

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

Winter 2017  
Volume 22 No. 3

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

# PURCHASE YOUR PARK PASS!

Whether driving, walking, bicycling, or riding the Island Explorer through the park, we all must pay the entrance fee. Eighty percent of all fees paid in Acadia stay in Acadia, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.

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## SHARED STEWARDSHIP AND INSPIRATION

As the days grow shorter with winter's approach, my ability to squeeze in a walk in Acadia before or after work has suffered. I tread gingerly over iced-over puddles on the Giant Slide Trail and watch the sunset shift further south over Somes Sound. I am not yet at the point when I am drawing on my reserve of warm memories of summertime outings, nor am I yet fully accepting of headlamp and boots mode!

Instead, I am relying more on Acadia's people and partners for my daily inspiration. As a result, I am more energized and optimistic about Friends of Acadia's mission than ever before.

During a year in which many might have expected an ebbing of interest following the all-time highs of Acadia's 2016 Centennial, our membership, volunteerism, and community engagement has, in fact, continued to grow. And that is thanks to all of you.

But more than mere numbers, it is the personal stories and deep ties to Acadia behind it all that strengthen this organization and its work.

As you enjoy the diverse perspectives shared in this issue of the *Journal*, it is powerful indeed to think about the cumulative impact of individual voices when they come together through Friends of Acadia. Whether it is grooming ski trails, pursuing an elusive photograph of a snowy owl, or chairing FOA meetings, these friends are a reminder that the park, open and available 365 days a year, is still an inspiration for us in the winter.

Fall and winter allow a bit more time and space for those of us at FOA, and the park, to engage in the kind of purposeful conversations and planning about Acadia's future that are needed to tackle the truly long-term issues—free from the constant demands of the park's millions of visitors during the peak summer season.

Superintendent Kevin Schneider's piece (on page 9), describing Acadia's Foundation Document and fundamental values, is a great example of this forward-looking work. FOA will undertake further planning



FOA

this winter to sharpen its priorities and review its roles to ensure that our strategic pillars have optimal impact on park values and surrounding communities.

We have also been considering strategies at the national level and serving as a model for others near and far.

Earlier this fall, FOA had the privilege of hosting 150 partners representing peer friends groups from around the country during the annual Friends Alliance meeting. This gathering is a chance for all of us to network, learn what is happening at other parks, and strengthen philanthropy and collaboration with each other and with the Park Service and the National Park Foundation.

Attendees included Acting NPS Director Mike Reynolds, as well as representatives from parks as far-ranging as Hawaii, Alaska, Arizona, California, Texas, Minnesota, Ohio, Florida and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Closer to home, our friends to the immediate north at the new Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument attended as well.

Acadia was chosen as the site for the meeting given our long tradition of partnership, leadership, and innovation. Director Reynolds affirmed in his remarks that groups like ours will be increasingly important going forward as the Park Service enters its second century.

While all of FOA's programs focus on this

very special corner of the Maine coast, the issues we are grappling with are not entirely unique to Acadia. Opportunities exist for us to extend our reach and realize efficiencies by joining forces with others.

A case in point is the Restore America's Parks initiative, spearheaded by Pew Charitable Trusts, which is developing a national strategy to educate and convince Congress to provide funding to address the \$12 billion deferred maintenance backlog within national parks. The issue is critical here at Acadia. Park staff does an outstanding job maintaining a "shiny surface" for visitors, but struggles with old and failing water and septic systems, unreliable power lines, and aging maintenance facilities, not to mention a visitor center that is outdated and inefficient.

FOA joined forces with Pew this fall to host a "behind the scenes tour" of the park facilities for staff from Maine's Congressional Delegation and our elected officials at the local and state levels. The discussions helped raise awareness and generate ideas for how we can work together to address Acadia's \$71 million piece of the backlog.

Fortunately, FOA's work over the years on the trails and carriage roads has already helped bring that number down considerably. Public-private partnerships will undoubtedly be at the center of any strategy moving forward.

Meanwhile, the spirited crew of volunteers that turned out for Take Pride in Acadia Day last month to rake leaves and clear drainage ditches throughout the carriage road system are evidence that there is no better strategy than community-based preventative maintenance!

All of us at FOA are grateful for the shared stewardship ethic that makes our work possible—and that inspires me as I look forward to the new year ahead.

—David R. MacDonald

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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# CAPTURING WINTER'S SPLENDOR IN ACADIA

By Stephen Ressel

Without a doubt, the arrival of snowy owls to Acadia National Park in the winter enriches what already is my favorite season on Mount Desert Island. For me, the opportunity to see snowy owls in the park each winter has allowed me to meld three of my passions: being outdoors in winter, nature photography, and hiking to the summit of Sargent Mountain.

Snowy owls take up residence on a number of summits in Acadia National Park but I find the winter trek up Sargent to be especially invigorating, breathtakingly scenic, if not challenging in spots. Once on top, the combination of windblown snow, exposed rock, and treeless terrain makes it seem—appropriately enough—as if I am hiking in a little slice of tundra.

My desire to photograph snowy owls is somewhat out of character for me. Truth be told, my animal subjects in natural settings are usually amphibians and reptiles. I am a herpetologist by training and frogs and such don't fly away upon hearing the click of a camera. But these birds of prey are an exception. Snowy owls are magnificent birds to behold and, I would argue, are symbolic of winter's splendor in Acadia National Park.

Photographing snowy owls atop Sargent Mountain (or any mountain in Acadia) is not easy to do. The cold and wind above tree line quickly slows use of exposed hands. I have always been extremely careful not to disturb owls by approaching too closely to avoid causing them to take unnecessary flight. There have been many years of descending Sargent without a decent image because either owls were elsewhere that day or I failed to see one because they blend so cryptically into the snowy landscape, or I got too cold.

The winter of 2017, however, had a different outcome. Looking back on the late January afternoon I got the shot above, I



After more than 25 hikes to the summit of Sargent Mountain in Acadia National Park, Steve Ressel of Bar Harbor captured this image of a snowy owl in flight.

realize serendipity clearly played a role. First, the island was experiencing a January thaw and the summit was devoid of snow. That made spotting an owl from a distance much easier than in snow.

Second, it was very windy that day and I have observed over the years that snowy owls are less apt to fly when windy even though they “know” you are there.

Third, the day was overcast with diffuse natural lighting which made metering for the correct exposure much easier compared to a brightly lit landscape.

Finally, I was on Sargent Mountain with students in my Winter Ecology class as part of an afternoon field trip. While I made sure that we all observed the owl at an appropriate distance, I surmise that perhaps our collective sounds of excitement and joy from this encounter prompted the bird to take flight towards me instead of away. I followed it with the camera and pushed the shutter release.

Something other than luck and technical knowledge, however, was also at play

that afternoon. The late gifted photographer Galen Rowell, whose iconic images are synonymous with the mission of The Sierra Club, wrote extensively about what it takes to make a visually arresting photograph. Above all else, including innate talent, he felt that an individual's insatiable inner drive to pursue a personal goal to completion is the blueprint for making striking images. I can clearly relate to his line of reasoning by virtue of the fact that it took more than 25 winter hikes up Sargent Mountain to get a image that I feel is worth public viewing.

But I have yet to achieve my goal. The bird's right wingtip is cropped out of the image and it would be great to get both eyes in sharp focus.

Hopefully, winter 2018 will be the year. ✨

STEPHEN RESSEL of Bar Harbor is a professor at College of the Atlantic in Bar Harbor. In addition to Winter Ecology, he also teaches courses in Ecology, Natural History, Herpetology and Photography.

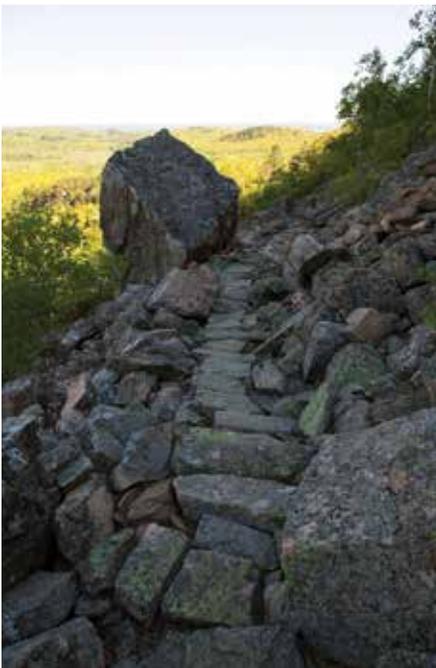
## Where in Acadia?



NPS/Kent Miller

**Where in Acadia?** When you are visiting this special spot in Acadia National Park you are rarely going to be alone. Nearby, in fact, is one of the top five most visited places in the park. While there is no shortage of vantage points from which to take photographs of the sea thundering against the rocky shore, the introduction of a “human” element here lends additional power to any composition.

### Summer 2017 Where in Acadia?



FOA/Almece Beal Church

The photo is of the Beachcroft Trail. I love running this trail from downtown Bar Harbor up to Huguenot Head at sunset. The winding rock staircase is amazing and views follow you all the way up to the ledges.

— Jennifer VanDongen

The picture is on the Huguenot Head Trail. It is one of our favorite trails that we have hiked many times. The views are stunning... You can't beat Acadia! We are fortunate to have it right here in Maine.

— Kathy Clapp

This is a picture on Beachcroft Trail up the west side of Champlain... While it looks like this boulder is about to roll down to the road, it is just as stable as the one on South Bubble. They are here to stay and for us to enjoy.

— Ellen L. Dohmen

I wanted to say that the “Where in Acadia” photo is from the Beachcroft Path up Huguenot Head. We hiked it earlier this summer with our two sons, 7 and 3, and enjoyed blueberries as we climbed. They couldn't believe how the Tarn looked from so far up!

— Ashley Epstein

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

Winter 2017  
Volume 22 No. 5

A Magazine about Acadia National Park  
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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Bass Harbor Lighthouse in winter.  
Cover photo by Lori Davis  
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This *Journal* is printed on paper made with 100% recycled fiber and 60% post-consumer waste, processed chlorine free, and manufactured in the USA with 100% Green-e certified renewable energy. Printed with soy-based ink.

# PARK EXPLORES POSSIBLE LIGHTHOUSE ACQUISITION

By Earl Brechlin

Little do most of Acadia's 3.3-million annual visitors realize that the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, believed to be the fifth-most visited place in the park, isn't actually on park property.

In fact, the tower and beacon, and keeper's house, along with outbuildings on 2.5 acres of land, is under U.S. Coast Guard control. A trail and steps used to access the post popular ocean-side location from which to photograph the lighthouse, however, are in the park, as is the parking lot and some of the land on either side of the access road.

Until a few years ago, the keeper's quarters was the official residence of the Commander of Coast Guard Group Southwest Harbor.

Now, the Coast Guard is seeking to transfer the property to Acadia National Park. Because the land is owned by the U.S. Government, no formal sale is necessary. All it takes is a letter of transfer.

Getting to that point, however, will be a long, and potentially complicated, process. There are environmental studies that have to be done, cultural resource inventories, and financial considerations.

Under an agreement offered by the Coast Guard, it would continue to maintain the beacon in the lighthouse although all care and maintenance of the rest of the buildings and grounds would be the responsibility of the park. Park officials are currently exploring what the operational and maintenance needs and costs would be and how that might affect Acadia's overall budget.

The parcel is already listed on lots slated for eventual acquisition in the 1986 park boundary legislation.

As Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider has stated previously, the Lighthouse is on the National Register of Historic Places and may even qualify for National Landmark status. "Bass Harbor Light is an integral part of the Acadia experience and we have the opportunity to ensure it stays preserved forever," Schneider said.



FOA/Earl Brechlin

*Officials in Acadia National Park are exploring the possibility of accepting the transfer of the historic Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse from the U.S. Coast Guard.*

"With a park operation that is already more than we can afford, our challenge will be finding a way to ensure we can sustain its long-term preservation and maintenance. We need to think creatively and consult with the communities and partners like FOA to ensure we give this special place the preservation it deserves."

In 2012 the lighthouse appeared on the Acadia National Park "America the Beautiful" series quarter. It has also appeared on postage stamps and on the front the Rand McNally Travel Atlas.

Park officials plan to hold meetings with interested parties, and Tremont residents, to gather input. All options for the use of the property, ranging from a high-end vacation rental, to some sort of historical museum, are being examined.

In September, the Acadia Advisory Commission passed a resolution urging the park to continue to explore acquisition of the lighthouse property.

If Acadia decides not to accept the trans-

fer, the General Services Administration could dispose of it as surplus property. It could be sold and it would return to the local tax rolls.

President and CEO of Friends of Acadia David MacDonald said the organization is looking forward to working with park partners and the local community to explore options for protecting the lighthouse. "It is an important historic and scenic resource. Whether it is experienced through a visit, or through photographs or paintings, or enshrined on the Acadia National Park quarter and postage stamp, the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse is one of the iconic sites and images of Maine." ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

## BASS HARBOR LIGHTHOUSE BUILT IN 1858

Bass Harbor Head Light was constructed on a high bluff at the entrance of Bass Harbor in 1858. Although the masonry tower is only 32 feet high, the beacon stands 56-feet above sea level and can be seen up to 20 miles away. No road reached the location during the early years so keepers arrived by water with their dory and all supplies being hauled 100 feet up the shore on a marine railway.

The keeper's house was enlarged in 1900. The original bronze bell weighed an impressive two tons. The current bell, the third on the site, was installed in 1949 and weighs only 1,500 pounds.

The lighthouse's distinctive red lens was installed in 1902. The flashing beacon was automated 1974.

The longest-serving keeper was Willis Dolliver, who was stationed at the light from 1894 to 1921. A total of 16 area lighthouse keepers, including Dolliver, are buried in the Mount Height Cemetery in Southwest Harbor.

## Wild Gardens of Acadia Plant Sale Donors

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## Leadership in Philanthropy

If you are interested in the George B. Dorr Society, and Friends of Acadia's Planned Giving program, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 288-3340 or email: [lisa@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisa@friendsofacadia.org)

# GIVING BACK MOTIVATES YOUTHFUL DONOR

By John Pereira

Acadia National Park is a place where I experienced a couple of firsts that helped define my future.

It is the first National Park I ever visited. The great experiences I had on that trip led me to explore other parks and national forests throughout the United States and the world. The visit was also my first time participating in outdoor activities such as camping and hiking. Those experiences inspired me to enjoy various other outdoor pursuits such as mountaineering, rock and ice climbing, kayaking, snowshoeing, and trail running.

From that one trip I have gone on to enjoy incredible landscapes, but also to witness first-hand our anthropogenic assault on nature.

If Acadia National Park didn't exist I wouldn't be the person I am today. My interest in supporting Friends of Acadia stems from a desire to ensure that Acadia is there for future generations. For a while now I have realized that national parks need the support of private citizens to ensure their viability. In order to do that parks need a voice.

I have seen the power of what a group of individuals can have to make something happen. What better way is there to ensure that Acadia National Park is here for future generations than by supporting an organization whose collective voice has such a positive impact—both within the park and the surrounding communities? It is amazing

what FOA accomplishes with a small staff compared to many other national park friends groups.

Charitable giving is something fairly new to me. I only really embraced it around the time I joined FOA's development committee. Since my teens I have always believed in giving back by volunteering my time. Taking the next step—supporting an organization financially—came later.

Even though I am a relatively young man, I decided to include Friends of Acadia in my estate planning. No one knows when their time will come. Considering my fondness for high-risk activities, I thought it would be best to express how I would like to have my estate handled.

The thought of putting the burden on my mom or friends to settle my affairs was unthinkable. Also, at that time, the country was coming out of the Great Recession. I knew then that the future of national parks would lie in the hands of me and my fellow citizens – not the government.

So, to ensure that the park I love would be there for future generations, I incorporated support for FOA in my will.

Everyone can make a difference for Acadia. Send an email to your United States Senator about an issue relating to the park. Share your concerns on social media with your friends. Think about volunteering the next time you visit Acadia. If you see some litter while you are out and about in the park, pick it up.

Along with supporting Friends of Acadia financially, those many small actions can add up to make a resounding positive impact. ✨

Outdoorsman JOHN PEREIRA holds Bachelor's Degrees in Photography and Environmental Science. He also holds a Master's in Conservation Biology. He is a member of the Friends of Acadia's George B. Dorr Society and he serves on FOA's Development Committee.

# ACADIA HAWK WATCH PART OF NATIONAL NETWORK

By AnnaFaith Jorgensen

Of the many visitors who drive to the summit of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park every fall, few are aware of the important data being collected a stone's throw away from the parking lot.

A short hike over the sloping granite of the North Ridge trail leads to a stunning northeast vista. Here, park employees, volunteers, and visitors gather at the annual Hawk Watch site.

Hawk Watch is an international effort to collect data on raptor migration. In Acadia, data collection is combined with a public program that educates visitors about raptor history and biology. Cadillac Mountain is one of approximately 80 sites that report annually to the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA).

From the expert birder to the first time visitor, there is always something to learn during a Hawk Watch. Returning visitors enjoy catching up with friends and working together to identify birds. New visitors often find themselves curious about the purpose of this autumn event and the species we happen to see.

As a first-time hawk watcher, I was amazed by the skill of the rangers and other volunteers. At times, they took only seconds to identify a bird, watching from more than a mile away. Their impressive skills were matched by a nurturing encouragement and desire to share their passion with others. The camaraderie at the site is palpable, crackling through the air like a static charge. I learned an incredible amount, not only about raptor identification but also about the significance of Hawk Watch itself.

There have been 23 years of raptor migration data recorded in Acadia alone. The history of Hawk Watch, however, spans back many more decades. The original site, at Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania began a watch in 1934. The mountain had become popular as a site to hunt raptors in the



Anna Faith, right, Friends of Acadia's Raptor Intern, on top of Cadillac Mountain with Hawk Watch participants.

1920s. It took several years of conservation efforts to protect the area and its migrating species.

The data recorded at hawk watch sites is reported to Hawkcount.org, which is managed by HMANA. This long-term monitoring is invaluable as evidence for species populations and migration behavior.

Raptors, being high on the food chain, serve as indicator species for broad scale environmental issues, such as the case was with the DDT crisis. In addition to this scientific significance, Hawk Watch presents an opportunity for countless individuals to learn about local raptor species and connect with conservation efforts in their area.

It does not take an ornithologist to enjoy the beauty of these birds and their impressive story. As more people visit Hawk Watch sites such as the one on Cadillac, more will understand why the protection of raptors is an important priority. \*

ANNAFAITH JORGENSEN became Friends of Acadia's Raptor Intern for 2017 after two years studying Ecology at Prescott College in Arizona.

Among the many species frequently seen during Hawk Watch on Cadillac Mountain are:

American Kestrel, *Falco sparverius*  
392 migrants in 2017

Kestrels are the smallest falcon found in North America. Like other falcons, long, pointed wings characterize their silhouette. They can appear almost buoyant in flight and hunt in open areas with short vegetation.

Sharp-shinned Hawk, *Accipiter striatus*  
673 migrants in 2017

"Sharpies" were the most common bird recorded at Acadia this year. They have almost a stocky shape, with short rounded wings and a short squared tail. Their flight often consists of several quick wing beats followed by a short glide.

Broad-winged Hawk, *Buteo platypterus*  
585 migrants in 2017

Broad-winged hawks have short squared tails, and broad wings coming to a distinct point. They are often spotted in kettles, a group of birds circling together to gain altitude from the same thermal current. Their migration path takes them all the way to South America.

# ANNUAL FOA BENEFIT RAISES FUNDS TO RESTORE HISTORIC STRUCTURES

By Shawn Keeley

For the 28<sup>th</sup> consecutive year, a wonderful group of friends composed of artists, auction donors, benefit patrons, and business sponsors joined together to celebrate conservation and philanthropy in Acadia.

The Annual Benefit is always a great night for Acadia with incredible food, dancing, unique auction items, friends old and new, and most importantly—generosity to Acadia.

This year's event was chaired by Donna Eacho who led the Benefit Committee through months of planning and preparation that resulted in Acadia's largest fundraiser of the year. The live auction, which for the past three years has been masterfully orchestrated by Christie's auctioneer, Lydia Fenet, featured amazing trips, a beautiful 1950s Willey's Jeepster, a needlepoint rug handstitched by Benefit volunteers in 1998, and a Paddle Raise to restore historic structures in Acadia.

The Paddle Raise inspired more than 60 donors to collectively pledge \$240,000 to fund historic renovations of the Jordan Pond and Brown Mountain gatehouses, as well as Baker Island's Gilley House and Keeper's House. The gatehouses require interior and exterior renovations including the wooden gates originally designed to protect the carriage trails from motorcars. The Gilley House and Keeper's House on Baker's have been closed for many years due to hazardous conditions. When renovations are complete visitors will be able to go inside the structures for a more intimate look at the Gilley family's island life, greatly enhancing their experience of Baker Island.

Like so many successful initiatives in Acadia, this project will take the form of a public/private partnership with FOA providing the seed money to get the work started and the park matching those funds



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

*Friends of Acadia's 28th Annual Benefit Gala was once again a high point of the summer season on Mount Desert Island. More than 500 people turned out to enjoy the live and silent auction, as well as dinner and dancing, on the lawn at the historic Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor.*

with public resources to see it through completion.

The 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit was a remarkable success thanks to our corporate sponsors, most notably Chilton Trust Company, which for the past four years has been the Annual Benefit's lead corporate sponsor. Please see [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org) for a complete listing of sponsors, patrons, photos from the event, and a link to the auction catalog.

The 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit will be held on Saturday, August 11, 2018—mark your calendars!

If you would like to donate an item, serve on the Benefit Committee, or have any questions about the event please contact Shawn Keeley at [shawn@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:shawn@friendsofacadia.org) or 207-288-3340. ✱

SHAWN KEELEY is Friends of Acadia's Senior Development Officer.

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Bob Hartley  
Mike Hays  
Doug Heden  
Jack Hirschenhofer  
Cookie Horner  
Steve Johnson  
Jim Linnane  
Barb Nealon  
Cliff Olson  
David Opdyke  
Donna Reis  
Betsy Roberts  
Bob Sanderson  
Roger Thompson

## EMERITUS CREW LEADERS

Jennifer Brandt  
Maureen and Bucky Brooks  
Don Lenahan  
Keith Martin  
Julia Schloss  
Don Sessions  
Howard Solomon  
Mel Timmons  
Al Wiberley

## ACADIA'S FIRM FOUNDATION

In September 2016, as the park's busy Centennial celebration was winding down, our staff at Acadia National Park completed a very important effort to articulate the park's primary purpose and significance. Known as our "Foundation Document," it provides a basic framework for management decisions and planning.

Acadia's purpose statement was carefully crafted in the Foundation Document after reviewing the legislative history surrounding the park's creation. It states:

*"Acadia National Park protects ecological integrity, cultural history, scenic beauty, and scientific values within the Acadia archipelago and Schoodic Peninsula and offers visitors a broad range of transformative and inspiring experiences among the park's diverse habitats, glacially-sculpted mountains, and bold, rocky coastline."*

Many of us know instinctively what makes Acadia National Park special. But the Foundation Document helps us articulate it. We know these things include Acadia's granite mountaintops, its cobblestone beaches, rocky shoreline, carriage roads, hiking trails, verdant forests, and so on. Intangibles, like solitude, reflection, and inspiration are also part of the equation that makes Acadia unique. We call these things "fundamental resources and values."

The eight fundamental resources and values identified in the Foundation Document are the things that collectively are so important that they are essential to achieving Acadia's purpose. If any are allowed to deteriorate, the park's purpose or significance could be jeopardized.

The range of visitor experiences is a fundamental value. Visitors to Acadia can enjoy bicycling, hiking, paddling, bird watching, camping, swimming, tide pool exploring, to name a few. In all of these experiences one can connect to nature, experience history,



seek adventure, learn, relax, and rejuvenate.

Acadia's glacial landscape is a fundamental resource. The process spanned more than 500 million years and is evidenced by U-shaped valleys, boulder "erratics" left behind by retreating glaciers, and chatter marks and glacial polish on bedrock.

Acadia is located at the crossroads of southern deciduous forests and northern coniferous forests. That leads to more than 900 plant species and 300 bird species being present in the park. This is one of the only places in the world where you can find indicators of these ecosystems—like jack pine and pitch pine, growing together. The mosaic of habitats supporting diverse flora and fauna are undoubtedly one of Acadia's fundamental resources and values.

As the first national park born entirely out of private philanthropy, and the first to use conservation easements to protect broader landscapes, another fundamental resource and value is Acadia's legacy of conservation ethic and philanthropy. If not for the dedication and commitment of so many private citizens and partners—beginning with the park's founding and continuing to this very day as exemplified by Friends of Acadia—we would not be successful in meeting our mission.

Acadia's 45 miles of carriage roads, which feature granite coping stones, gatehouses, and bridges, are the best and most extensive example of broken-stone roads in the United States. The park's hiking trails in some cases pre-date Acadia's establishment. And the historic 27-mile Park Loop Road, and 6-mile Schoodic Loop Road, offer outstanding views of the seashore, forests, and mountains. Collectively, this network of historic roads and trails are another of Acadia's fundamental resources and values.

Stunning sunrises and sunsets, fog-blanketed islands, inspiring night skies, and vistas that are unparalleled along the east coast make Acadia a scenic wonder. Thus, we protect the park's scenery as a fundamental resource and value.

Another fundamental value is the opportunities for science and education that exist in Acadia. The park is an outdoor laboratory and Schoodic Institute is a perfect space for science and education.

Finally, clean air and water are a fundamental resource as they underpin everything else.

Remembering—and reflecting on—what the park is all about is critical for all of us. Park managers in some ways are like physicians whose first charge is to do no harm. While it is easy to get caught up in short term thinking, we need to stay focused on "forever-term" thinking, as our mission spans generations. Our Foundation Document will help us, our communities, and our visitors stay focused on those core principles.

Read the Foundation Document online at: [www.nps.gov/acad/learn/management/](http://www.nps.gov/acad/learn/management/)

—Kevin Schneider

## New Members



FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

Friends of Acadia completed a successful season at the membership table at Jordan Pond House, thanks to a crew of energetic volunteers who worked each weekday. By sharing their enthusiasm and love for Acadia, volunteers signed up a record number of 801 new members. Gathered for a group photo in September are (front row) Ann Caswell, Diane Zito, Pam Bowie, and Mary Galperin; (back row) Frank Zito, Wendy Fehlauer, Peg Emple, Priscilla Hirschenhofer, Ingrid Sunzenauer, Alison Lawrence, Georgia Munsell, Phil Galperin, and Susie Hokansson. Not present for the photo were volunteers Julie Banzhaf-Stone, Pat Buccello, Hannah Clark, Steve Clement, Don Cousins, Tish Davis, Michelle Dawson, Ashley Epstein, Donna Gora, Holly Hosmer, James Kaiser, Ann Kruger, Linda McFarland, Dan McKay, Nancy McKay, John O'Brien, Amy Roebuck, Mike Siklosi, Sandy Swinburne, Kay Theede, and Sara Yeterian.

We are pleased to welcome our newest friends:

Kathryn AHearn  
Philip Abate  
Tim Abrams  
Tracy Adams  
Elizabeth Affel  
Tina Agren  
Robert Aldrich  
Sandra Alexander  
Donna and Robert Alker  
Daniel Allen  
Pam and Paul Allen  
Barbara Allen Hill  
Benjamin Alpert  
Maria and Randy Altmater  
Carmen Alverio and Robert Nagle  
Scott Amidon  
Susan Amrhein  
Scott Anderson  
Brian Anderson

Sue and Dean Anschutz  
Catherine and David Applegate  
Nahuel Araoz  
Jay Arbelo  
Shar Arch  
Linda Askinazi  
Christine Aubin  
Nancy Auten  
Elizabeth Avenia  
Remy Ayache  
Augusta and Richard Ayer  
Velpandi Ayyavoo  
Laurie Littlefield-Baas and Jay Baas  
Michael Badalo  
Thomas Baechle  
Laurel and Christopher Baerman  
Suzanne Baggett  
Elisabeth Baird  
John Baird

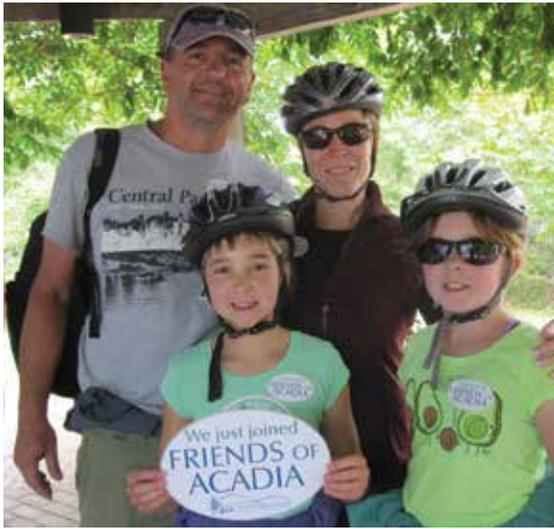
Andrea Bakal  
Bobby Baker  
Lynn and Jeb Baker  
Rich Bandle  
Tammy Barnett  
Maggie Barrett  
Suzanne and Henry Bass  
Harmonie Bassette  
Redfield Baum  
Benjamin, Sandra, Ryan, and Caitlin Beal  
Cathy and Doug Beam  
Margaret Beavers and Dan Redgate  
Avery Bechtel  
Scott Beck  
Mrs. Ted Beckowski  
Laurie Bellefontaine  
Cindy and Terry Bellos  
Tracie and Russell Benfanti  
Angelique Bennett  
Les Bennett

Carol Bentley  
Susan and John Berding  
Amy Bernhardt  
Monica Berry  
Tenley Berta  
Mary Jo and Ronald Best  
Erica Beutler  
Sanjay Bhakta  
Kalpana Bhandarkar  
Brian Bienn  
Sandra Billingslea  
Alexandra Bilyard  
Janet Binkerd  
Paula Bittner and Patricia Payne  
Tamara Blackman and Jana Morehouse  
Robert Blake  
Betsy and Luke Block  
Cythia Boardman  
Penny and Barney Boardman

Roberta and Bruce Boczkiewicz  
Susan Boda  
Wayne Bode  
Phillip Bonn  
Erika Bonner  
Scott Bookers  
Elaine Bookman  
Jean and David Boone  
Amy Borras  
Allison Boudreau  
James Bovee  
Janet Bowdan  
David Boyd  
Edward Bracco  
Debbie and John Brannan  
Kelly Bray  
Doris Brennan  
Heather Bridges  
Kathleen Brien  
Robin Britton  
Allen Broadman

*“Acadia is my favorite place! There is no other place that I know of currently where I can recharge my soul, body and mind as clearly as at Acadia. Thank you for that.”*

— Kimberly Santangelo, Fargo, ND



Christine and Steven Brodsky  
Nicole Bromley and  
Steven Couper  
Michael Bronfenbrenner  
Sheryl Brotman  
Serena Brown  
Judith Brown  
Reed Brozen  
Carrie Brzezinski  
Elliott Buck  
Mary and Fred Buck  
Jane and Brad Builder  
Dana Burns  
Maureen Burns  
Sue and J.F. Burns  
Joe Burton  
Laurie Butler  
George Byl  
Kathryn and John Cadigan  
Bernice and Thomas Cahill  
Richard Callahan Jr.  
Kathi and Don Campbell  
Valerie Campbell  
Tyler Campbell  
Taylor Canning  
Jennifer Capers  
Jennifer Caplan

Rosemary Carlson  
Shannon Carolan  
Thomas Carr  
Melissa Carson and  
Ken Kuzontkoski  
Susan Carson  
Connie Carter and Ed Brazee  
Kelley and Chris Caryl  
Ellen Cashman  
Donna Casparro  
Mary Catherwood and  
David Moody  
Adam Chace  
Evelyn Chan  
Nancy and David Charkes  
Susan and Art Charlton  
Nancy Chesser and J.M.  
Rowe  
Sonia Chimienti  
Simon Chin  
Mary and Stephen  
Chismarich  
Sally Christman  
Jesse Chung  
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Cieplinski Family  
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Suzette Clayton  
Bryan Coakley  
Chris Coble  
Jason Cobral  
David Cocheo  
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Sally Comollo  
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Jon Cook  
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Steven Crey  
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Jean DeFrances  
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James Deignan  
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Lucy and Walter DeRoeck  
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Deb DiPietro  
Nancy Distefano  
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John Dugan  
Steven Durbin  
Gordie Duval  
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Marcia Eaton

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Kathleen and Jim Foley

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Joseph Ford  
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Jennifer Fox  
Carola McGiffert and  
Alex Foxley  
Amy Joe Francis  
Margaret Franger and  
Frank Urbano  
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Sara and Peter Freedman  
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Staley Gee  
Esther Geller  
Dale and Nicholas Genimatas  
George Family  
Joseph Gerber  
Nadine Gerdtitz and  
Stephen Lacker  
Martin Gershowitz



*"Thank you so much for keeping Acadia so beautiful and for all your volunteer work maintaining the trails so that folks like us can enjoy a week of nice hiking with stunning views."*

— Denise Melucci, Foster, RI



Ed Getka  
 Nima Ghovanlu  
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 Paul Resnick



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 Monty Ruff  
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 Kallie and David Ruhf  
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 Peggy Salay  
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 Kathryn Sandifer  
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 Sandy and Joe Santore  
 Rupesh Santoshi  
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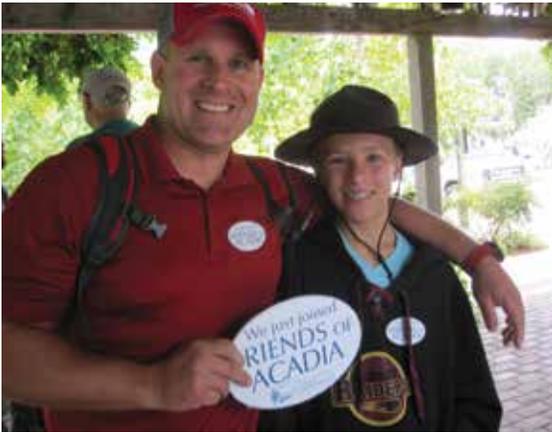
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 Adele Schaeffer  
 David Schildkret  
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 Keith Schlosser  
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 Bonnie and Larry Solish  
 Alan Sommer  
 Mary Ann Sommerstol  
 Ray Sotelo  
 Shirley Spangenberg

*"I have spent some time on the Island ever since I can remember... I am so impressed with all the good work FOA is doing for the Park!"*

— Jeff Clark, Wyndmoore, PA

*“Friends of Acadia is the one group that can help the park address its many challenges. Especially with the budget morass on the federal level, the guidance and assistance provided by Friends of Acadia is more important than ever.”*

— Mike Rogers, co-owner of LARK Studio, Bar Harbor



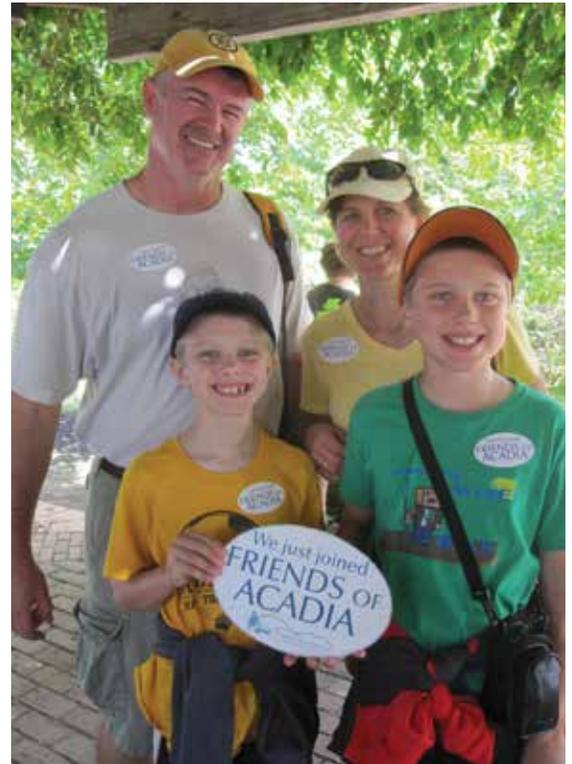
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# LOVE OF SKIING, ACADIA MOTIVATES DEDICATED GROOMER

By Earl Brechlin

There's just one thing that Mount Desert Island fisherman Mark Fernald loves nearly as much as his family or hauling traps aboard his lobster boat, the *Emma Marie*—cross-country skiing on the carriage roads in Acadia National Park.

It is his fondness for Nordic pursuits that led Fernald to get involved with grooming the ski trails for others, an effort that began with informal attempts more than 30 years ago. Currently, Fernald is a key part of the coordinated endeavors of Friends of Acadia's Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA), which can field a fleet of snowmobiles pulling trail drags, as well as a Kubota groomer outfitted specifically for the task.

At the heart of the AWTA are the dedicated men and women who operate the equipment, often long into the night, or starting well before dawn, on even the coldest winter days. Getting to see hundreds of park visitors skiing along to their heart's content on perfectly groomed trails is their only compensation.

"The best thing is after you're done, seeing people out there really enjoying it," said Fernald. "I talk to a lot of folks when I'm out on the trails and they really appreciate what we do."

During the summer Fernald and his wife Vicky live on Islesford full time. In winter, when he only pulls traps one or two days per week, Fernald divides his time between his house in Bar Harbor and visits to Sugarloaf where he also cross-country skis.

His love of winter sports began early, during his high school years, when he was boarding at Lee Academy near Lincoln. "I had a season pass to Mount Jefferson and skied all the time," he said. Eventually his interest in downhill skiing shifted to cross country, especially once he graduated and moved back to the MDI area. "My first pair of skis was made of wood," he recalled.

Like anyone who is a fanatical devotee of a sport, Fernald now has all the skis and gear he needs. "At last count I had six pair," he laughed.

The unpredictability of snowfall patterns, and the tendency of temperatures along the coast of Maine to go up after a major snowfall, make the job of taking care of the ski trails in Acadia that much more difficult. In fact, unless the ground is frozen, and there's at least six inches of snow to work with, groomers don't bother to go out. "What we like to see is a foot of nice fresh snow, and cold, cold cold," Fernald explained.

Grooming a cross-country ski trail isn't as simple as just racing around, pulling something behind a snowmobile. Volunteers usually work in pairs for safety. Speed hurts more than helps.

Using two snowmobiles to make multiple passes in formation broadens the width and also increases the effectiveness of the operation. The setting of the distinct, parallel-grooved track is actually the final step. "It all depends on the snow," Fernald said. "Sometimes we have to make six, seven, even eight passes before the base is right. It's very slow going."

Fernald, and several other volunteers focus on the Aunt Betty Pond and Seven Bridges Loops (see map) as well as on carriage roads north of Eagle Lake that include the Witch Hole Loop. Because it is used frequently by walkers and for snowmobile access for rangers and other riders, the carriage trail on the east side of Eagle Lake is not groomed.

A second core group of dedicated volunteers works from a starting point at the Brown Mountain Gate House on Route 198 just above Northeast Harbor. They regularly groom the Upper Hadlock Loop (see map) as well as the Amphitheater Loop. When time and conditions allow, crews tie both major hubs of ski trails



FOA/Earl Brechlin

Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer Mark Fernald of Islesford and Bar Harbor has been grooming the cross-country ski trails in Acadia National Park for 16 years.



Courtesy of Andrea Gernish

When he's not grooming the carriage paths in Acadia for cross-country skiers, AWTA volunteer Mark Fernald is out enjoying the sport himself.



Courtesy of the Bright family

Leila Bright

## ENDOWMENT BUOYS AWTA

In 2005, the family of Elizabeth R. (Leila) Bright established an equipment fund and an endowment in her memory and in honor of her love for skiing in Acadia.

These provide annual grants to the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) to underwrite the purchase and maintenance of grooming equipment, safety training and gear, fuel, volunteer and staff training and support, other annual and capital needs of cross-country trail grooming in the park, and support for those activities in perpetuity.

Bright summered on Mount Desert Island throughout her childhood and moved here permanently in 1975, dividing her time between Islesford and Northeast Harbor. She passed away in May of 2005. She was 84.

Although the Bright Endowment provides significant long-term stability for the AWTA, with growing interest in winter use and ever-increasing costs of operation, the program also benefits greatly from additional donations, and Friends of Acadia is grateful for the many gifts we receive from those who enjoy the winter trails. To help support the AWTA, contact Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-288-3340, or donate online now.



A pair of cross-country skiers prepares to cross the Duck Brook Bridge while enjoying the carriage paths in Acadia National Park.

FOA

together by grooming additional sections of the carriage roads on the Around the Mountain, Lower Loop, the tumbledown section overlooking Jordan Pond, and the Around Mountain Upper Loop.

In the early years, volunteers such as the late Bob Massucco, a Somesville dentist, worked with their own snowmobiles. Drags consisted of little more than old metal bed springs weighted down by cinder blocks.

Even though the “how” may have changed over the decades, the commitment and dedication of all those involved since the start has always remained unwaivering.

The equipment now includes five snowmobiles with drags of various degrees of sophistication. The AWTA flagship is a Kubota RTV that is propelled by a set of four treads instead of wheels. In addition to a drag to set track, it is outfitted with a climate-controlled cab and features a plow to help level out uneven sections and push snow onto bare spots. It got its first real workout during the winter of 2016–2017.

AWTA volunteers, who attend annual safety and technique training, work with Friends of Acadia’s Conservation Projects Manager Paige Steele who oversees the program. Steele also works with park staff who have nurtured a cadre of volunteers that do regular ski patrols in winter and

bike patrols in summer. On the park staff side of the equation, Park Roads Foreman Alan Farnsworth, Chief Ranger Stuart West, and Ranger Chris Wiebusch devote considerable time and energy to the efforts.

Volunteers spend many hours coordinating who can do what when, and doing routine maintenance to insure the AWTA equipment runs smoothly, along with keeping sleds fueled and properly positioned to allow for the most efficient deployment.

On a typical day after a storm, Fernald gets up at roughly 5 a.m. He checks in with other volunteers via text and email and often is out on the trails by 7–7:30 a.m. “Most of the time we’re done by 9–9:30 or so,” he explained.

Grooming of any one route can take two to six or even eight hours. Fernald stays out until the job is done. “The winters aren’t so long if you can spend time outside,” he said.

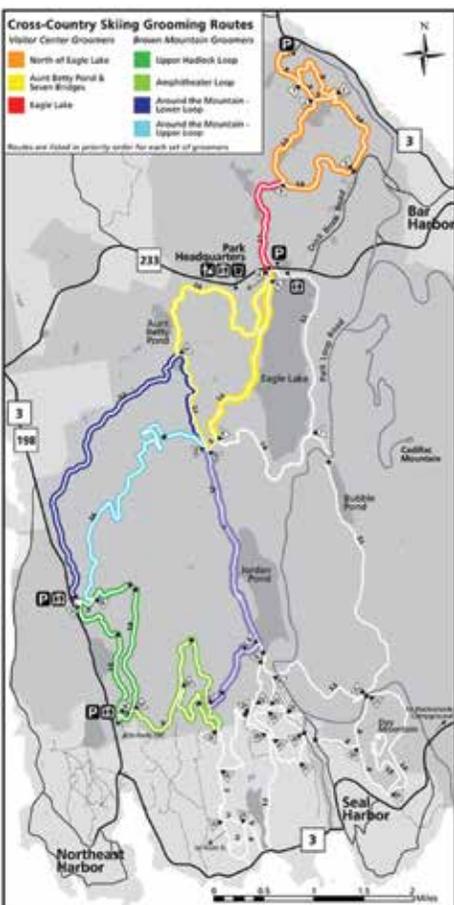
Taking care of the trails isn’t for the warm-blooded. It has to be below freezing. When temperatures rise above 30 degrees or so, all grooming stops.

Sometimes, getting too much snow can be an obstacle as well. When drifts pile up the snowmobiles can often “bog down” and become stuck. That requires the operator to shovel it out and ease it back to a



The view along a cross country ski trail at Eagle Lake in Acadia National Park.

firmer surface. That's no easy task with machines weighing around 450 pounds. Newer, four-stroke models that are much more fuel efficient, and which don't emit the stereotypical cloud of blue smoke from unburned oil, weigh even more.



“Getting stuck is much more common than people think,” Fernald said. Likewise, a heavy snowfall can obscure the center line of the carriage road. If a groomer gets too far to the left or right, they run the risk of catching one of the snow machine's skis on a granite coping stone or sliding into a ditch.

During heavy, wet snowfalls, small birch trees and alders bend down blocking clear passage. Branches often become frozen to the ground. “I've had situations where it took me four hours to go just one mile,” Fernald recalled.

In an average season Fernald, who has been a regular groomer for 14 years, devotes around 100 hours to the AWTA. He estimates he spends 500 to 700 hours a year cross-country skiing.

Along with the satisfaction of seeing a job well done, and making the trails better for winter enthusiasts, Fernald said there are other rewards. “In the early winter it's not unusual to see lots of snow buntings up on the mountains,” he said. Other wildlife sightings include the occasional snowy owl (See related story on page 3) or fox. Perhaps the most unusual sight he's seen involved a pack coyotes, feasting on a deer carcass on a frozen lake.

While in the past groomers often set out to create a tandem set of tracks for classic skiing, the pattern now is different.



FOA/Eat Brechlin

During winter, signs such as this one help explain guidelines for use of the groomed carriage paths.

## COURTESY HELPS EVERYONE ENJOY ACADIA IN WINTER

While visitation levels in Acadia during the winter months are far below summer's peak, the most popular trails and carriage paths can be very busy, especially on a sunny, weekend day right after a decent snowfall.

Cross-country skiers share the trails with snowshoers, walkers, and people out with their dogs. Some simple courtesy on everyone's part can help make time in the park more enjoyable for all.

On carriage roads groomed for outdoor recreation, including in the Witch Hole, Aunt Betty and Brown Mountain areas, one side is set up with a traditional, classic, ski track. The center portion is leveled to facilitate those who want to skate ski. The other edge of the path is where those on snowshoes or walking are encouraged to travel to avoid “post-hole” footprints in the ski tracks.

As in summer, any dogs brought into the park must be kept on a leash no longer than six-feet long.

Fat-tire bikes are allowed on the Park Loop Road, and on non-groomed carriage paths.

Snowmobiles are allowed on the Park Loop Road and on two sections of carriage path including from Wildwood Stables to Jordan Pond House, and from Bubble Pond to the north end of Eagle Lake. The park's 35 mile per hour speed limit applies.

As in summer, visitors should have a pass visibly displayed in their vehicle. Passes are available at the Winter Visitor Center on Eagle Lake Road in Bar Harbor.

## WINTER WEATHER WATCHWORD: PREPARE FOR THE UNEXPECTED

Winter weather conditions in Acadia vary widely from month to month and even are subject to wide swings in just a few hours.

In late December, January, February, and in early March, temperatures as cold as 15 below zero are not unusual. At the same time, especially early and late in the season, daytime temperatures in the high 40s or low 50s are not uncommon.

Along the Maine coast, many winter storms start out with heavy snow but quickly turn to sleet or even rain. Six inches of snow can fall overnight and be gone by sunset the next day. That makes planning for an outing all the more difficult.

Park officials urge winter visitors to be prepared for all extremes. A warm hat and gloves are a must. Multiple layers of outerwear ensure a range of options for personal comfort and should always include a waterproof shell.

Conditions can also vary widely from trail to trail. Temperature swings of up to 30 degrees, from ten degrees to the lower 40s, in just a few hours are not unusual. Trail sections on shaded or north slopes can have icy, crusty snow, while sections with southern exposures can be wet and sticky.

Many casual cross-county skiers prefer waxless skis because of the constant unpredictability of the trail surface.

The variability of the climate also adds an element of risk when considering activities on the surfaces of lakes that appear to be solidly frozen. The fact that nightfall comes much earlier in winter should also be taken into account.

Winter visitors should follow all general outdoor safety guidelines including carrying water, a snack, a map, and a headlamp. It is also recommended that you match planned activities with your fitness level and notifying someone of your plans so they can notify authorities if you are overdue.

Three distinct lanes are created. The parallel grooves for classic skiers are set to one side. A wider, flat portion is created down the middle for those who want to skate ski. That leaves ample room on the other side for snowshoers, hikers, and dog walkers.

Signs first put up during the winter of 2016–2017 help explain the scheme to park visitors. The aim is to educate walkers, snowshoers, and people with dogs on how to avoid making holes in or damaging the surface of the ski tracks.

One new wrinkle in recent years has been the appearance of people riding “fat tire” bicycles on the carriage roads in winter. The bikes are banned on groomed trail sections but allowed on other carriage roads. Especially if the weather warms and the groomed surface gets soft, even one careless biker can wreak havoc on a ski track.

Lobstering out of Little Cranberry Island where he grew up, Fernald has spent more than 45 years making his living from the sea. Accepting nature on its terms is part of the bargain. In that respect, he and his brothers Bruce and Danny, who also fish, follow in the footsteps of multiple generations of their family. That robust heritage, and the life lessons he’s learned about the importance of tradition, community, and the need to pay good fortune forward, in-



Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer Mia Thompson of Mount Desert checks out a new piece of cross country ski trail grooming equipment.

spire his volunteer service, Fernald said. “I love working on the trails and getting the track just right. Whenever I’m out there I think about what Mr. [John D., Jr.] Rockefeller did in making the gift of the carriage roads,” Fernald explains. “I think about how much I enjoy that gift and that I want to give something back,” he continued. “I enjoy being out there, taking in the beauty after a fresh snowfall. After a couple of hours of that I feel pretty good as I put the equipment away,” Fernald explained.

“Then I go skiing!” ✱

EARL BRECHLIN is Director of Communications for Friends of Acadia.



Members of the Acadia Winter Trails Association at Park Headquarters last winter during a training session with park staff and members of Mount Desert Island Search and Rescue.

### Acadia Winter Trails Association Volunteers 2016

Gordon Beck	Matt Gerrish	Vivian Phillips	Zack Steele
Brett Binns	Phil Lichtenstein	Ed Pontbriand	Mia Thompson
Mark Fernald	Stephen Linscott	Craig Roebuck	Adam Wales
Rob Gaynor	Peter Madeira	Zach Soares	

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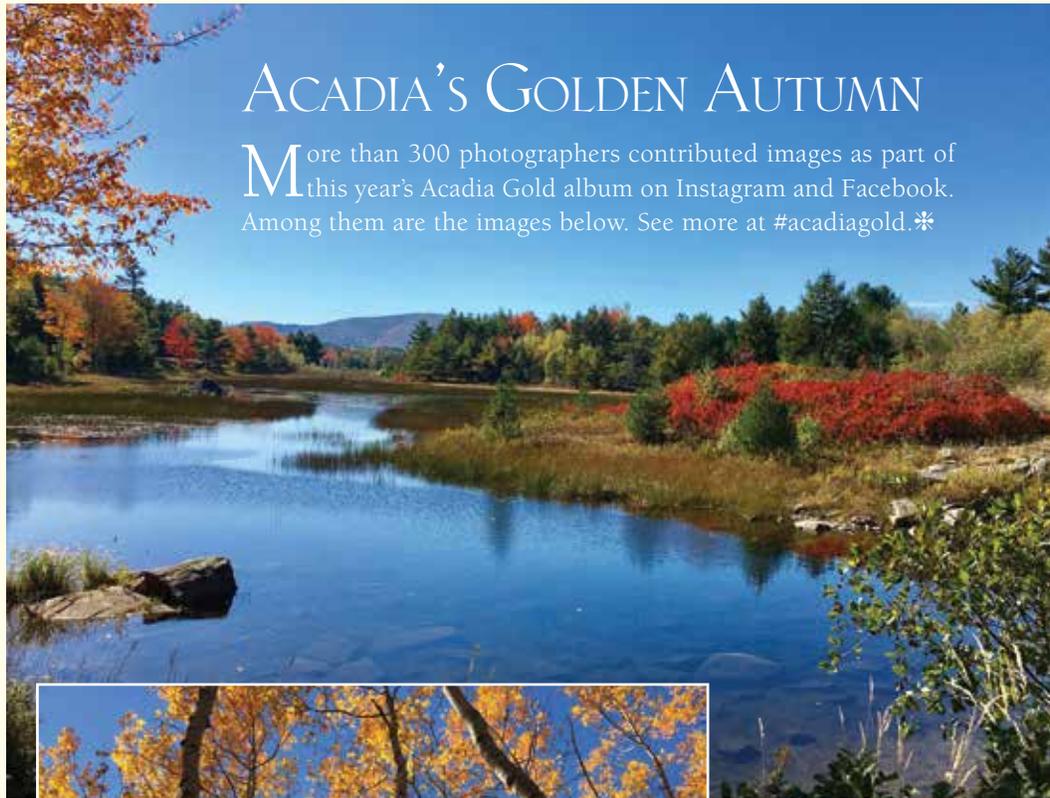
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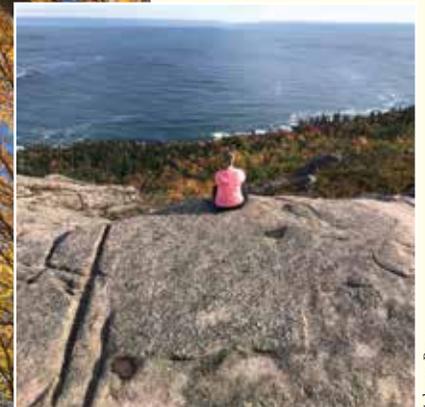
## ACADIA'S GOLDEN AUTUMN

More than 300 photographers contributed images as part of this year's Acadia Gold album on Instagram and Facebook. Among them are the images below. See more at [#acadiagold](https://www.instagram.com/acadiagold).\*

Sarah Farr



Dianna Moran



Adream Pratt



Julie Goodblood Clark



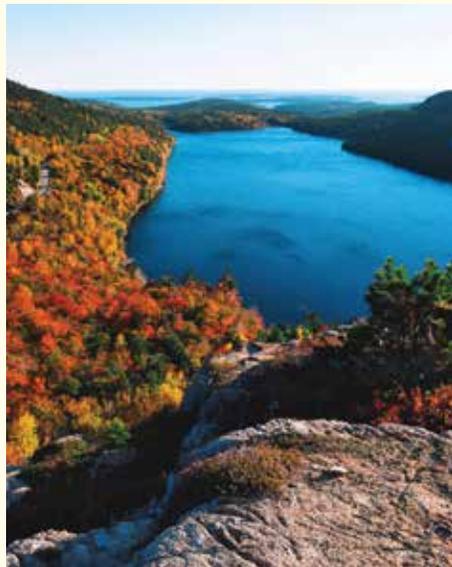
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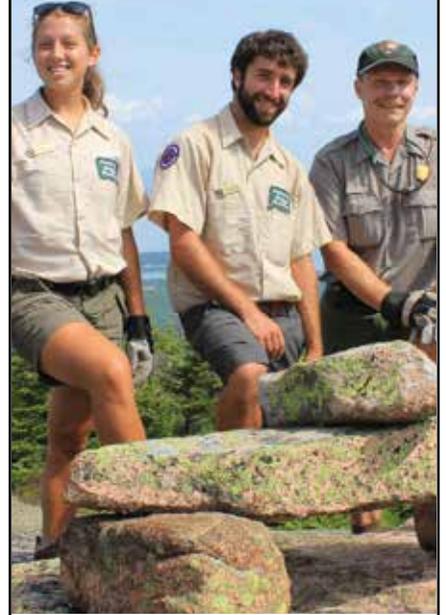


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FOA/Julia Walker Thomas

### Trick or Trails . . .

*Friends of Acadia Conservation Projects Manager Paige Steele, left, and Stewardship Coordinator Dana Petersen joined other volunteers and staff to celebrate Halloween and the last drop-in volunteer day of the 2017 season by clearing leaves and other debris from the culverts and ditches on the Stratheden Path – all while in costume. The event was called Trick-or-Trails. FOA President and CEO David MacDonald and Senior Development Associate Shawn Keeley, also joined in the fun.*

### Winter Information

Acadia National Park is teaming up with the Bar Harbor Chamber of Commerce to provide winter visitor information services, and park pass sales at the chamber's information center at the corner of Main and Cottage streets in downtown Bar Harbor. Rangers are now working with chamber staff at that location to provide information about the park. Chamber staff will share information about area businesses, services, and recreational opportunities.

Unlike past years, there will be no visitor services or facilities available at park headquarters on Eagle Lake Road.

The combined information center will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, and from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. on weekends. Holiday hours will vary.

During the month of December, Acadia annual passes will be available at half price.

Visitor services in Acadia will resume at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center in April of 2018. The park can be reached at 288-3338; the chamber at 288-5103.

### Island Explorer Sets New Record

A major milestone was reached on the Island Explorer bus system on Aug. 23, 2017, when Wayne and Charlene Ferguson from Yarmouth, Maine, and Annie, their Yorkshire terrier, disembarked from the Oceanarium bus route at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and were named the Island Explorer's 7 millionth passengers.

They were greeted by Paul Murphy, Executive Director of Downeast Transportation; Meredith Tague, Ellsworth Store Manager for L.L.Bean Stephanie Clement, Conservation Director for Friends of Acadia and Kevin Schneider, Superintendent, Acadia National Park.

The Fergusons were given a Friends of Acadia membership, an L.L.Bean gift certificate and tote bag, and Acadia Centennial gift items. They were traveling to Northeast Harbor for a day of shopping and lunch.

Since 1999, the propane-powered Island Explorer has eliminated over 2.5 million private vehicle trips in and around Acadia National Park.

### Cadillac Congestion

Visitation studies at Acadia National Park have shown that 75 percent of all visitors go to Cadillac Mountain at some point during their stay. The park also estimates that as many as 8,000–9,000 visitors go up the mountain on holidays such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July or Columbus Day. With so much interest concentrated in a relatively small geographic area, it's no wonder that the National Park Service must close down the summit road occasionally due to traffic congestion.

Friends of Acadia's Summit Stewards have been an important resource to the park from sunrise to sunset on Cadillac, answering visitor questions, observing travel patterns, educating visitors about Leave No Trace principles, and providing management recommendations.

This year, the National Park Service closed Cadillac 69 times through Oct. 10 (30 at sunset, 26 at mid-day, and 13 at sunrise) due to traffic congestion or accidents. On six days, the park closed the summit more than once. The Summit Stewards have been helpful in implementing a new process established by the park to resolve safety issues quickly and to prevent resource damage due to illegal parking.



FOA/Earl Brechlin

### An Alliance of Friends . . .

*More than 150 people attended the three-day National Park Friends Alliance meeting in Bar Harbor in early October. The event was hosted by Friends of Acadia. Major sponsors included the National Park Foundation, FOA, Acadia National Park, L.L.Bean, and Dawnland LLC. Other sponsors included Lili Pew of the Knowles Company, the Compass Group, Eastern National, Schoodic Institute, and Bar Harbor Banking and Trust. Above, Will Shafroth, President and CEO of the National Park Foundation, addresses attendees during a session at the Bar Harbor Regency Hotel.*



FOA/Mike Staggs

### FOA visits KWW...

Several Friends of Acadia board and staff members took a road trip in late September to visit the new Katahdin Woods and Waters (KWW) National Monument in northern Maine. Along with checking out the view of the state's tallest mountain, Katahdin (above) from an overlook on the KWW Loop Road, the group undertook a hike into scenic Katahdin Lake. The adventurers included, from left, Lili Pew, Lisa Horsch Clark, Stephanie Clement, David MacDonald, Bill Zoellick, David Edson, Jack Russell, Shawn Keeley, and Paige Steele. FOA Office Manager Mike Staggs took the photo.

The Blue Hill Overlook and summit parking lots on Cadillac Mountain have a combined capacity of 157 automobiles, plus space set aside for buses. Visitors at sunrise or sunset usually park for the duration of the event and then depart, making it easier to manage traffic based on parking capacity. At sunset, the summit stewards and/or park staff barricade the entrance to the Blue Hill Overlook (which faces west) after it fills. They then walk to the summit to judge parking conditions there, and radio law enforcement rangers to close the entrance road when cars start spilling over into the bus parking areas.

Procedures for closing at sunrise are similar, but based on the number of vehicles going up the mountain.

Visitors vary their activities and lengths of stay at Cadillac more greatly at mid-day, and the summit traffic is more complex with concessions buses, cruise ship tours, and land-based motor coach tours in addition to private cars. Therefore, closures happen based on gridlock or traffic accidents in addition to parking capacity. The summit stewards and rangers close down the entrance road as soon as traffic waiting to get into the summit lot backs up to the Blue Hill Overlook.

In essence, while the new procedures have resulted in a greater number of clo-

sures, they are helping the park to address safety concerns swiftly and ensure a better visitor experience.

Last fall, the park asked for public comment on ideas, such as a parking reservation system, vehicle size limits, and bus service to Cadillac via concession or transit operator, as part of the draft alternatives for the transportation plan. Students from the Worcester Polytechnic Institute also studied the idea of an on-line reservation system for parking on Cadillac. After surveying visitors, they

recommended a modest reservation fee for sunrise with automated gates at the base of the mountain to control access. It remains to be seen whether such a system will be incorporated into the park's final transportation plan. But the ideas of these students, along with the on-the-ground support of the summit stewards are helping the park navigate complicated traffic issues.

### Route 3 Rebuild Update

Detours around the reconstruction of Route 3, the main highway into Bar Harbor, will shift as the work enters its second year beginning in the spring of 2018.

Work is scheduled to begin next year on the stretch from Crooked Road in Hulls Cove to the Mount Desert Street intersection.

One-way traffic inbound will be maintained on that stretch with vehicles moving in the opposite direction being re-routed across the Paradise Hill Road section of the Acadia National Park Loop Road, or out Eagle Lake Road, which is also the mandatory truck and bus route. A temporary traffic light will be installed at the Park Entrance intersection in Hulls Cove.

There will be periods when both lanes of the affected section of Route 3 will be open, according to the Maine Department of Transportation.

The section completed in 2017, from Dreamwood Hill to Hulls Cove, is slated to have normal, two-way traffic flow.

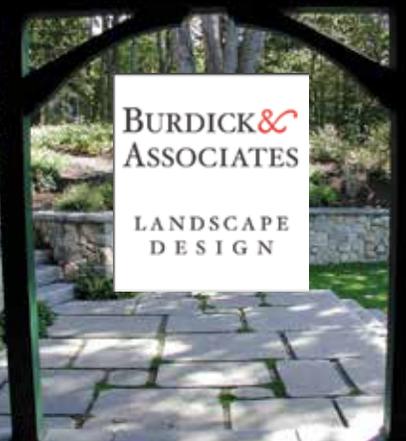


FOA/Earl Brechlin

### Helping Hands

Nearly 500 volunteers turned out to help put the Acadia National Park Carriage Roads to bed on Saturday, November 4 as part of Friends of Acadia's Take Pride in Acadia Day. After raking leaves along miles of the carriage roads the volunteers retired to Park Headquarters on Eagle Lake Road for the traditional "CCC" lunch of chili, cornbread, and cider, plus a bonus "C" - cake!

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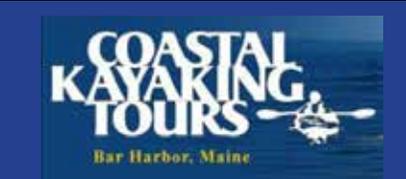


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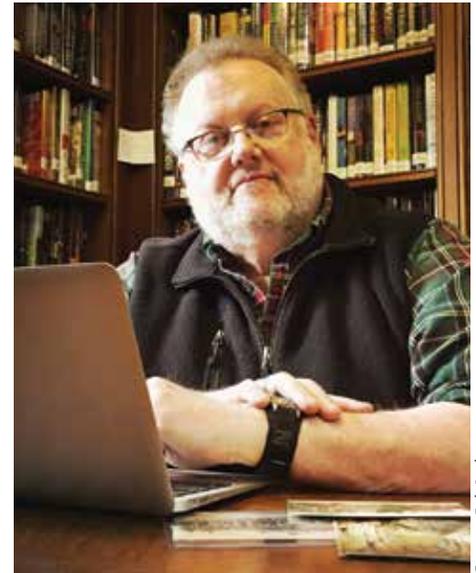
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Earl Brechlin

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### Meet A New 'Friend'

A veteran journalist with more than 30 years of experience covering Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park has joined the staff of Friends of Acadia as Communications Director. Earl Brechlin, founding editor of the Mount Desert Islander and former editor of the Bar Harbor Times, began work in his new post at FOA at the beginning of September.

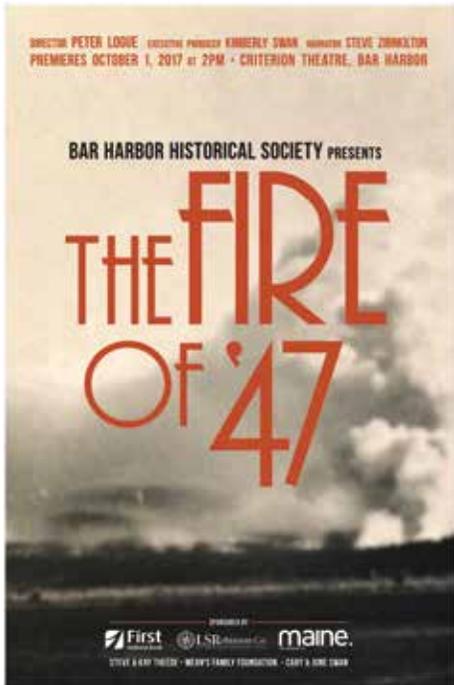
"Earl knows Acadia and the surrounding communities as well as anyone, and FOA is thrilled that he is now applying his many talents as a writer, editor, and photographer in support of our mission," said Friends of Acadia president David MacDonald.

"I'm honored to be a part of the Friends of Acadia team and working to help share the stories about the vital work that so many people are doing to help protect and preserve the park and improve the visitor experience," Brechlin said.

Brechlin has served as the President of both the Maine and New England Press Associations. In 1997 he was named Maine's Journalist of the Year. He is currently on the board of the Bar Harbor Historical Society.

Founded in 2001, the Islander has repeatedly won first place for General Excellence in Maine, New England, and nationally. Brechlin is also the author of nine outdoor guide and postcard history books. A Registered Maine Guide, Brechlin is the author of a book of essays on the Great Northwoods of Maine slated to be published by Down East Books in June of 2018. He and his wife Roxie live in Bar Harbor.

# FIRE OF 1947 FILM ON DVD



A new film, "The Fire of '47," which documents one of the most pivotal moments in Mount Desert Island history, is now available on DVD.

Director Peter Logue of Southwest Harbor interviewed more than 20 community members who shared their memories of the tragic conflagration that roared across much of the eastern side of Mount Desert Island 70 years ago.

Photos and film taken in 1947 are part of the production including some never-before-published clips. Narrated by Steve Zirkilton of Seal Harbor, the film documents the fire that started on October 17 and burned until November 14, 1947.

A total of 170 year-round homes and 67 summer cottages were destroyed by the flames. Nearly 19,000 acres, most of them in Acadia National Park, were blackened.

The film, which premiered at the Criterion Theatre in Bar Harbor in October, was produced by the Bar Harbor Historical Society with donations from First National Bank, Kay and Steve Theede, Means Family Foundation, Cary and June Swan, and L.S. Robinson Co. Insurance.

The DVD of "The Fire of '47," is available at Swan Agency/Sotheby's International Realty in Bar Harbor, or online at [barharborhistorical.org](http://barharborhistorical.org).

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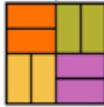
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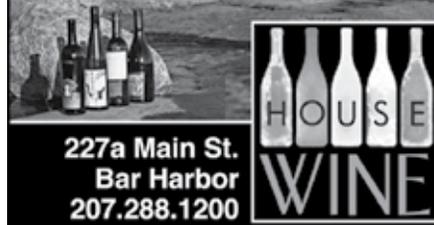
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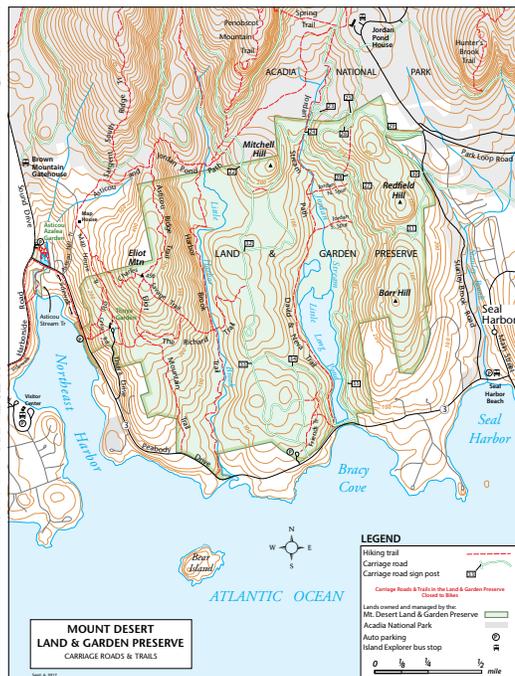
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## Land and Garden Preserve Releases MDI Lands Map

The Mount Desert Land and Garden Preserve, looking to expand its stewardship of the 1,022-acre, David Rockefeller Sr. land gift, has created a new map to help visitors better discover the natural charms of the Little Long Pond property. As the organization states on its website: "The lands and trails of the Preserve total approximately 1,165 acres including Little Long Pond. They can be enjoyed year-round during daylight hours and are perfect for the whole family to walk, hike, and explore."

Two maps, one of the trails and another that includes trails and contour data, are available as downloadable PDFs. Detailed trail descriptions can be found online as well. The maps can be printed out or simply saved onto digital devices such as cell phones and tablets. Please note that bicycles are prohibited from carriage roads on preserve lands.

Visit the lands and trail page at [gardenpreserve.org](http://gardenpreserve.org).



## Katahdin Woods and Waters National Monument Maps are now Available

Planning a visit to the Katahdin Woods and Waters (KWW) National Monument is now even easier with the help of new maps produced and distributed by the Friends of Katahdin Woods and Waters.

The monument was created by President Barack Obama in 2016 when he accepted the gift of the land and endowment monies from philanthropist Roxanne Quimby.

Available online on the group's website [friendsofkatahdinwoodsandwaters.org](http://friendsofkatahdinwoodsandwaters.org), in high-resolution PDFs, the new maps provide a comprehensive look at the 87,000-acre preserve's features and facilities.

One two-sided map includes a general overview of the entire area, with a more detailed "recreational" map on the back.

A second map is specifically aimed at sharing interpretive information on KWW's 16-mile Loop Road. It includes mile markers as well as numbered locations where visitors can enjoy unique views, see natural areas, or take short hikes to interesting ecological or geological features.

For those planning winter excursions, the National Monument publishes maps showing cross-country ski trails, warming huts, and other features.

Along with being available for download, the maps can be picked up during the summer season at the KWW welcome centers at 200 Penobscot Avenue in Millinocket and at the Lumberman's Museum in Patten, near the north entrance to the preserve. Find out more on the KWW website.



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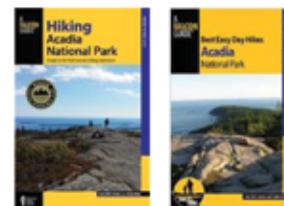
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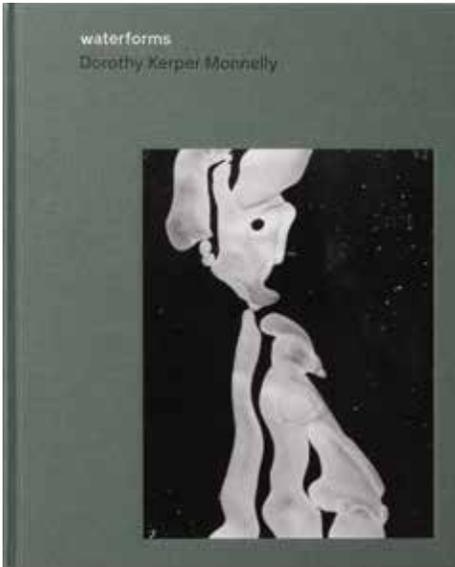
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## WATERFORMS

By Earl Brechlin



*waterforms*  
Photographs by Dorothy Kerper Monnelly  
156 pages  
70 B&W duotone photographs  
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The photograph "Rock Shore, Last Light, Acadia National Park," by Dorothy Kerper Monnelly, is among the Maine images in her new book *waterforms*.

Copyright Dorothy Kerper Monnelly

Lugging around a heavy 4x5 view camera and a few sheets of film, compared to an automatic digital model with motor drive and enough memory cards for thousands of shot, enforces an obvious discipline on a photographer. With the latter, you can merely point, shoot, and take as many frames as desired in the hopes that one or two might warrant public display.

With the former, composition by its very nature must be a slower and more deliberate process. Something must catch the photographer's eye. Then comes the arduous and painstaking process of determining angle, lens, light, exposure, and which film will best translate that intangible vision into something that can be held in a hand, shared with the wider world.

And translating an artistic vision to film is exactly what Dorothy Kerper Monnelly has done in her latest book, *waterforms*.

She has compiled images from some of

*"Kerper Monnelly shows a muscular yet understated attraction to the restlessness of water . . . There is a crystalline clarity to her vision."*

— Arthur Ollman

the most beautiful places on earth, including many scenes from Acadia National Park, to share her fascination with tone and texture, both in moving water, still water, and ice. The power of water, both in real time, and in its inexorable shaping of kelp, sand, wood, and stone, comes through in every image.

Kerper Monnelly's work has been exhibited in six museums in the U.S. and one in Russia. Large-format gelatin silver prints of her work are included in the collections of the National Museum of Women in the Arts and the Peabody Essex Museum.

They also have proved to be popular auction offerings for Friends of Acadia's annual Benefit Auction.

Primarily, *waterforms* focuses on the interplay of ice and air bubbles in the salt marshes near her winter home in Ipswich, Massachusetts. But the artist's muse has taken her much farther afield. There are images from Yellowstone National Park, Yosemite National Park, the White Mountains in New Hampshire, and Hawaii, in addition to those captured locally on Mount Desert Island at Duck Brook, Sand Beach, and over at Schoodic.

Along with this book being a testament to her eye and her technical expertise, it is also proof of a remarkable physical stamina. None of the winter images can be captured with just a mad dash from a heated vehicle. Setting up and waiting for the right light, or the right change of tide, can take hours. These images require, as Kerper Monnelly



Courtesy Dorothy Kerper Monnelly

Dorothy Kerper Monnelly at the camera while making images for her new book *waterforms*.

reveals, lots of time and on really cold days, “four pairs of socks.”

Rather than creating portraits of the stereotypical, sweeping landscapes of those places, Kerper Monnelly drills down, looking closer to her own feet than the horizon for inspiration. And, by focusing on the up close, instead of the distant, Kerper Monnelly manages to discover a universality of theme between diverse and uniquely distinct natural areas.

Particularly insightful is her image “Last Light, Acadia National Park,” which depicts ocean-side ledges and cobbles. Rather than just document the incredible grain of the granite, and the deep scars from weathering, it also blends shadow patterns into the composition.

One of the deepest human instincts is to look for patterns and organization in the randomness of nature. In her quest to do so, Kerper Monnelly reveals the consistency and beauty of what to a lesser eye would just be chaos. And, she does it with true talent and with the technical expertise of an Edward Weston or Ansel Adams. Devotees of the classic “Zone” system of exposure will find a lot to like here.

In his monograph for *waterforms*, noted photographer and museum director Arthur Ollman pays Kerper Monnelly’s work high praise. “Kerper Monnelly shows a muscular yet understated attraction to the restlessness of water, contrasted with the temporary stillness of ice, and the ancient and static dignity of rocks. The way they are interleaved at coastal and riverine environments are particularly dynamic . . . There is a crystalline clarity to her vision.”

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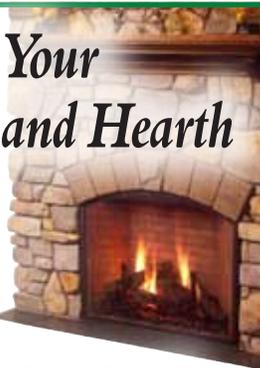
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## LAND, LEGISLATION, FEES, AND WORK DEFERRED

Acadia National Park often ranks well in public surveys for a high quality visitor experience. Much of this is tied to the incredible scenery, diverse recreational opportunities, clean air and water, the rich history of the region, the opportunity to speak with friendly, informative rangers, and facilities such as restrooms, historic roads, and interpretive wayside panels. Friends of Acadia (FOA) has been partnering with several organizations and coalitions to ensure that the facilities and land base that underlie the positive visitor experience remain intact.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Coalition ([lwcfcoalition.com](http://lwcfcoalition.com)) is a group of stakeholders working together to ensure that Congress protects the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and provides robust, if not full, funding at the \$900 million level annually. LWCF is the primary source of funds through which Acadia National Park is able to acquire the remaining 80 plus privately held properties inside park boundaries, helping to protect important wildlife habitat, movement corridors and scenic viewsheds. FOA Board member Emily Beck traveled to Washington in early October with representatives from the Appalachian Mountain Club and the Piscataquis Economic Development Council to share information with Congress about the importance of LWCF to Maine and to Acadia.

Other land and resource management issues are being addressed through the *Acadia Boundary Clarification Act* (H.R. 763/S. 257), a bill sponsored by Senator Angus King and Representative Bruce Poliquin and co-sponsored by Senator Susan Collins and Representative Chellie Pingree. The bill confirms the addition of Schoodic Woods to the park, clarifies that the 1986 boundary legislation shall guide future land acquisitions, authorizes harvesting of marine organisms in Acadia's intertidal zone, and permanently reauthorizes the Acadia Advisory Commission.

The Senate National Parks Subcommittee held a hearing on S. 257 this summer, and FOA and Maine Coast Heritage Trust

(MCHT) co-authored a letter for the record supporting the bill, but requesting that harvesting in the intertidal zone be restricted to the traditional taking of clams, worms and periwinkles. FOA and MCHT also requested that the bill authorize the park to make minor boundary adjustments with landowners to resolve inadvertent boundary encroachments. Rep. Poliquin has requested a hearing on H.R. 763 in the House. It is not yet scheduled.

Friends of Acadia also continues to work with the Pew Charitable Trusts and partners, such as the National Parks Conservation Association, on the Restore America's Parks campaign, an initiative to raise awareness of the \$11.3-billion backlog of deferred maintenance projects in national parks. The backlog at Acadia is estimated to be approximately \$71 million. More than half of it pertains to paved and unpaved roads.

In early September, staff from three of Maine's Congressional offices, several state legislators, several area elected officials, and a town manager joined a tour and discussion of the backlog at Acadia organized by Pew. The group visited the structurally deficient (i.e. cracked cement block walls) maintenance facilities at Park Headquarters that are still in use as offices, an auto repair shop, and a carpentry shop. The group also toured the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, a facility built in the 1950s. That building is inadequately heated and cooled, is too small for the crowds it receives, and is inconvenient or inaccessible to anyone who has trouble walking up stairs.

FOA sent an invitation to Acadia Centennial Partners and to FOA business members asking them to sign onto a letter drafted by Pew encouraging Congress to implement policies and legislation to reduce the maintenance backlog to ensure that Acadia and



other parks remain economic engines. Senators Collins and King have co-sponsored S. 751, the *National Park Service Legacy Act* (H.R. 2584 in the House), a bill that would dedicate funding from unallocated offshore oil revenues to high priority deferred maintenance projects.

The Department of the Interior (DOI) has also put forward a proposal to

increase fees at Acadia and 16 other highly visited national parks during peak season (defined as June 1—October 31 at Acadia) as a way to reduce the maintenance backlog. Acadia's seven-day entrance pass would rise from \$25 to \$70, the annual pass from \$50 to \$75, the seven-day motorcycle pass from \$20 to \$50, and the seven-day non-motorized per-person pass from \$12 to \$30.

The department estimated that these fee increases across could result in an additional \$68.6 million in revenue. Public comment was accepted on the proposal through November 23. Friends of Acadia issued a statement recognizing the need to address the maintenance backlog, but expressing concern about the scale of the fee increase and how it might deter citizens from enjoying the parks. Friends also pointed out that fee increases should not relieve Congress of its duty to adequately fund the capital and operating needs of the national parks in order to prevent the deferred maintenance backlog from growing.

We are fortunate at Acadia to have the amazing land base, recreational opportunities, and facilities that we do. It takes an active community of passionate members, park staff, volunteers, friends, and coalitions to ensure that the park will retain these assets for future generations. ✱

—Stephanie Clement

## SHARING A LOVE OF ACADIA

Greetings, Friends,

I am honored to have been elected Friends of Acadia's Board Chair. I want to thank our former Chair and friend, Ed Samek, for a tremendous six years of accomplishments while under his solid and strategic leadership.

On a personal note, Ed played an important part in transitioning me into the office. And, I am blessed with an outstanding Board. I thank them all for their support as I settle into some very big shoes.

I am equally fortunate to be working amongst a talented team at FOA under the admirable leadership of David MacDonald, President and CEO.

I have had the privilege of summering on Mount Desert Island since the 1960s. My parents were house guests on Somes Sound in the 1950s and knew this was the idyllic summer place.

My childhood memories of time spent on the island are my fondest. Our family of seven, along with a misbehaved golden retriever, spent the days hiking the trails in Acadia, boating to Schoodic, enjoying our summer reading, playing board games, or any activity that involved sitting by the fire on a foggy summer day.

My favorite pastime was exploring tide pools. I was born and raised in South Florida and loved to haul my Maine rock collection back home. I loved polishing the rocks in my tumbler to preserve their pristine ocean shine.

Our family loved picnicking at Hunter's Beach. I still wander over to carve out some time for solitude and escape the endless smartphone alerts and notifications.

This time of year, I reside in Connecticut with my husband Jim, daughter Millicent, and son Will. Being outdoors has always been important to me. I am a Master Gardener and I am a member of two garden clubs.



During the summer, you will find us out in Acadia daily. After all these years, I am amazed we still are finding trails to explore for the first time. When running on the carriage roads, I always stop to chat with the volunteers. Needless to say, I am in Acadia as much as possible with family, friends, and my other great love; my camera!

I am deeply passionate about Friends of Acadia and our mission. I joined as a board member seven years ago and served various roles on Development, the Second Century Campaign, the Youth and the Acadia Centennial Task forces, and the Benefit Committee. Our dedication to FOA is a family affair. My husband helped organize a July event cultivating new Friends. Our daughter and niece were FOA interns. Our son volunteered to help rebuild the Lower Hadlock Pond trail.

I covet getting the *FOA Journal* and can vividly recall spotting the *Journal* on the table while chatting with my dad. It was stacked on top of his magazine piles. I was captivated by the cover photo and the photographs, and by feature stories on

myriad park topics. I asked to borrow his copy and was told, politely, of course, to join, to get my own. That proved to be my good fortune and another lesson in giving back from my dad.

Along with the shift of FOA Chairs, there are other significant changes unfolding in the community and surrounding towns. The Maine coast is warming up and our beloved Acadia National Park is struggling with a mounting crisis of more and more visitors. Shifts in our outlook and routines can be hard to embrace, but we must adapt to address future challenges and be strategic in our work and long-term vision.

A vast amount of feedback on these issues has come from donors and through the Second Century Campaign. We have an understanding of the issues most important to you as park users. There is an array of priorities to be addressed to achieve the best possible experience while visiting Acadia. One of my goals is to continue to reach out to the next generation, via education, events, and social media channels, to increase engagement for the benefit of FOA and Acadia.

We have many reasons to be so proud of the Acadia Youth Technology Team and their tremendous work as the exposure of their talents on social media has exploded!

In the months ahead, I look forward to meeting a lot more of Acadia's Friends and welcome your comments and suggestions. A great perk of being the Board Chair, aside from the obvious important work, is it gives me yet another good reason to spend more time year-round in and around Acadia. ✨

With Gratitude,

—Anne B. Green

# JUNIOR RANGER FINISHES FINAL QUEST

By Paige Steele

**T**eam Moose and Goose, one of Friends of Acadia's most loyal Acadia Quest teams, is composed of mom Laura Mathews and son Neil of Torrington, CT.

Laura has visited Acadia for 20 years and began sharing her love of the area with her son, Neil, right after he was born eleven years ago.

The first year they quested, in 2014, Team Moose and Goose discovered how much fun it is to participate. Goose experienced his first sunset on Cadillac Mountain, which his mom said he described as "simply breathtaking!"

For the duo's second year, they explored Acadia through their five senses. That included touching meadow grass along the Jesup Path (which they thought was awesome) and smelling horses as they walked by on a carriage road.

During the Acadia Centennial year, the team had a great time pretending to be "Rusticators." They ate a picnic lunch on Bar Island while gazing across the harbor at some of the original summer "cottages." They were delighted to find the hidden gem of George B. Dorr's old saltwater pool at Compass Harbor.

At one point in their quest, Moose and Goose were having so much fun at the Nature Center at Sieur de Monts that they almost forgot to take a photo to document their activity. Goose even became a Centennial Junior Ranger in 2016.

Sadly, this year's Pathmakers' Edition was the team's final Acadia Quest.

Laura submitted the team's documentation with the following note: "Hi Paige, my son and I have been doing these quests for years and always looked forward to our list. I am so glad we took the time to do the whole quest this year, because unfortunately it will be our last.

"The day after we got home from the best vacation we ever had, in our favorite place,



Laura Mathews

Acadia Quest team member Neil Mathews, aka "Goose," on the summit of Day Mountain in Acadia National Park.

my son Neil (aka Goose) passed away in his sleep due to a seizure related incident.

"Neil absolutely loved MDI and all things Acadia. I was on the fence about even submitting this, but Goose would want me to finish the quest. Here is what we did:

## Ship Harbor Trail

He thought this was so beautiful, especially the cove part where the water just shimmered and it was calm.

## Asticou Path

We also visited both gardens along with seeing the Map House, which was pretty cool.

## Hadlock Brook Trail

This was his favorite hike of all time. He couldn't get over the beauty of it all. He decided we should continue to Sargent summit and really take it all in.

## Teahouse Ruins, Great Head

This was a pretty cool find and a really nice hike.

## Sundew Trail

Goose nicknamed Schoodic Point last year as "Lightning Cove," because there is already a Thunder Hole on Mount Desert Island. We stopped at the little side trails, too, and enjoyed the benches.

## Valley Trail

We had been up here last year but took a different trail to the top. We really liked this way up to the fire tower, and of course took a ton of photos.

"I thank you for putting this on every year. Because of this my son got to see some beautiful wonders of nature in his little piece of heaven on earth."

Thanks again,  
Laura aka Moose

I have watched Goose grow in pictures over the past four summers and it breaks my heart that Neil is gone. Laura and Neil's love for Acadia poignantly reminds me of how thankful I am to the Acadia Quest teams, park and FOA staff, volunteers, and donors for making programs such as Acadia Quest possible. As our lives change over time, having Acadia act as a sentinel of steadiness, to keep safe our precious memories, is truly a gift. The experience of Team Moose and Goose is a powerful message about protecting and sharing our love of Acadia. We are so very grateful that our work mattered to Laura and Neil, aka Team Moose and Goose. ✨

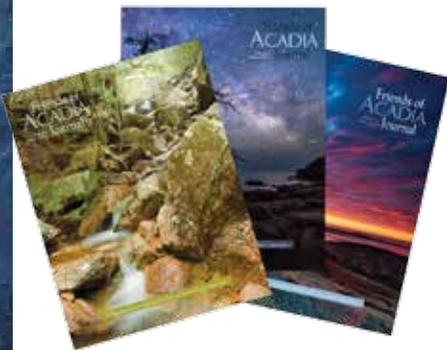
PAIGE STEELE is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Projects Manager.

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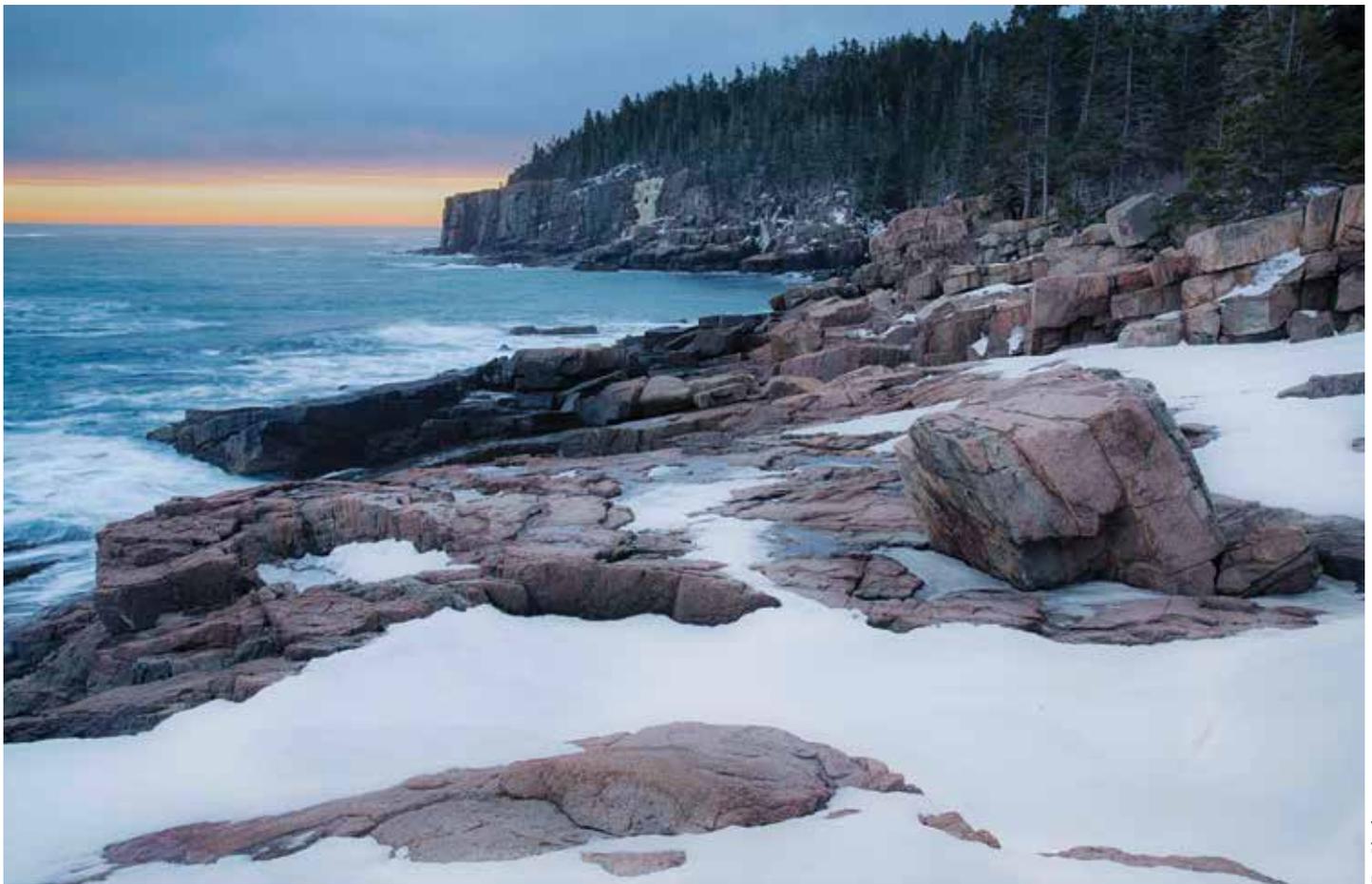


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Tom Blagden

*Winter ice covers the ledges along Ocean Drive in Acadia National Park. Otter Cliffs looms in the distance.*

## Mission

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

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