011 The National Parks Conservation Association honors Friends of Acadia with the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Award for advocacy.

2012 The first phase of the Acadia Gateway Center is inaugurated, a Gold LEED-rated maintenance and administration facility for the Island Explorer.

2013 A state-of-the-art water-quality monitoring buoy is launched in Jordan Pond, Maine's clearest lake.

2013 The Acadia Teacher Fellows program is expanded with FOA support, helping more kids to have a meaningful and lasting connection with Acadia and other public lands.

2013 Acadia's Exotic Plant Management Team is expanded with FOA support, enabling the consistent and intensive effort required to keep invasive plants from negatively impacting Acadia's ecosystem.

2013–2016 The Wild Acadia watershed-based natural resource management project at Cromwell Brook involves scientists and interns from 12 partner organizations and institutions since its inception.

2014 The Cadillac Summit Steward program is created to reduce visitor impacts on the delicate alpine environment of Acadia's highest mountain.

2015 FOA matches a Centennial Challenge Grant to restore historic vistas along Acadia's carriage roads.

2016 FOA has more than 4,500 members.

2016 Sawyer's Point, a 62-acre waterfront parcel on Seal Cove Pond, is protected by the Acadia Land Legacy partnership with Maine Coast Heritage Trust—the 21st such in-holding of privately owned land within Acadia's boundary to be transferred to the park.

2014–2016 The Second Century Campaign establishes new endowments to ensure Acadia's long-term health, including the Diana Davis Spencer Youth Endowment (see page 7).

2016 The Acadia Centennial inspires 451 Acadia Centennial Partners to contribute to the celebration and to Acadia's future, and Friends of Acadia receives the NPS Director's Partnership Award for its leadership.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

ACOUSTIC ECOLOGY AND THE ACADIA SOUNDSCAPES

By Frederick Bianchi

We live in a culture dominated by the visual. An estimated 90 percent of information transmitted to the brain is visual, some 10 percent of all of the photos ever taken throughout history have occurred in the last 12 months, and there is a camera in almost everyone's pocket. But against these odds, we should not dismiss our extraordinary hearing capabilities, the result of 300 million years of evolution. In many cases the sophistication of our hearing exceeds that of our sight. Our perception of the soundscape is not limited by field of vision—we can hear things inaccessible to the eye with the ability to identify, with great accuracy, the precise location of sound in 360-degree space. Through hearing, we analyze and interpret the subtly nuanced soundscape.

The National Park Service recognizes the importance of preserving park soundscapes, with regulations regarding soundscape preservation dating back to 1916. More recently, management policies were established in 2006 to identify what levels of human-caused sound were acceptable within parks. These directed park managers to (1) measure baseline acoustic conditions and (2) determine which existing or proposed human-made sounds are consistent with park purposes. The NPS has been proactive regarding awareness and preservation of the park soundscapes and has demonstrated great wisdom and vision in the development of policy. However, factors like development and auto traffic endanger park soundscapes, especially in a small, community-interwoven park like Acadia. Further action must be taken to protect and preserve the park's sonic panoramas.

The first soundscape monitoring and analysis in Acadia National Park was done in 2005 by Volpe, part of the US Depart-



Worcester Polytechnic Institute students Mohammed Alrayas (left) and Andrew Kennedy recording the Acadia soundscape at Blue Hill Overlook on Cadillac Mountain.

ment of Transportation, to establish baseline ambient sound levels—naturally occurring sound combined with human-produced background noise. Human-produced sound might include aircraft, hikers, campground noises, human conversation, motor vehicles, cell phone ring tones, or electronic hums. In this equation, it is the presence of human-produced sound that stands to dilute and disfigure the naturally occurring soundscape. To determine ambient sound levels, the Volpe team captured 150 days of acoustical data at nine sites throughout the park.

That study was followed up in 2013 by a team of research students from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts, drawn from various disciplines such as math, computer science, environmental

engineering, robotics, aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, and music. Adhering closely to the technical and procedural methods used by the Volpe team, the WPI team replicated portions of the initial study and carefully compared the results to determine if the ambient sound levels in Acadia National Park had changed over the past eight years. The team concluded that overall ambient sound levels had not changed significantly since 2005; taken at face value, this was an encouraging finding. However, as the team began to analyze their own work in more detail and further compare it with the 2005 study, a discouraging trend began to reveal itself in the data. While the overall ambient sound levels had remained relatively stable throughout the park, the presence

of human-produced background sound in many of the study locations was encroaching upon and, in some locations, overtaking the naturally occurring sounds of the park.

The WPI team observed that there were no lengthy moments when people did not come in or out of the Cadillac Mountain parking lot, resulting in a predominance of human and automobile noise, including occasional very loud vehicles such as motorcycles. This corroborated the 2007 study, which also observed air tours approximately 9 percent of the time, and commercial jets about 1 percent of the time. Distant hikers, boats, and roadway traffic were audible 64 percent of the time. The natural soundscape, such as wind, birds, and some insects, accounted for 26 percent of the observed sounds at the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Similar results were occurring at other sites within the park.

Based on their research, the WPI team concluded that the continued measuring of ambient sound levels should be suspended to allow the focus of the research to shift. There was now some urgency to begin recording, archiving, preserving, and documenting the natural sounds of Acadia National Park.

Working in collaboration with Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing, science coordinator for Acadia, a newly formed 2014 WPI research team began realizing plans for a multi-year project of capturing audio recordings of the soundscapes throughout the park. The WPI team set out to capture the naturally occurring soundscapes of the park including birds, insects, frogs, ocean surf, brooks, and wind blowing through the tress. This pursuit would take the team to the mountain summits, rocky coasts, saltwater marshes, forests, and the carriage roads of the park. The team would then digitally archive the sounds and make them available to scientists, researchers, educators, and others.

While the project's goal was to record and archive the sounds of Acadia with technical and scientific accuracy, the WPI team's vision included capturing aesthetic and artistic qualities of the Acadia soundscapes as a way to heighten awareness of the park's sonic endangerment. Just as



Frederick Bianchi field recording in Acadia National Park.

nature can inspire art, art in return can connect us to nature. Making the Acadia's sounds available for artistic use and interpretation would be analogous to the Hudson River School painters of the mid-19th century. Working in reaction to the Industrial Revolution and in search of an American identity, they painted land- and seascapes that were the first to use art as a medium to awaken Americans to the hidden wonders and beauty of Mount Desert Island. Through artistic imagery they raised awareness and heightened sensibilities for the appreciation of this wilderness environment. Could a similar awareness be achieved today through sound?

Like the Hudson River School painters, many artists are working today as advocates and a voice for the environment. This aesthetic approach dates back to late 1960s and early 70s, when the modern environmental movement provoked artists to respond. They elaborated on issues such as pollution, biodiversity loss, sustainability, climate change, and resource depletion. And as a counterpart to the visual arts movement, the field of acoustic ecology was beginning to emerge around the same time. Acoustic ecology focused on the scientific and artistic nature of sound as a way to study the relationship between living beings and their environment.

In our recent book, *Environmental Sound Artists* (Oxford University Press 2016), my

WPI colleague V.J. Manzo and I explore the motivations and activities of many contemporary sound artists and the impact of their work on environmental awareness. These dedicated sound artists are drawn from varied and diverse backgrounds that include music, geophysics, natural sciences, sculpture, philosophy, and art. John Luther Adams, for example, is a composer and winner of the 2014 Pulitzer Prize in Music for his orchestral composition *Become Ocean*, which was inspired by the oceans of Alaska and the Pacific Northwest. London-based Cheryl Leonard creates sound art by recording melting ice from glaciers in Antarctica. American artist, philosopher, and scientist John Bullitt monitors the seismic vibrations of the earth and creates environmental sound art from the result. Awareness and concern for the environment has unified sound artists around the globe under the umbrella of acoustic ecology. These artists seek to alter our perception and heighten our aesthetic appreciation of the soundscape by persuading us to pay attention to it.

Acoustic ecology is important because sound provides information about the world around us, and while that information is sometimes clearly understood through scientific quantification, at other times it is more appropriately expressed through the nuance of art. Sound is a powerful liaison between the environment and the human mind. Sound delivers information that can trigger associations, jump-start the imagination, engage the intellect, and challenge the mind. Through listening, we are reminded not only of the beauty, but of the fragility of the natural soundscape. ✱

FREDERICK BIANCHI is a professor and director of computer music research at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) in Worcester, Massachusetts. He is also the director of WPI's Bar Harbor, Maine Project Center.

WHERE SCIENCE, NATURE, AND BEAUTY CO-MINGLE

By Natalie Overton

On an overcast Monday in July, I found myself in the passenger seat of a National Park Service vehicle, contemplating the brown fuzzy dice swinging from the rearview mirror. A personal touch, I suppose. Sam, project leader and designated driver, flipped on the turn signal as we exited yet another crowded parking lot. Abandoning a fruitless search for parking at Jordan Pond, we settled on second-best and much more secluded Seal Cove Pond. The goal of the day was to make some significant headway into the sample collection portion of the ponds research project—which is to say, do some fishing.

This research is a follow-up on a project that started about 20 years ago when mercury tests revealed that Hodgdon Pond contained the second highest levels in the nation. Back then, everyone understood that mercury was being carried on prevailing winds from the Midwestern coal-burning power plants. Though the source was assumed to have been identified, people were perplexed that Hodgdon Pond could have outrageous mercury levels while nearby bodies of water like Jordan Pond showed levels far lower.

The reason was found to be twofold, lying both in the patterns of air circulation along the coast of Maine and in the role of wetlands in the distribution and transformation of mercury. The elemental mercury in question is released into the air as vapor from anthropogenic sources like combustion in power plants. Mercury in this form can remain in the atmosphere for a year, so global air circulation systems can transport it essentially anywhere. As Mercury-vapor-laden air crosses the continent from west to east (swirling northeastward from May to September as it approaches New England, to make a beeline for Maine) it holds onto



Natalie Overton savors the summit of South Bubble.

the mercury until it meets air coming off the Atlantic Ocean. At this point mercury will fall into ponds and wetlands along the Maine coast after seemingly “skipping” those further inland. Coastal wetlands and marshes, like those surrounding Hodgdon Pond, are “well-known hotspots for storing mercury (Hg) and converting it to its more toxic form, methylmercury (MeHg),” according to Ariel Lewis, an M.S. at the University of Maine, who wrote her dissertation on Hodgdon Pond’s mercury levels. Mercury from the air and from the wetlands is distributed to nearby water bodies and undergoes bioaccumulation, its levels increasing as it travels up the food chain.

Once the results of the study were published, Midwestern power plants took precautionary measures to protect the en-

vironment, installing scrubbers and other equipment in an effort to reduce their pollution. More recently, however, researchers have found that aerial mercury is reaching Acadia all the way from China, a source once thought to be too distant to affect Maine.

To re-test Acadia’s mercury levels, my brother, John, and his peers will be sampling from six different locations, including Hodgdon Pond, taking at least twelve individuals of each fish species included in the study: Small and large mouth bass, all types of panfish, brown bullhead catfish, brook trout, lake trout, and landlocked salmon. These samples will be sent to a lab and their flesh will be tested for mercury. The mercury levels will be measured alongside the age of the sample, determined by the size of the otolith, a certain bone in a fish’s ear.

While the study’s findings will serve as strong data resources for potential regulations, legislation and further research, the study itself has minimal funding. As a result, I find myself standing in the grass at the edge of Seal Cove Pond behind my 15-year-old brother and co-volunteer, with Igloo cooler in one hand and a box of worms at my feet.

Sam went over into some reeds, hoping for a bird sighting, as John cast out onto the glassy pond. A moment after his worm hit the water, John felt a bite and jerked back, reeling in hard. “This one’s a keeper,” he said, and as he turned around my eyes were caught by the glistening, feverishly flopping red-breasted sunfish. I stood there, entranced, as it slowly dawned on me that a few minutes ago I had casually volunteered to be the fish butcher—a decision I fully regretted now. (Though I might add that this experience resulted in a more humane, and dare I say morally sustainable, method

of dispatching the samples.) I knocked the fish on the head with a rock and transferred it to a neatly labeled Ziploc bag and into the cooler. It struck me that this fish was the first of hundreds we would take from these waters by the end of the project.

This is all in the name of science, I reminded myself. But my thoughts were still troubled. Weren't these the very animals I was trying to preserve? Wasn't my purpose to enhance their environment and help them thrive? I thought about what would happen if the results came back as many researchers are predicting: with still-high mercury levels, sending waves of consequences out to the town's water facilities, the fisheries, and several levels of park management. How ironic that the same pollutant that sullied these waters years ago became a twisted protector of the environment, helping to shield these now-quiet shores from the millions of vacationers that come to Acadia each year. I cast a momentarily envious glance over at Sam, who had set up his telescope and was happily squinting after a particularly evasive loon.

Having exhausted his chances with the wary fish population at our current location, John announced that we had to go to Duck Brook. I checked on our only sample, making sure it was good and dead, and watched my brother as he packed up his equipment. He moved quickly and I admired the focus, perseverance, and professionalism that he had shown in this project. So used to a fidgety, distractible boy who couldn't make his own lunch, I was happily surprised that he had found his place here, at least for now.

At a Friends of Acadia event the other day, I was trying to explain to a family friend how I felt about this project; not the one my brother was working on, but the writing I was doing for FOA. I was standing there, straining to grasp the soul of the parks: why park visitation has increased by more than ten percent each of the past three years, why, on sunny days, both sides of the road are lined with parked cars, and why the equivalent of small talk at a farmers market is "so, are you planning any hikes or swims for today?" I wanted to get to the heart of our pride and devotion to our park, to explain this phenomenon to her as I saw it, and to write about it when



John Overton prepares his fishing gear during mercury-study sampling in Acadia.

I sat down at my laptop that evening. She looked at me expectantly as I feigned a gracefully thoughtful expression, attempting to mask my internal struggle for words.

For the right words.

I thought about my discussion a minute earlier with David MacDonald, the president of FOA, who had told me that he and his son had been fishing that day, and that while the mackerel weren't very big, his son had insisted on bringing them home for dinner. As he recounted his story, I suddenly saw his sun-soaked day trailing behind him and behind everyone else on that lawn, who'd been boating or swimming or hiking, sporting little smiles and sunburns, eager to bring their stories, their Acadias, to share.

Somehow I had found the words. It didn't matter that there was an aggressively obese seagull out there, being overfed by every tourist stopping to see the view. I cared a little less that when I drove around with Sam there was no parking to be found. The noise and the sunscreen smell and the

crowds receded into the background, taking my disillusioned cynicism with them. The park is a playground for memories, for Kodak moments, for glimpses of inspiration. It is also a place where science and nature and beauty co-mingle, and where a boy like my brother can find real joy doing real work to protect it. That's what I was writing about. Acadia National Park has become so loved that it has been woven into the fabric of the good times when our souls glow. It unifies us, and if put into the right hands, Acadia will serve to teach generations to come an understanding and genuine appreciation for the natural treasures of our world.

And that, in not so many words, was what I told her. ✱

NATALIE OVERTON is studying Political Science at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where she is a science and technology reporter for *The Daily Nexus*, the school newspaper. She spent last summer reading, hiking, and volunteering for the *Friends of Acadia Journal*.

MEN CAN'T MOVE MOUNTAINS, BUT MOUNTAINS DO MOVE MEN

By Charlie Jacobi

Katahdin. The Mount Desert Range. What was it about these mountains that moved George B. Dorr and Percival P. Baxter to give us Acadia National Park and Baxter State Park and become arguably Maine's greatest conservationists? These obsessed men gave everything to create two wholly different mountain parks, equally full of wonders and equally beloved, and accomplished more in the latter half of their long lives than most of us could imagine. No doubt they felt time was too short, given the obstacles they faced pursuing their late-blooming passions. Thankfully for us, it was not.

A generation separated George Dorr and Percival Baxter, but their lives had many similarities. Both grew up with outdoor adventures close to home, in the hinterlands of a Portland, Maine and a Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts that we would not recognize today. No nature deficit disorder for them—instead, the healthy effects of wild country, steeped over time like a proper tea, fostered a conservationist mind-set. A strong love for nature defined both men: Dorr became an ardent naturalist, Baxter a lover of animals and wildlife. Each inherited a family virtue of philanthropy, supported their home communities in numerous ways, travelled widely, absorbed inspiration from Henry David Thoreau and Theodore Roosevelt, and promoted scientific management of natural resources. Each also inherited wealth: Dorr from his maternal grandfather, a successful entrepreneur, and Baxter from his father, a successful businessman and former mayor of Portland. Neither married. The parks became their children, on whom they spent their inheritance. Baxter not only bought the lands with his own money but established trust funds to support the park upon his death. Dorr purchased much land

with his own funds as well and poured money into the park to such an extent that, when his once-considerable estate was settled, only \$25,000 remained. Each man had his ashes scattered on the landscape he had nurtured for so long.

George Dorr met his mountains when his family first visited Mount Desert Island in 1868. By 1880, those mountains beckoned out the door of Oldfarm, the family summer home, and the happy hiker in him flourished. A hundred years ago, odds are you would have met him along a trail, perhaps *Sieur de Monts Crag*, and he would have struck up a convivial conversation. He hiked *Dry* (now *Dorr*), *Green* (now *Cadillac*), *Newport* (now *Champlain*)—every mountain, again and again, all over the island and far beyond for much of his life. And yes, he renamed them too. He met *Katahdin* at age 71, in 1925, when he joined the expedition of Governor Ralph Owen Brewster and smoked his companions on the trail, summiting first and in moccasins no less.

Katahdin first presented itself to Percival Baxter on a 1903 fishing trip to *Kidney Pond*. Though not the hiker Dorr was, Baxter climbed his now-namesake peak in 1920 via the famous *Knife Edge arête*, reportedly saying afterwards, "I wouldn't do it again for a million; I wouldn't have missed it for a million." Yet he did it again in 1932 and 1933.

It's difficult to pinpoint a precise date when each man's mountain passion crystallized. Threats of logging and of private and commercial development motivated each. Perhaps George Dorr's preoccupation with what is now Acadia began at age 47, with the first meeting of the Hancock Country Trustees of Public Reservations (hereafter the Trustees) in 1901. It did not end until

his death at age 90, in 1944, after 28 years as a hands-on superintendent. By then, he had conserved 27,870 acres.

Acadia was no solitary enterprise for Mr. Dorr. Charles W. Eliot and then John D. Rockefeller Jr. contributed their energy, wisdom, and finances. Biographer Ron Epp describes Dorr as a gregarious extrovert who made friends with everyone, networking (arm twisting?) relentlessly to create his park. He successfully lobbied the Maine legislature to prevent the dismantling of the Trustees and preserve the ability of non-profit organizations to own land. But that threat likely convinced him that federal ownership would provide the best long-term protection for his beloved island—despite a national controversy just a few years before, which resulted in congressional authorization for the *Hetch Hetchy* dam and the flooding of a pristine valley within *Yosemite National Park*. Thus, as he lobbied in Washington DC for a national park to be established with donated Trustee lands, he also advocated for a National Park Service to oversee and protect the parks. Both were birthed in the summer of 1916. Interestingly, even before Percival Baxter became deeply involved with *Katahdin*, Dorr wrote in support of early efforts to create a national park or forest reserve there, describing the area as "...the greatest, wildest, most shot-over game land in the East."

Though it never coalesced into a fully coherent statement, Dorr's conservation philosophy was one that today's park managers would readily recognize: a complex conjoining of natural and cultural landscapes, with minimal disturbance to nature. Though he wrote not infrequently about preserving the wild character of the island landscape, there is no evidence that he was conflicted about his relationship with John D. Rockefeller Jr.



NPS/Acadia National Park Archives

This iconic image of George B. Dorr on the Beachcroft Trail on Huguenot Head shows the “Father of Acadia” where he most loved to be: climbing one of Acadia’s mountains.

and the development of Acadia’s motor and carriage roads, which was controversial in the summer community.

Similarly, Percival Baxter’s “Magnificent Obsession,” as biographer Neil Rolde has described it, could be said to have begun in 1919 when, as a 42-year-old state legislator, he introduced a bill in the Maine Senate to create a Mount Katahdin State Park. That effort failed, as did similar ones when he was governor in the early 1920s. Later, out of politics, he saw that his only path to a public park was to do it himself. And that’s what he did—unlike Dorr, entirely alone.

Between 1931 and 1963 Baxter purchased 28 parcels of land totaling 201,000 acres and, through deeds of trust specifying how the lands were to be managed, gave them to the people of Maine for a state park. Although close to family and friends, Baxter has been described as a solitary man. But the politician in him knew how to negotiate and close a deal. He never served officially as park director but, make no mistake: he

was the de facto manager of his namesake park until his death in 1969, at age 92.

Like Dorr, intent on preserving the Trustees’ right to hold lands, Baxter persuaded the Maine legislature to pass a bill in 1919 allowing the state to accept gifts of private lands for parks. At the time, few of his legislative colleagues could imagine why anyone would want to give land to the government. Unlike Dorr, however, Baxter fought efforts to create a national park at Katahdin because he objected to the development and commercialization then happening in some of the national parks. And unlike Dorr, he saw the Hetch Hetchy dam controversy in Yosemite as an illustration of the perils and impermanence of federal park status.

Baxter wanted something more securely protected and distinctly different—a wilderness park. The first deed of trust gifting land to the state in 1931 made this clear: the land “shall forever be used for public park and recreational purposes, shall forever be left in its natural wild state, shall

forever be kept as a sanctuary for the wild beasts and birds...” Despite Baxter’s love for history, the protection of cultural resources and landscapes are not within the mission of Baxter State Park. The preservation of nature, especially wildlife, is paramount.

Each man launched his land acquisitions by taking the high ground. For the Trustees on Mount Desert Island, the first substantial gift came from summer resident and Dorr friend Eliza Homans in May 1908. She gave a small mountain, The Beehive, along with a small pond, The Bowl, for public use. Then Dorr immediately set his sights on Green (Cadillac) Mountain, the commanding high point on Mount Desert Island. It fell to his powers of persuasion and the mapmaker’s green palette before the end of the year. Baxter’s laser-focused initial purchase consisted of monolithic Katahdin along with Chimney Pond, set below the peak in a dramatic glacial cirque of near-vertical granite walls. Mountains mattered. For both men, many more mountains followed.

IN MEMORIAM

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in memory of:

Bill and Gerry Albert	Elinor Moore
Stephen Andrews	Richard Morgan
Barbara Arrington	Marie Murphy-
Elizabeth C. Atterbury	Mancuso
William C. Bacon	Marie Neiber
Ruth M. Batty	Vincent Nobrega
Eileen Tateo Beebe	Dr. Kenneth Scott Nord
Meghan Kyla Tateo	Patricia Norris
Beebe	Eugene C. Olsen
Geraldine Bodwell	Elizabeth E. Owens
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June 1–September 30, 2016



Percival Proctor Baxter (right) stands with Katahdin in the background, likely in the 1960s. With him is Baxter State Park's superintendent at that time, Helon Taylor.

Percival Baxter once said his land acquisitions "...would remind you of your grandmother's patchwork quilt, which finally in some mysterious way came out of the confusion into one large piece." The quilt metaphor is an even better fit for Acadia, where holes in the fabric yet need patches. No evidence suggests these men ever met, but each was well-read and surely each knew what the other was up to. Quilts aside, maps are instruments of seduction and wellsprings of vision. I can see each man sitting in his study late at night, the maps sprawled out on the desk, poring over the priorities and possibilities, the hurdles, deals, and delicate negotiations ahead.

Each was a visionary, but how big was that vision at the start and how did it evolve? Where, if at all, did they see it ending? We don't fully know. Death intervened. We do know that each saw a promising future for the degraded lands they sought and bought under growing and sometimes intense opposition. We do know that each expanded his vision beyond the highest peak—to the seashore for Dorr and to northern mountains, valleys, and streams for Baxter.

Acadia turns 100 this year. Baxter State Park turns 85 and its centennial does not seem so distant anymore. Each park now has the longevity of its founder and has weathered well, despite continuing challenges. Only deep time erodes granitic mountains.

Only our dedication, equally deep, will forestall erosion of these visions and propel them into the future. No worries there. To paraphrase John Muir, *the mountains are in us*. Some mysterious quality, embodied by these mountains, moved both George Dorr and Percival Baxter. It moves us too. ✱

CHARLIE JACOBI is past president of the Friends of Baxter State Park and wrote this article as an Acadia Centennial Partner. He is also a visitor use specialist at Acadia National Park and understands that mountains move women, too.

For more information about George Dorr and Percival Baxter, see these sources: *Katahdin: An Historic Journey* by John Neff; *Legacy of a Lifetime: The Story of Baxter State Park* by John Hakola; *The Baxters of Maine: Downeast Visionaries* by Neil Rolde; *Governor Baxter's Magnificent Obsession. A Documentary History of Baxter State Park, 1931–2006* by Howard Whitcomb; *Creating Acadia National Park: The Biography of George Dorr* by Ronald H. Epp. With appreciation to W. Kent Olson and Jack Perkins, who wrote the script and narrated the Friends of Acadia video *Preserving Acadia* (1999), which includes the following quote: "It is said that men cannot move mountains but a mountain can, indeed, move a man."

New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Abbot Downing	Carol Blan	Sarah and Tom Chondler	Diane Delorme	Francois Forget
Rebecca and David Abbott	Bonnie and Russell Blanck	Christa Chu and Andrew	Terrie Demar	Michael Formica and Bob
Kathy and Kent Abrams	Blaze	Schmidt	Stephen Demetrick	Hiemstra
Lynn Abramson	Susan Block	Kathleen Churchill	Richard Demmler	Patricia Fox
Acadia Trail Mix	Margaret Blohm and Steve	Jennifer Cianciolo	Judy Dempsey	Melanie Fraenkel
Gary Ackendorf	Stoessel	Wendy and George Ciciotte	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Demsey	Michael Francis
Gus Agudelo	Nancy and Jerry Blondin	Jacqueline Clark	Alianna Deters	Sherry and Bruce Frankel
Rebecca Albert	Carol Blusberg and David	Janice and Joseph Clark	Janis and David Detlefs	Paul Freas
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Bonnie Alexander	Judy Bodwell	CLF-Stable	Charles Diaco	Company
All Souls Congregational	Lori and Jim Boes	Anna and Mark Cloutier	Veronica Diaz and India Foster	Sandra Friedlander
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Priscilla Annamanthodo and	Lisa Bradney	Kate and Paul Conklin	William Donahue	Julie Gangenmi
Nigel Twose	Donald Bragg	Jane and Dave Conley	Donald Vincent Rainville, Artist	Paul Garth
Jane Anthony and Kevin Porter	Olivia Brangan	Judith Conlon	Sara Donaldson	Michelle Gastil
Theo Antonetz	Nancy Braus	Julianne Connolly and Brian	Andrea and Michael Dorsey	Janice Gaswind
Lisa Anzardo	Edward Breen	McDonnell	Downeast Windjammer Cruises	Lee Gatewood
Valerie Aponik	Charles Brennan	Michael Connolly	Patricia Doyle	GCFM Convention
Aragosta Restaurant	Scott Bridger	Rachel Conrad and Thomas	Ava Drennan	James Gearin
Barbara Ardary	Tamika Brierley	Rooney	Helen Drobnis	Susan and Steve Geiger
Argosy Gallery	April and Kenneth Briggs	Gale and John Consigli	Ann and Josh Dudeck	Justine and Alfred Gengras
Sallie and Michael Arndt	Ashleigh Briggs	Michael Constandy	Robert Dworkin	Karen and Greg Gerdes
Joanne Arroyo	Donald Brindley	Linda and Ken Cooksey	Susan and Dwayne Dyste	Cathy and Joe Gerstner
ART on West Gallery	Deborah Bront-Deitch	Gordon Cooper	Jerrie Earthman	Chris Giametta
Artemis Gallery	Brooklin Boat Yard	Linda and Joseph Coppola	Phyllis and John Eckstein	Ron Gilbert
Linda and Jim Ash	Astri Brooks	Rena and Lawrance Coron	Jan Bird and Scott Eden	Dany and David Gingrich
Evelyn and James Ashton	Cheryl Brown	Tyler Corwin	Eden Valley Farm	Susan Gingrich and Paul Rudd
Patricia Auerbach	Juliette Brown	Erin and Ken Cosgrove	James L. Edwards	Anne Gleason
Lee and David Austin	Lucia Brown	Larry Cotton	Maria Egger and Heath Paley	Della and Michael Gleason
Piyush Ayad	Laurie and Frank Bruns	Kathleen and Raymond	Laurel Eisenhauer	Kim and David Gleason
Carol and Lano Balulescu	Scott Buchanan	Coughlin	Clifford Elder	Sarah Glennon
Bar Harbor Salt Air Inn	Connie and Marc Buckwalter	Dan Courter	Raul Elizalde	Mia Glickman
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June 1–September 30, 2016

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June 1–September 30, 2016



Heart stone at Hunters Beach.

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The Gift of Acadia

After a hot and muggy summer, the morning of August 27th dawned with a crisp, blue sky and a light breeze from the north—a perfect Acadia day. Hundreds of residents and visitors gathered on the Jordan Pond tea lawn for a community celebration of “The Gift of Acadia.” This Acadia Centennial event was planned by Acadia National Park and the Centennial Task Force as a way to honor the contributions of the founders of the park, recognize the many ways that Acadia and the national parks as a whole enrich our lives, and enlist the next generation in caring for our beloved Acadia.

The Burnawurbskek Singers from the Penobscot Nation began the ceremony with drumming and dancing. All four members of Maine’s Congressional delegation spoke about their own relationships with this special place—from Representative Poliquin mentioning Acadia as a place of healing after the death of his wife to Representative Pingree admitting to spending the night on Cadillac as a young College of the Atlantic student. Michael Reynolds, the National Park Service deputy director of operations, and ANP superintendent Kevin Schneider swore in a new group of Centennial Junior Rangers, a plaque honoring John D. Rockefeller Jr.’s contributions to Acadia was dedicated, and a spirited community chorus led the audience in renditions of “This Land is Your Land” and “America the Beautiful.”

Also during the event, Friends of Acadia and the Acadia Centennial Task Force were honored with a 2016 NPS Director’s Partnership Award for their work in “empowering and orchestrating the state-wide participation in the 100th Anniversary of Acadia National Park.” The Acadia Centennial celebration has accrued additional honors this year for Friends of Acadia, the Acadia Centennial Task Force, and co-chairs Jack Russell and Cookie Horner. In March, FOA received an honorable mention from the Public Lands Alliance for an Outstanding Public Engagement for a Program or Service. Friends of Acadia and the Maine Seacoast Mission each recognized the co-chairs’ remarkable lead-



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

All four members of Maine’s Congressional delegation attended the Gift of Acadia celebration and afterward accepted FOA’s thanks—along with handsome FOA hats!—for their commitment to the park at an informal luncheon. Left to right: FOA board chair Ed Samek, Senator Angus King, Senator Susan Collins, Representative Bruce Poliquin, Representative Chellie Pingree, and FOA president David MacDonald.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

NPS representatives Kevin Schneider (far left) and Michael Reynolds (far right) stand with FOA board chair Ed Samek, Centennial Task Force co-chairs Jack Russell and Cookie Horner, and FOA president David MacDonald (left to right) during the presentation of the NPS Director’s Partnership Award. The new Rockefeller plaque is displayed at the right.

ership and service, presenting Horner and Russell with the Marianne Edwards Award and the Sunbeam Award at the organizations’ respective annual meetings in July and August. In October, FOA received the Business of the Year Award from the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce, recognizing FOA’s role as the catalyst, fiscal agent, and support structure for the Acadia Centennial Task Force and the centennial celebrations.

“The event at Jordan Pond was an incredible outpouring of community support and love for Acadia,” remarked Stephanie Clement, FOA conservation director. “With a backdrop of Jordan Pond and Acadia’s mountains, the day could not have been more perfect.” The event was graciously supported by the fourteen Acadia Centennial Signature Sponsors, who contributed funds and in-kind media support through-

out the year. Dawnland, the Mount Desert Island Regional School System, First National Bank, Northeast Harbor Ambulance Service, Oli's Trolley, and Wallace Events provided additional funding, transportation services, public safety, and refreshments for the event.

An Amazing Centennial

The Acadia National Park Centennial has been an amazing year of events, products, and programs to celebrate the founding of Acadia and inspire our next century of conservation. More than 450 organizations, businesses, and individuals have signed on as Acadia Centennial Partners (ACPs), and over 200 events and programs have been held across Maine—from art and historical exhibits to lectures, concerts, and hikes.

More than 100 products were officially approved as Acadia Centennial merchandise, enabling them to use the Acadia Centennial logo or sport official Centennial product stickers, tags, and display cards. Products ranged from blueberry jam to jewelry, bookmarks, ornaments, t-shirts, and more. ACP retailers or wholesalers (and in some cases, both) agreed to donate at least five percent of their proceeds to Friends of Acadia to benefit programs in the park.

Many ACPs contributed financially to the celebration, enabling FOA and the Centennial Task Force to put together the Acadia Centennial website at www.acadiacentennial2016.org, a one-stop destination for residents and visitors to find out about partners, events, and products. Funding from signature sponsors and partners also made possible a robust social media presence, periodic gatherings of the ACPs, and outreach to residents and visitors across the state and beyond.

Friends of Acadia and the Acadia Centennial Task Force are eternally grateful for the work of all of the Acadia Centennial Partners and their commitment to celebrate our past and inspire our future. Their combined effort created a year-long, Maine-wide, world-welcoming celebration of our park and enabled many of us to reconnect with and expand our understanding of Acadia. Centennial events will continue through the remainder of 2016, and many local stores and online retailers will offer their centennial products through



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Authors Dolores Kong and Dan Ring also write a blog at www.acadiaonmymind.com
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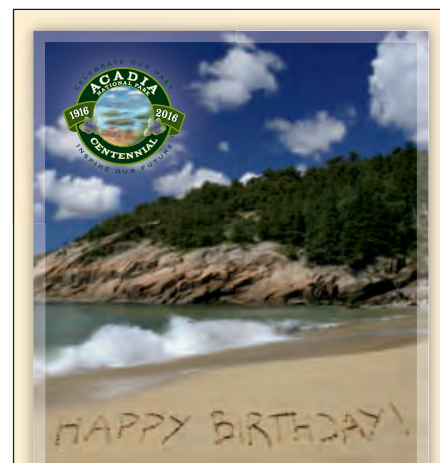
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the holiday season. Stay tuned to the Acadia Centennial website, and be sure to support businesses and organizations displaying the Acadia Centennial “official partner” window cling or the Acadia Centennial flag.

Acadia's Transportation Planning

As part of its multi-year transportation planning initiative, Acadia National Park released preliminary concepts in October for addressing interrelated transportation issues including congestion, safety, natural resource protection, and positive visitor experience. The ideas were wide ranging—everything from parking reservations to vehicle size restrictions to reducing the number of entrances to the Park Loop Road. The National Park Service will use public feedback on these draft concepts to develop formal alternatives for the draft plan and environmental impact statement, which will be presented for another round of public comment over the winter of 2017.

Friends of Acadia has a board committee that has been working simultaneously with this transportation planning initiative, both to develop FOAs official comments during each public comment period of the process and to brainstorm ways that FOA can help advance the plan through pilot projects, background research, or education. Already we have invested in three programs focused on Cadillac Mountain: the Cadillac Summit Stewards, a study to prepare for vegetation restoration at the summit, and modeling work to understand road, parking, and pedestrian patterns on the summit—such as how frequently thresholds for parking (in managed and unmanaged scenarios) and crowding (measured by physical crowding and visual crowding tolerance) are exceeded throughout the season and within a 24-hour period, based on the number of vehicles on the Cadillac Summit Road.

Looking ahead, FOAs flexibility and agility in providing funding and working with outside contractors means that there are many ways we can continue to enhance the planning work. We might be asked to extend the Cadillac modeling to other areas of the park, such as Ocean Drive, to provide another tool for estimating how the transportation alternatives will affect,



Riders on the Island Explorer enjoy a magnificent view of South Bubble in fall.

for example, trail usage or parking. We also might help establish more pilot projects as helpful to the park. The possibilities for FOA investments in transportation are numerous, but will need to be tied to the greater transportation plan in order to be effective. We encourage all our members to stay abreast of the park's transportation plan by visiting parkplanning.nps.gov/ACADTransportationPlan and providing your own comments when opportunities arise.

L.L.Bean Steps up Again

On July 5th, visitors and the press gathered on the Jordan Pond tea lawn as L.L.Bean's president & CEO, Stephen Smith, pledged on behalf of the outdoor retailer an additional \$1 million to Friends of Acadia to benefit the Island Explorer bus system. L.L.Bean's gift will help support the operations of the free, propane-powered bus system over the next five years.

Since its inception in 1999, the Island Explorer has carried more than 6.5 million passengers, reducing vehicle trips by more than 2.3 million and eliminating more than 32 tons of smog-causing pollutants and more than 21,000 tons of greenhouse gases. L.L.Bean has been a vital partner in the growth of the Island Explorer, providing

critically needed funding that is matched by a transit fee incorporated into Acadia National Park entrance passes, funding from the Maine Department of Transportation, and contributions from area towns, businesses with scheduled stops, and passengers who donate while riding the buses.

In total, L.L.Bean has contributed more than \$4 million to Acadia National Park projects through Friends of Acadia.

Protecting the Wild Gardens

Closing up the Wild Gardens of Acadia this fall was a lot easier than in the past, thanks to permanent deer fencing installed around the entire perimeter. Previously, Wild Gardens volunteers spent many hours placing cages over at-risk plants and encircling particularly vulnerable habitats, like the mountain, with temporary fencing. Despite these efforts, voracious deer seemed to find new plants to enjoy each spring.

White-tailed deer can jump fences of seven feet or more, so the fencing needed to be high but still allow birds and small wildlife to move freely through it. The Wild Gardens Committee worked with the National Park Service on a fence design that was sensitive to wildlife and the historic setting of Sieur de Monts. The fence uses a generously-sized mesh topped by horizontally-strung wires; wooden posts and handsome wooden gates at the entrance and exit complete the structure. Volunteers working in the park sign shop over the winter will prepare signs to ensure that visitors feel welcome to enter the gardens year-round, even if the gates are closed.



The lovely new entrance gate at the Wild Gardens of Acadia.



NPS/Heather Conney

Members of the 2016 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps pause to pose on Beech Mountain.

Tomorrow's Stewards Getting Started Today

The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) had a full crew of dedicated teens for eight weeks this summer. Working with National Park Service trail crew leaders, they focused on popular Beech Mountain, with additional trail rehabilitation projects on the Long Pond and Canada Cliffs trails. The Canada Cliffs Trail was originally built by the Civilian Conservation Corp and features amazing cliffside views. The AYCC constructed a new set of granite stairs on the trail, which required them to learn high lining, a specialized wire pulley system that can safely move the heavy steps. At the end of the season, the AYCC members reported that high lining was their favorite skill learned this summer.

The Acadia Centennial Quest saw more than 300 teams of kids and their families

or mentors registered, the most that have ever participated. A completely new set of adventures for the Acadia Centennial had teams “celebrating our past and inspiring our future” through activities that tie in to fun facts about historic events, people, and places; plus things teams can do to protect Acadia and other parks into the future. Many teams commented on how much they enjoyed this year’s centennial edition of Acadia Quest, which took them to new locations in and around the park and brought Acadia’s history alive. In addition, the digital launch of Acadia Quest on the Chimani Acadia National Park app for smart phones was successful, with many teams sharing on social media their collection of digital Acadia Quest badges.

The Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) worked for ten weeks this summer on amazing photography and videography

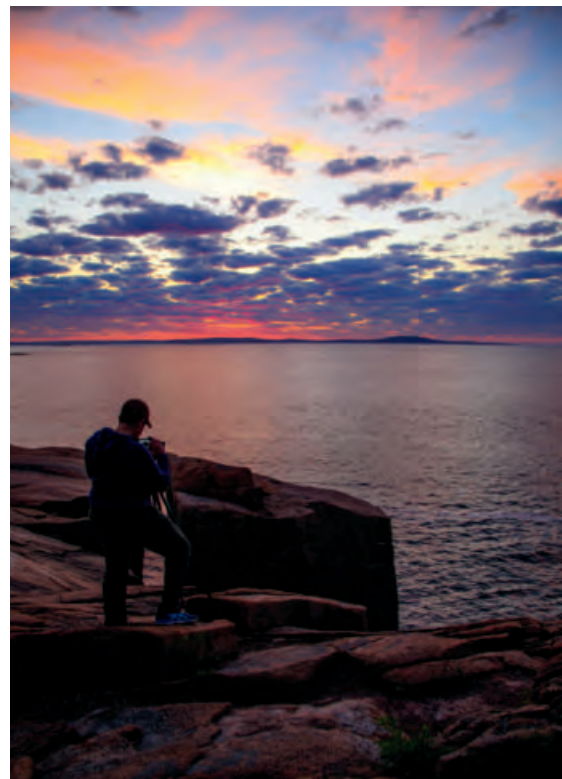
for use by the park and FOA. The team included four high-school age teens and was led by Will Greene, a talented filmmaker and recent MDI High School graduate. Using equipment donated by Canon U.S.A., the AYTT collected content for use on the park’s social media channels throughout the busy centennial summer. In addition, the Digital Media Interpretation Kit (DMIK), which enables visitors to more easily see the nesting peregrine falcons at The Precipice, was handed over to Acadia National Park staff for continued use in the raptor program. The team reported that they “loved” this job and thought the summer was very productive. Team members were also very excited to build their portfolios for use in college applications.

The Cadillac Summit Stewards program is going strong for the third year in a row, acting as the eyes and ears of the park on Cadillac Mountain during the summer and fall. While the team’s focus was primarily on interpretive visitor contacts, they also assisted Acadia’s resource management staff with trail maintenance and law enforcement



Jennifer Van Donger

Team Scooterhead Butterflies carried their “explorer’s flag” to the top of Champlain Mountain, in the process learning about the mountain’s namesake and his place in Acadia’s history.



ANP graphics ranger and AYTT supervisor Kristi Rugg checks her settings during an AYTT shoot on Ocean Drive, looking across Frenchman Bay to Schoodic Point. Emma Forthover, the AYTT member who shot this photo, specialized in photo-documenting the team’s activities. Links to more photographs and the team’s amazing final video can be found online at friendsofacadia.org.

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staff with traffic issues at the summit. As the Cadillac Summit Stewards hiked the trails and roved the summit of Cadillac Mountain during their daily patrols, they gathered data on visitor behavior, questions, and challenges, and used their observations to develop suggestions on possible improvements for the summit, from additional trash cans and ash trays to new sidewalks and informational signs. The team even inspired one visitor to make a \$1,000 donation to FOA as a result of his wonderful experience with a Cadillac Summit Steward on the trail.

The new **Yellow Bus Fund** was a big success in 2016, enabling more than 750 students to visit Acadia, many for their first time. The program makes transportation grants to schools so that students can come to Acadia to participate in ranger-led programs here. Fourteen grants were distributed to schools from all over Maine, including Skowhegan, Brewer, Oakland, Windsor, Waterville, and Deer Isle-Stonington. Maranacook Community Middle School in Readfield camped at Seawall Campground during their visit; teacher Dan Holman reported, "Our Acadia team completed our 3 day trip to Acadia. It was fantastic and a best case scenario of a middle school visiting the park. I can't overstate our gratitude. A huge thank you to Friends of Acadia for providing us scholarship funds for our trip."

Annual Benefit Supports Village Connector Trails

In a year full of events marking Acadia's Centennial, Friends of Acadia's 27th Annual Benefit stood out as a wonderful celebration of conservation and philanthropy, raising essential funds and inspiring enthusiasm and commitment to care for Acadia as it passes the century mark.

As in past years, the paddle raise was a highlight of the evening, during which 60 donors made an on-the-spot donation to collectively contribute \$318,000 to restore the historic Seaside Path in Seal Harbor and other village connector trails. The Seaside Path, linking Jordan Pond and Seal Harbor Beach, was built by the Seal Harbor Village Improvement Society at the end of the 1800s. It traverses both park and private land, winds through mossy, coniferous forest, and passes under the triple-arched Stanley

Brook carriage road bridge. As Acadia enters its second century, restoring or establishing village connector trails is an important part of the park's strategy to reduce traffic and provide car-free experiences in Acadia, and Friends of Acadia is a key partner in this effort.

Co-chairs Whitney Kroeger Connor and Elizabeth Seherr-Thoss led the Benefit Committee's work to plan this memorable evening on the Asticou Inn's seaside lawn. Inspired by Acadia's Centennial tagline—celebrate our past, inspire our future—they quickly realized this would be the perfect year to honor the past chairs, co-chairs, and long-serving Benefit Committee members. Longtime committee member and artist Leslie Fogg created two watercolor paintings for certificates thanking these committed volunteers. Since the Benefit's inception 27 years ago, the event has raised over \$11 million for Acadia—an incredible feat that would not have been possible without the dedication of these volunteers.

Our thanks to the 27th Annual Benefit's Presenting Sponsor, Chilton Trust Company, along with the Paddle Raise Sponsor, Christie's, and Silent Auction Sponsor, Goldman Sachs; and a special thanks to Gail and Ham Clark for hosting the Patron Preview Party at their Northeast Harbor home, Gulls Way. The 28th Annual Benefit will be



FOA/Amee Beal Church

Canon Visits Acadia: Canon U.S.A., the lead corporate partner for FOA's Wild Acadia program, sent two representatives to Acadia this summer to see first-hand the work that Canon's support makes possible. At Sieur de Monts, they learned about exotic plant management and how critical dependable annual funding is to the program's success. From left to right (back row): ANP exotic plant program manager Jesse Wheeler, FOA development director Lisa Horsch Clark, Sue Turner and Dawn Shields, both from the Canon U.S.A. Corporate Communications Division, ANP superintendent Kevin Schneider, ANP natural resources specialist Judy Hazen-Connery, ANP chief of resources Rebecca Cole-Will, FOA president David MacDonald, Wild Acadia program coordinator Brian Henkel, and ANP Exotic Plant Management Team (EMPT) member Joe Kelly; (front row) EPMT members Jim Burka and Alex Fetgatter.

held on Saturday, August 12th, 2017. If you would like to donate to the auction, join the Benefit Committee, or have questions about the event, please contact Shawn Keeley at shawn@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.

Taking Pride in Acadia

More than 500 volunteers raked 10.2 miles of Acadia's historic carriage road system on Saturday, November 5th, during the Acadia Centennial edition of Take Pride in Acadia Day, an extra-special celebration of volunteerism and pride in Acadia. By removing fallen leaves from road surfaces and drainage, the volunteers' collective labor will reduce erosion and washouts during the freeze-and-thaw cycles of a coastal Maine winter and will also help the roads to dry out faster, permitting pedestrian and bicycle access earlier in the season.

This all-important annual volunteer effort depends on a corps of stewardship volunteers who have been coming to the event for many years, a number of retired ANP staff, and the many groups who come from all over eastern Maine for the event. Approximately half of the volunteers are young people from schools including Tremont School, the University of Maine, Husson College, and Scout groups. Community groups include the Downeast Outing Club, Footloose Friends, L.L.Bean, and the Sea & Mountain Hiking Club. In addition to the groups, more than 125 individuals



Dan Holman

Students from Maranacook Community Middle School stayed at Seawall Campground during their visit to Acadia, allowing this group to witness a sunrise over Great Cranberry Island and the Western Way.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

The Stanley Brook carriage road bridge features three arches: one for the Stanley Brook Road, one for the brook itself, and one (opposite the brook) for the Seaside Path. The paddle raise at the 27th Annual Benefit will support the restoration of the Seaside Path and other footpaths linking the park with the surrounding communities.

from all over New England participated in the festive day.

The day was sponsored by Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, The Bluenose Inn, Burdick & Associates Landscape Design, Cadillac Mountain Sports, Dawnland, The First, Gallery at Somes Sound, Galyn's, Knowles Company, the Lynam Agencies, Machias Savings Bank, and Window Panes. In ad-



Howard Sylvester

The annual Clean Waters, Clean Shores event, on September 19th, saw more than 40 volunteers from all over Maine remove boatloads of trash from Schoodic Island in Acadia National Park. The day was beautiful and the volunteers terrifically effective (including Daniel Grenier from the Nature Conservancy, pictured here), collecting a grand total 1,660 pounds of trash— half the amount collected on the island in 2014. We hope this is a sign of less marine debris for this section of Acadia's coastline. The Clean Waters, Clean Shores event is a great example of collaboration between many partners: Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Island Trail Association, and the US Fish & Wildlife Service. These organizations provided staffing, boats, dumpsters, and lunch for the event. Thank you to our volunteers and partners for making it a big success!

dition, transportation for volunteer groups was donated by Acadia National Park Tours, Coastal Kayaking, Downeast Transportation/Island Explorer, and National Park Sea Kayak. Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are grateful to all who made the day a success.

More than 700 New Members Join at Membership Table

If you stop by the Jordan Pond House on most weekdays in July and August, you will probably see a couple of friendly volunteers underneath the arbor beside a display of Friends of Acadia materials. They will happily chat with you about Friends of Acadia, its mission, and how membership contributions support all of our work to protect the park. Last summer, FOA's membership table volunteers signed up 705 new members—the most in the program's ten-year history. By sharing their own love and enthusiasm for Acadia, the volunteers connect with visitors from all over the country and the world who would like to do their part to help preserve this remarkable place. If you would like to learn more about the membership table or volunteering next year, contact Sharon Broom at sharon@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340.



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Benefit co-chairs Whitney Kroeger Connor and Elizabeth Seherr-Thoss (left to right) welcome guests at the FOA Annual Benefit.

New Friends on the Board

Dave Edson is a licensed professional forester and currently serves as the president and CEO of the James W. Sewall Company in Old Town, where he has worked for nearly 40 years. Dave received a BA in American History from Harvard College and a MS in Forest Management from the University of Maine, and has been active on a number of professional, municipal, and nonprofit boards including the Association of Consulting Foresters, Society of Consulting Foresters, the Forest Society of Maine, the Together Place, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and the Veazie Planning Board. Dave's appreciation for the work of Friends of Acadia deepened after his daughter spent a summer as a seasonal employee of FOA, working as a Ridge Runner on the mountains and trails of Acadia. Dave and his wife, Susan, are residents of Bernard.

Elsie Flemings serves as executive director of Healthy Acadia, a nonprofit organization with a mission to empower people and organizations to build healthy communities in Hancock and Washington counties in eastern Maine. A 2007 graduate of College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor, Elsie has a lifelong commitment to community involvement and public policy. She served in the Maine State Legislature from 2009 to 2012 as the Representative from District 35, and previously served as a legislative aide in Washington DC and coordinator for the Union River Water Coalition of Hancock County before joining Healthy Acadia in 2009. Elsie lives in Bar Harbor with her husband, Richard Cleary, and two young children.


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Recommended Reading

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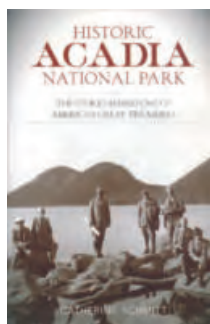
By Catherine Schmitt
Lyons Press, 2016
Paperback, 232 pages

The voice of Catherine Schmitt is well established as a writer on conservation, science, and science-in-support of conservation in Maine. In *The President's Salmon* she celebrated the noble fish and the long labor to restore the Penobscot, its home waters. Her first book, *A Coastal Companion: A Year in the Gulf of Maine from Cape Cod to Canada* (sure to become a classic in the Maine coast canon) offers a page of gracefully rendered natural history appropriate to each day of the year.

Now comes her *Historic Acadia National Park: The Stories Behind One of America's Great Treasures*, a compact presentation of Acadian history from several refreshing perspectives. Schmitt offers twelve chapters, each with a one-word title that suggests a theme and a point of view.

"Study" tells the story of the Champlain Society, those adventurous Harvard lads whose summer stays on MDI in the 1880s documented the natural history of the island and inspired the first vision of its conservation. "Reservation" distills with spirit the well-known work of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations to found Sieur de Monts National Monument in 1916 and adds a lovely portrait of Eliza Homans, who donated the first significant land to the reservation. "Harvest" sketches ways that year-round residents of MDI have made their livings—some linked to the park, many not. Here, Schmitt contributes to an evolving history of the social and economic complexities of the native/cottager relationship from the origin of the summer colonies to the present.

In her final chapter, "Archipelago," Catherine Schmitt is at her best, weaving together an account of the early days of the Maine Coast Heritage Trust with heroic amateur Barbara Patterson's work in bird conservation and the now-37-year service



of ANP naturalist Judy Hazen Connery.

This book for all Acadia lovers includes 79 well-chosen illustrations, a detailed index, and a six-page bibliography to guide further learning.

In our centennial year, Catherine Schmitt's *Historic Acadia National Park* gives us a fresh history of our beloved commons that both celebrates our past and inspires our future.

Jack Russell writes and teaches on the history of the Acadian region and is a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors.



Art of Acadia

By Carl and David Little
Down East Books, 2016
Hardcover, 280 pages

Art of Acadia is a spectacular coffee table book written and compiled by brothers David Little and Carl Little. They first came to Maine in the 1980s to visit their uncle, the painter William Kienbusch, who owned a home on Cranberry Island. Both subsequently moved here; David became a highly regarded painter of Maine landscapes and Carl established himself as a prominent writer of books on Maine art and artists.

This book, the brothers' second collaboration, opens with a great quotation from Kienbusch that, for me, defines art:

I took my little musette bag and camera... and wandered around happily, taking snaps of island gardens, a distant point across the Pool, and a large bayberry bush. What optical pleasure! The summer's work done, I could just look, and looking, on a sunny day, mid-afternoon, is my heaven.

As an artist myself, I think all artists feel that way—just looking is our heaven. Of course, artists then must find a medium to express it; the book includes basket-makers, rug-hookers, bird carvers, sculptors, map-makers, photographers, and painters. Art of Acadia traces the many ways that artists, over the years and centuries, have expressed the heaven they've found in the inspiring landscape of Acadia.

David and Carl successfully combed through what must have been thousands of images to put together a collection of artworks that will delight again and again. The turn of every page brings more images of Acadia's stunning beauty, truly showing Acadia at its best through the eyes of the artists who have created here. With the pieces arranged in roughly chronological order, the accompanying descriptive text explores the artists' individual stories within the context of Acadia's own grand story—from the first Wabanaki inhabitants and early French explorers, through Hudson River School painters and 19th-century advertising illustrators, all the way to contemporary artists creating landscapes from the radically abstract to the ultra-realistic, mastering astrophotography, and in myriad other ways creating works informed by our modern understanding of both art and conservation.

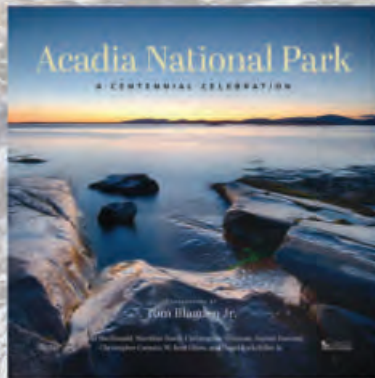
The book's back cover gives a great summation of the project: "One century of Acadia National Park. Three centuries of stunning visual expression." While pat, these lines hardly do justice to the extraordinary gift that David and Carl Little have given us in collecting together this remarkable compendium of artists, their art, and the history of Acadia National Park.

Diana Roper McDowell is a painter of semi-abstract landscapes, two of which (in the interests of disclosure) are included in *Art of Acadia*. When not creating art, she is the director of finance and administration at Friends of Acadia.

Give Some Acadia Cheer!

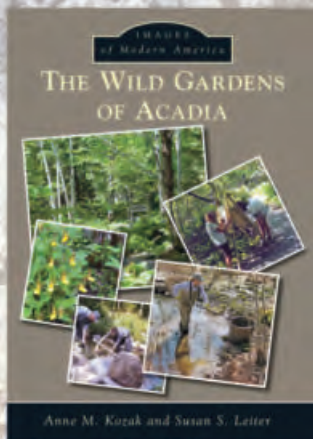
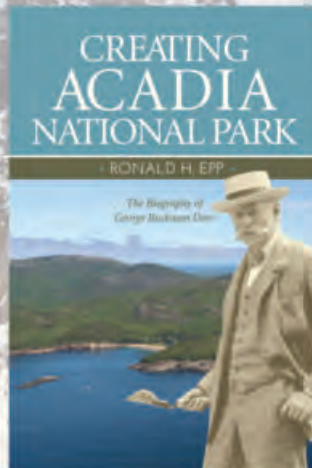
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-Frank Lloyd Wright



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MORE IS HIDDEN THAN VISIBLE

By Al Wiberly

My wife, Marilyn, had fond childhood memories of Acadia and led me here for a short vacation in 1983. We tented in Seawall Campground, and that visit kick-started the 20-plus years of our unfolding romance with Acadia's many-splendored "garden." On our first walk, a (sadly) long-gone sign at the Ship Harbor trailhead asked us to "Stop and Listen. Do you hear surf? Bird calls? Wind in the spruces? Can you smell the ocean? More is hidden than visible."

Did these questions and my answers echo from memory 25 years later on a spring-time hike in the Smokey Mountains? "The sounds of silence fill my ears/ The green so green it brings my eyes to tears/ That wash my sight so crystal clean/ That now I see things that remain unseen."

We did take that trailhead sign's cue then and often since. Our eyes captured Katahdin, sunsets, starry skies. Our ears heard the gentle singing of a bell buoy off Bass Harbor Light. Our noses savored beach rose perfume and aromatic flavor of birch beer from a scraped yellow birch. Plus we have discovered new Acadian trivia every season since—the mysterious carved, dated initials on a rock at Seawall; a bronze plaque on a huge oak tree at Indian Head planted on the day Lincoln was assassinated.

Such dreams fade, however, as we see the effects of all of us using more of what there is. More people, more cars. Rising, warmer, and acidifying seas, northward migrating flora and fauna, the loss of entire species. Zooming out, Acadia appears as a



Al Wiberly plays a mean set of Fluff drums as part of FOA's "Imprecision Drill Team" during the Bar Harbor July 4th parade.

small oasis on a planet that could—failing sufficient and informed collective action—be part of the ruins.

Zooming in, such dark thoughts urged us to become "gardeners." In 1987 the opportunity appeared with FOA and the remarkably talented, exuberant George Feltus. George warmly welcomed and mentored all of us drop-in volunteers in his body-building and entertaining tutorials on how to help the dedicated Acadia trail crew build and maintain park resources.

In the many years since, we personally have literally covered miles of ground with in both Acadia and Great Smoky Mountains national parks. Our labors have spanned high lining, rock quarrying, restoring and destroying vegetation, clearing culverts, policing visitor-wildlife interactions, and interpreting history and natural resources with visitors—both as FOA workers and "VIPs" (volunteers-in-parks, which is the nation-wide park volunteer program). Such adventures have been spiced with laughter

(as with the visitor who asked why so many Civil War battles were fought in national parks). The common thread that weaves this tapestry together are the joys we have experienced working, joking, sharing, singing, and occasionally suffering with people we now count among those we admire and love the most. They have contributed immeasurably to our wellbeing and longevity.

Marilyn and I now belong to a generation of volunteers decreasing in stamina and mobility. Although some comrades we knew well are forever "gone-bye," they live on in memories. But replacements are arriving. For both the old and new generations, I submit this poem in an offering of hope:

Thoughts While Hiking on a Fall Day

The stream spills river-ocean bound down
its mountain path
Gurgling, grumbling, tumbling, fumbling,
foaming brilliant laughing white over mossy
rock-strewn beds.
Far from its birth in distant oceans
Where vapors spring alive upon the crests
of wind-tossed, tide-driven waves.
Not knowing their birth or destiny,
Yet pursuing a timeless cycle from ocean
to flatlands, to mountain tops
Then journeying,
returning in spring-fed river flows
to a glistening grey-green-blue salty womb.
So are we all born unknowing whence we came
Nor where, what streams we may become.
That gurgle, tumble, fumble, foam brilliant
laughing white
Over mossy rock-strewn beds in
spring-creek-river flows
To where we once began. ✱

AL WIBERLY is a volunteer crew leader with Friends of Acadia's trail and carriage road stewardship program.

FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

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An Island Explorer bus on the Park Loop Road, seen from South Bubble.

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