

Friends of  
**ACADIA**  
Journal

Winter 2018  
Volume 25 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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## — PROTECTING THE FUTURE OF ACADIA NATIONAL PARK —

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## ACADIA'S YOUTH ARE ITS FUTURE

As the seasons change, many of us feel a sense of relief, anticipating that quieter days, parking places at popular trailheads, and cooler nights all lie ahead. This year, the temperatures dropped and the riot of colors along my daily commute on the Eagle Lake Road appeared right on cue—but the pace of visitation has hardly slackened, even as I write this in late October. Indeed, the Park Service was forced to close Cadillac Mountain due to gridlocked vehicular congestion three separate times on a beautiful Friday afternoon before Columbus Day weekend.

While Friends of Acadia does not see its role as promoting more visitation, we do aspire to increase visitors' awareness of options they have for lowering their impact during their time here and hopefully improving the quality of their stay as well. Considering alternatives to one's own private vehicle—such as biking, walking, carpooling, or hopping on the Island Explorer bus—is probably the simplest way to help enhance everyone's collective Acadia experience.

This message is catching on. Island Explorer buses were more popular than ever this season with more than 620,000 riders over the past four months. FOA is proud to partner with L.L.Bean to be able to provide financial support each year for this vital service operated by Downeast Transportation, with other significant financial support coming from the sale of park entrance passes, as well as state and local sources.

The other buses that we see more often this time of year are yellow school buses—and some of them are bound for Acadia locations. FOA's Yellow Bus Fund provides transportation scholarships to allow more public schools in Maine to take field trips to Acadia and help students to forge a closer connection to their national park. Last year, these scholarships benefited 20 schools and 1,680 students, many of them making their first-ever trip to Acadia.

The Yellow Bus Fund is one of many FOA programs aimed at getting more young



FOA

people out into the park. This is among the most important work that we do—and is the one exception to my earlier line about not promoting visitation. Why? Because virtually all of our experience and research shows that time out of doors makes kids smarter, healthier, happier, more productive, more creative, and less stressed. To do so in a national park setting like Acadia is an opportunity that all Maine students deserve. Such visits also hopefully inspire a sense of ownership and stewardship that will help protect our park long-term. But in the end, this is bigger than FOA's mission to preserve and protect a specific place like Acadia. Instilling a belief in young people that places like Acadia are here for all of us to enjoy will strengthen their sense of democracy and citizenship and, we hope, will lead toward a more environmentally and socially just future.

These reflections result in part from my having an opportunity last month to connect with peers from other groups from around the nation at our annual Friends Alliance meeting held in Glacier National Park. Hearing that other organizations also are striving to engage more young people in parks as diverse as Golden Gate, Grand Teton, Gettysburg, and Cuyahoga helps remind me how fortunate we are to have excellent community partners here at Acadia and how this effort extends beyond any one

park or organization. In a way, as I soaked in new experiences and ideas in Glacier, I was much like the seventh-grader from central Maine coming down to Acadia for the first time, being exposed to fresh perspectives, an awesome natural setting, and some inspiring ideas.

Friends of Acadia is increasingly working to better link our youth programs with each other and with other efforts in parks nationwide. In order to make our investments strategically, we want to avoid the "one-off" and instead work toward a suite of programs that reinforce each other and learn from best practices elsewhere. An article later in these pages by our Conservation Director, Stephanie Clement, expands on this idea, based on her conversations with local teachers at a workshop earlier this year. I am incredibly proud that FOA's Acadia Teacher Fellow program, in which six teachers immerse themselves for a summer in both the work and learning possibilities of Acadia and then incorporate these experiences into their lesson plans when they return to the classroom in the fall, has recently been recognized as a model program to be replicated and amplified nationally.

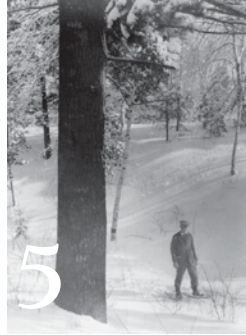
As important as these programs might be, nothing takes the place of personally introducing a young person to the wonders of Acadia—so I was pleased, but not surprised, to see that both Kevin Schneider's Superintendent's column and Anne Green's message from the Chair include stories of time on the trails with the next generation. I am also inspired when FOA receives notes from members sharing their pride of a first Acadia hike with a new child or grandchild.

Thank you to the many families, teachers, students, interns, partners, and members who are building a strong future for Acadia by being part of this vital work!

—David MacDonald

# Friends of ACADIA Journal

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**CORRECTION** An article on the history of the Porcupine Islands in Frenchman Bay in the previous issue of the FOA Journal incorrectly stated that Ellsworth attorney Hannibal E. Hamlin had been Vice President during Abraham Lincoln's first term. It was his father, Hannibal Hamlin, that served in that capacity.



# JACK PERKINS SHARES WONDERS OF ACADIA

By Earl Brechlin

Behind his fame as a high-powered network television reporter, news anchor, and documentary host, Jack Perkins, first and foremost, is a story teller. And few places he has visited or lived in during his celebrated 40-year career have inspired him as much as Acadia National Park.

After retiring from corporate journalism in 1984, Perkins and his wife Mary Jo moved to Bar Harbor, eventually building an off-grid house on Bar Island on property surrounded by the park. Teaming with local filmmakers Jeff Dobbs and Bing Miller, Perkins signed on as narrator for more than a dozen films and documentaries, mostly about Acadia, but also about other iconic Maine locations, institutions, and individuals including Baxter State Park, Margaret Chase Smith, and L.L.Bean.

All were a natural offshoot of an Emmy-winning career in front of the camera that included covering stories all over the U.S. and the world for NBC, and as a narrator for the popular “Biography” series on the A&E network.

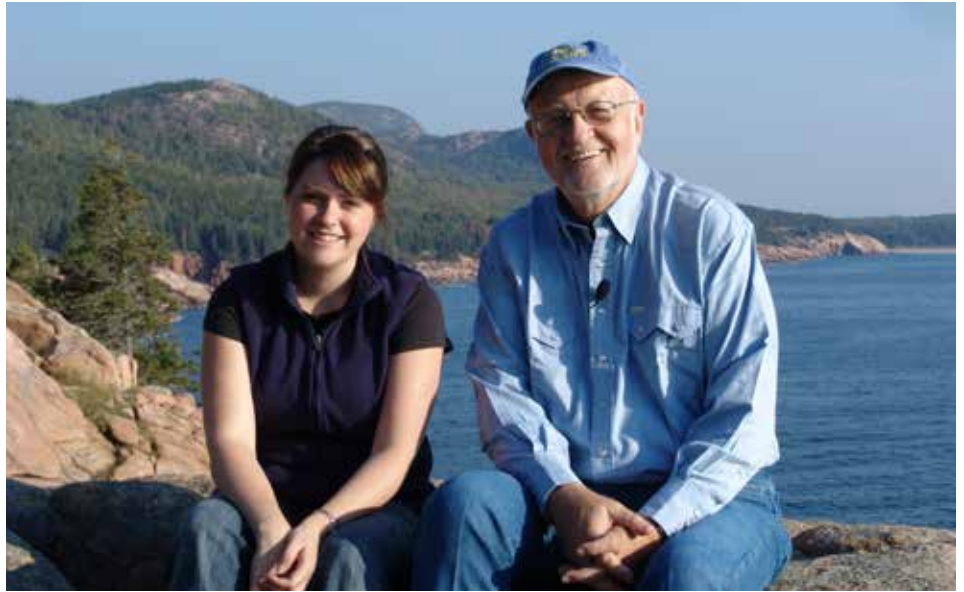
Beginning with “Gift of Acadia,” the Dobbs Productions partnership went on to produce best-selling videos including “Acadia Always,” “Over Acadia,” “Acadia Sights and Sounds,” and “Becoming Acadia,” in addition to films focused on other state and local subjects.

It was while working on those local films that Perkins quickly developed a strong bond to Acadia, one that would prompt him to become a donor and strong supporter of Friends of Acadia, including service on the FOA Board of Directors. He remains an honorary trustee today.

Perkins fell in love with Maine while working on a story about horror writer Stephen King.

“Everyone in Maine was so nice and so gracious,” Perkins recalls. “I called Mary Jo and asked her to join me for a vacation. We went to Bar Harbor and Acadia and it wasn’t like anyplace we’d been to before,” Perkins explains.

Eventually the couple left Los Angeles and built a seasonal home christened “Moose-



Journalist, author, news anchor and Friends of Acadia member Jack Perkins, right, at Otter Cliffs with former FOA staff member Erin Fogg.

wood,” on Bar Island. The name of the house was drawn from the grove of striped or mountain maple trees, also known as moosewood, on the property. The southern exposure provided a spectacular view of the Bar Harbor waterfront with the lofty peaks of Acadia behind. It was also a perfect orientation for the solar panels the couple relied upon for electricity.

Although the island, which is actually located in the town of Gouldsboro, is connected to Bar Harbor by the town’s namesake sandbar, vehicular and foot access is restricted to just a handful of hours either side of low tide. “It was sometimes a challenge to get the timing right,” Perkins says. “I remember one time wading through water waist deep.”

The couple also had a boat, but the undeveloped and unprotected nature of the shoreline on the island meant it could only be used during times of high tide.

He remembers one occasion when he injured his hand and had to go to the MDI Hospital emergency room. “They took good care of me but they wanted to do more treatments. I told them I had to leave, or it would be 12 hours before I could get back home,” Perkins recalls.

Even if the tide was right, in winter large chunks of sea ice often piled up on the shore blocking the way.

In 2003 the couple sold the property to Acadia National Park. The house and small outbuildings were later torn down to allow the island to return to its natural state.

While in Maine, Perkins also expanded his artistic repertoire. He published the softcover “Parasols of Fern, A book about wonder” and later a coffee-table book of his large-format, black and white photographs of Acadia coupled with original poetry. “Acadia Visions and Verse” remains in print.

Perkins also penned a book about living on Bar Island entitled “Finding Moosewood, Finding God.” His faith has also inspired additional books including “God’s Bridge, A Novel About Believing,” and an as yet untitled work currently in the prepublication stage.

Perkins’ embrace of literary pursuits also extended to Friends of Acadia in 1999 when he made a generous grant to help subsidize the publication of photographer Thomas Blagden’s coffee table book, “First Light, Acadia National Park and Maine’s Mount Desert Island.”

*continued on page 17*



## Where in Acadia?



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

**Where in Acadia?** This scenic underpass was once part of a much-beloved, yet seldom travelled motor route in Acadia National Park. Often better known by year-round residents than visitors, seeing it today requires some personal effort. You'll have to bypass several sturdy obstacles to get there. The access options are to go on foot or to trade four rubber tires for two. In late summer, plump blueberries proliferate on the hills on either side.

If you think you can identify this scene email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:editor@friendsofacadia.org) and feel free to include a personal story or memory about your answer. We'll print our favorite responses in the next issue of the *Journal* and we'll send a Friends of Acadia cap to the writers.

### Summer 2018 Where in Acadia?



FOA/JULIA WALKER THOMAS

The beautiful picture is of Somes Sound looking northwesterly at sunset from Sargeant Drive. On the western side of the fjord is Acadia Mountain.

Of somewhat less interest to the reader, the small village on the north side of Acadia is Hall Quarry, where I have lived happily for the past 23 years.

—CH Breedlove, Mount Desert, Maine

Somes Sound! Somes Sound was thought to be the only true fjord on the East Coast, but was downgraded to a fjard, as it's lacking things that true fjords have, like extreme vertical topography and oxygen deprived sediments. It's so cool to look at, and imagine the glaciers passing through on their way out to sea, carving out the terrain. Visiting it always makes me feel a deep connection to the past. Sargeant Drive is a lovely scenic route with some amazing views!

— Jordan Horrocks, Bar Harbor, Maine

This is too easy. Who wouldn't recognize the view from Sargeant Drive over Somes Sound, with Acadia Mountain in the background? A memorable event was the Windjammer Parade in 2016, during which one lane of Sargeant Drive was closed for spectator parking

— Edward Taft, Los Altos Hills, California

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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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*Snow blankets the branches of a white pine tree near Lower Hadlock Pond in Acadia National Park.*  
Cover photo by Thomas Blagden



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# SNOWSHOES ARE TICKET TO WINTER'S WONDERS

By Maude Kusserow

Lori Alley of Bar Harbor has snowshoed in practically every corner of Acadia National Park.

The Friends of Acadia member is a fourth generation snowshoer. “My dad put us on snowshoes when we were very little. They were the rawhide kind, the ones you see hanging on people’s walls as decoration. The shoes were terrible back then. How I got to love snowshoeing baffles me because it was such a rough start, but we were relentless in the outdoors.”

For Alley, that deep love for the Park and the outdoors was nurtured by her father, Mike. A teacher during the school year, he worked as a seasonal ranger in the park for more than fifty years. He also oversaw the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps for Friends of Acadia. From him, Alley learned how to ice-fish, skate, ski, snowshoe, and shoot.

“When I was little, my dad would organize an ice-fishing derby on Eagle Lake,” Alley recalls. “My friends and I would go out and

skate and snowshoe. Winter was something we enjoyed; it was an adventure.”

Alley started out using snowshoes to get from one place to another. But after the development of lightweight, aluminum models, it became a recreational pursuit, and

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**“You can come up on animals and see them so close up. I’ve walked up on foxes sunning themselves. I walk up on deer all the time. You get to just be with nature.” — Lori Alley**

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then a true passion. “I still do a lot of trail running, but there is something so magical about snowshoeing. As soon as there is enough snow, I go.”

Every year it varies, but the season typically begins in mid-November. Four to six inches

of snow are the minimum to keep cleats from sinking through and hitting the road or ground beneath.

Alley relishes getting out on the trails. “It’s majestic. It’s like a meditative blanket, a weighted vest. It’s a letdown when April comes, and the snow disappears. My nephew said to me ‘Your blanket is gone.’ And that’s exactly what it is, my blanket.”

Along with getting to a few favorite spots she likes to visit that she can’t necessarily easily access in the warmer months, Alley revels in the solitude. “It’s so hot and crowded here in the summer now. In the winter, snowshoeing opens up new ways to see the park.

“Because snowshoes don’t make any noise, you can come up on animals and see them so close up. I’ve walked up on foxes sunning themselves. I walk up on deer all the time,” she continues. “You get to just be with nature.”

Having lived on Mount Desert Island for most of her life, Alley has witnessed changes to the park’s rules and regulations on winter



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARIA IMPSON

Avid snowshoer Lori Alley of Bar Harbor takes in the view from atop one of Acadia National Park’s highest peaks in February.



sports and activities. “The carriage roads have signs now and rules are posted... There can be a bit of a battle out there for space, even in the winter.”

The winter sporting community runs deep in Acadia, says Alley. She has a circle of about ten friends who snowshoe run with each other. “There is always a full moon trek to the top of Cadillac. It’s a really medicinal way to get through the harsher winter months.”

Alley advises that beginners rent snowshoes first, before they buy. “Cadillac Mountain Sports is a great place to get started. I would rent first to see how it feels to you. Depending on your size, people tend to start with twenty-one to twenty-five-inch shoes. There are aluminum ones and molded plastic shoes. I prefer aluminum. It’s all about how you feel in them.”

Paying attention to weather and temperature is also a key factor, Alley advises. “I have snowshoed in very cold weather, single digits. If the sun is out and you are dressed right it is quite fine, because snowshoeing gets you so warm right away. But If I do go out in anything below 10 degrees I stay in the tree line and in protected areas. I don’t go alone when it is that cold either, because one mistake can be very risky.

“I always make sure, even in good tem-

peratures, that someone knows my route plan.”

As an onsite therapist at College of the Atlantic, Alley says she comes across students struggling with the long winter months and the seasonal disorders that come with lack of daylight and being stuck indoors. “I often recommend that students who are dealing with seasonal depressiveness go snowshoeing. Being outdoors on snowshoes is an incredible cure-all.”

Alley says that being able to get out into Acadia in winter is the key to her own peace of mind. “There is just something so meditative and beautiful and quiet. It’s so easy to find peace and a sense of connection with the world and with a higher power, whatever that is. The snow has an insulating effect that makes everything much quieter. It is so much easier to think and meditate.”

The physical benefits of snowshoeing are notable to her as well, “It’s incredible cross-training and great for your breathing and stamina... After a winter of snowshoeing I cannot believe how strong I am come summertime.” \*

MAUDE KUSSEROW is a member of Friends of Acadia and divides her time between Seal Harbor and the West Coast.

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\*indicates Wild Gardens Executive Committee member

## SNOWSHOEING SUGGESTIONS

- Jesup/Stratheden Path at Sieur de Monts
- Ship Harbor Nature Trail
- Around Lower Hadlock Pond
- Long Pond Trail, start at pump house





# BIKE BOOM AFFECTS RECREATIONAL ECOLOGY

By Devon Brock-Montgomery and Rebecca Stanley

In addition to its natural habitats and ecosystems, Acadia National Park also has a recreational ecology.

Within the broader scope of park visitation there are robust and identifiable communities of hikers, climbers, bicyclists, equestrians, skiers, and more. The varied landscape of the mountains, lakes, and shores provides innumerable opportunities for people to escape and unwind, but also can complicate management decisions regarding safety and visitor impacts. Understanding and identifying trends involving Acadia's recreation ecology is critical in maintaining a healthy environment and a satisfying visitor experience.

Bicycle use patterns in Acadia have changed greatly over the past 30 years or so. Improvements to the carriage roads, coupled with the excellent condition of the pavement on the spectacularly scenic Park Loop Road, make those destinations attractive to growing legions of riders. With more vehicles and more bicycles on the park roads now the potential for conflicts increases.

Cycle trends in Acadia have mirrored visi-

tion in that both demonstrate significant increases over the past year. Between May and August of this year, the number of bicycles ascending the Cadillac Summit Road has increased, by a conservative estimate, at least 26 percent compared to the 2017 numbers.

Bicycle use on the Schoodic Peninsula also has seen an increase, but at a more gradual rate of 9 percent; much of this was due to a 25 percent jump in May. July and August there saw decreases of around 5 percent.

The highest numbers were experienced on Mount Desert Island during June and July on the Cadillac Summit Road.

Increases in the use of all forms of transportation in the park has resulted in officials formulating a formal Transportation Plan. Cyclists have taken an active role in shaping that document, including making recommendations about wider travel lanes and safety improvements. (See related story on page 18.) Friends of Acadia supports the park's preferred alternative which will ease traffic and parking congestion. Among the many reasons FOA supports the plan is a

belief that it ultimately will make the roads safer and more attractive to cyclists.

One technology that's burgeoning within the park is that of motorized electric bicycles, also known as "e-bikes." The use of these bicycles spans different age groups and abilities. They either feature a pedal-assisted design or utilize a throttle to increase speed. Renters have the opportunity to pay for more than one battery to provide extra capacity to ride both the Park Loop road and bike up the Cadillac Summit Road. Friends of Acadia Recreation Technicians and Summit Stewards have noticed a marked increase in bicycle traffic on the mountain, particularly motorized electric bicycles.

"The use of motorized electric bicycles has nowhere to go but to increase," notes Christie Anastasia, Public Affairs Specialist for Acadia National Park.

Getting accurate use statistics is not easy. Traffic counters the park utilizes have no way of determining whether a bicycle is motorized or not, making it a difficult trend to quantify. Electric motorized bicycles are increasingly designed to look like traditional



A visitor to Acadia National Park rides past Eagle Lake while bicycling on a carriage road. Electric motorized bicycles, while allowed on paved roads, are prohibited on the carriage roads.



During the summer, members of Acadia National Park's senior staff spend some time riding along the Park Loop Road on motorized electric bicycles.

pedal bikes making them hard to tell apart, presenting a challenge for both law enforcement and visitors alike.

Bicycle accidents remain one of the most frequent types of mishaps in the park. The problem may be exacerbated with greater numbers of users on roads.

The park doesn't dismiss the new technology out of hand. After all, motorized bicycles are just another form of active transportation and take up less space and have less impact on infrastructure than cars, Anastasia says. "We support this new technology, as long as it's in the right places."

Motorized electric bicycles are allowed on motor roads however, not carriage roads, that were developed intentionally with a slower paced recreational experience in mind. "Motorized electric bicycles are allowed in most of the park," Anastasia notes. "They're allowed anywhere a motor vehicle can go; we've counted up almost 80 miles of road that they're allowed on.

"This isn't a new rule, it's just a continuation of a rule that motor vehicles aren't allowed on the carriage roads."

Robert 'Bicycle Bob' Shields, owner of Southwest Cycles in Southwest Harbor, tries to ride up Cadillac Mountain as many times each year as his age plus one. He recalls ascending Cadillac Mountain in 1984 with a group of friends when only a handful of vehicles were on the road. That is not the case today.

Noticing growth in the number of motorized electric bicycles on the road, Shields decided to provide the riding community a new service. He plans to install a motorized electric bicycle charging station in 2019. "Now a bicyclist can come from Bar Harbor to see more of the island going through Somesville, Bass Harbor, and back to Bar Harbor in one day," Shields says.

Another trend regarding bicycle visitation is that of fat tire bicycles. Thick, wider tires allow for increased traction on otherwise difficult surfaces like sand, ice, and snow.

Since fat tire bikes entered the mass market over the past eight years, the boom in popularity has translated into more Acadia winter recreationists bringing them on a visit or renting one in town. And, as if the

picture wasn't fuzzy enough, fat tire bicycles can also be purchased with electric motors.

Getting exact numbers in the off season is also difficult. Counters utilized to collect bicycle visitation numbers are removed in the wintertime when fat tire bikes are popular.

While bicycles are allowed on the carriage roads, it should be noted that any biking on carriage roads that are groomed for skiing is not permitted as it often results in trenching and user conflicts.

While statistics on bicycle use in Acadia may be difficult to collect, most park users and park staff believe it is seeing major increases.

Deciphering the patterns in Acadia's complex and changing recreational ecology, including bicycle visitation, will continue to be a complicated process. Regardless of any changes, the winding roads and unimpaired beauty of Acadia's landscape will continue to make the park the prime destination for adventurers of all types. ❄️

DEVON BROCK-MONTGOMERY AND REBECCA STANLEY are Friends of Acadia Recreational Techs.



## A RUGGED HIKE AS INSPIRATION

On a beautiful fall excursion up Dorr Mountain this past weekend, the Schneider family hiked up a series of impeccably constructed rock steps, which harmonize perfectly with the steep, cavernous walls of the Gorge. Ascending higher up the mountain, Bates cairns and blue blazes marked the way to the summit as my kids scrambled up the granite ledges.

After having lunch at the top, we descended the Dorr North Ridge Trail. Lower on the mountain were several trail sections that obviously had not seen much trail maintenance in many years. The path was unnecessarily wide and felt more like climbing down a scree slope than the thoughtfully constructed trail. On a couple of occasions my 5-year old son got tripped up on the rocks; fortunately, he escaped with only scraped up palms and knees.

The experience was a vivid reminder of the importance of keeping Acadia's trails in tip-top condition.

A hike on the trails or a bike ride on the carriage roads is often the defining experience for our visitors. Thankfully, Friends of Acadia has played a critical role in helping Acadia maintain these assets—both through endowments for the carriage roads and trails, and through the tens of thousands of volunteer hours that FOA organizes every year.

Despite these great efforts, there is still a lot of deferred maintenance in Acadia both on our trails and in other aspects of the park. Simply put, deferred maintenance is work that should have been performed on a schedule and was not. Much like the reason it's important to change the oil in your car on time, maintaining our assets will ultimately prevent much greater expense and more extensive repairs down the road.

While the park's infrastructure may look like it is in great condition, much of Acadia's deferred maintenance needs are just below the surface of what visitors see. It is



FOA/AMTT/ASHLEY CONTI

in culverts under roads, aging wastewater treatment systems, and masonry on the historic bridges.

To help address these challenges, Maine's Congressional delegation has sponsored a bipartisan bill to help provide a revenue stream to fund deferred maintenance work in parks around the country. The legislation is supported by Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke, who has made deferred maintenance one of his core priorities.

One way we are addressing deferred maintenance is by working with other partners. For example, the Blue Duck building at Islesford was leased this year to Islesford Boatworks, which is restoring the building and maintaining it at no cost to the park. And Schoodic Institute helps care for historic Rockefeller Hall and many of the other buildings on the Schoodic campus. Both of these are great "deals" for the park and our partners because they provide space for them and reduce our costs.

Some of our needs go beyond deferred maintenance. For example, the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, built in 1967, is sorely deficient for the levels of visitation we receive today. It has no exhibits or educational dis-

plays that tell the story of Acadia National Park and how and why the park was created. With the front door of the building located up a flight of 52 stairs, the center is not accessible to people with disabilities, or even to a mom or dad pushing a stroller.

And its location has emerged as a centerpiece of the transportation plan, as a possible location to provide expanded parking and better orientation.

What is really needed is a much larger, improved visitor center with more parking spaces for visitors to leave their cars behind and hop on the Island Explorer. But that project would not qualify as deferred maintenance—rather it is a capital improvement.

In some cases, we also need to review our facilities and consider what we no longer need to protect natural or cultural resources or support visitor services. If we can eliminate unnecessary facilities, we could save money and deferred maintenance would be reduced. However, there are very few assets in Acadia that aren't vital to continuing our regular operations.

Resolving our deferred maintenance backlog is complex, and we are working hard to fix the highest priority assets in Acadia. Much like a strenuous hike to the top of Dorr Mountain, the way ahead will require hard work, but the view once we get there will make it all worth it.

Thankfully, with partners like FOA, our dedicated employees and volunteers, and a supportive community, I am confident we can meet these challenges.

—Kevin Schneider

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# 'PLAYING' IS VOLUNTEER'S LATEST WAY TO GIVE

By Earl Brechlin

**H**oward Solomon makes beautiful music for Friends of Acadia.

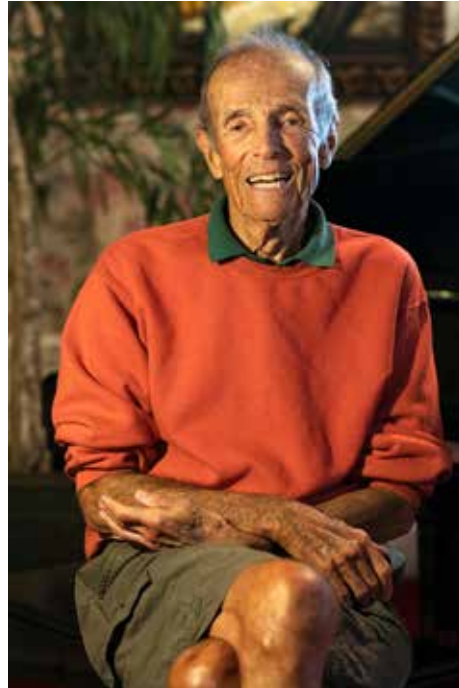
A long-time FOA supporter at every level of the organization, Solomon shares his love of music each summer by tickling the ivories several evenings a week in the lounge at the Balance Rock Inn in Bar Harbor.

"Music has always been a big part of my life and playing at the inn has been a great experience," Solomon says.

Taking a short walk over from his nearby home, he plays for free, happy to have access to a grand piano upon which to hone his talent. Guests gather round, sometimes making polite requests, and more important for FOA, putting tips in his jar. You see, along with his regular membership, and frequent generous donations, Solomon also gives all the tips he receives to FOA.

In return, guests at the inn get to enjoy some of the several hundred tunes Solomon plays regularly. "I don't sing. I just play songs from the great American songbook," he continues. "I do songs by Gershwin, Jerome Kern, or maybe Cole Porter, and I also give plugs for folks to join Friends of Acadia."

Solomon, now a vibrant 87-year-old, first



FOA/JULIA WALKER-THOMAS

*Howard Solomon donates tips from his evening piano performances at the Balance Rock Inn in Bar Harbor to Friends of Acadia.*

learned how to play when he was age 5.

He shelved his keyboard aspirations for several years, switching to the ukulele while at Yale and Columbia Law School, and guitar while in the Army.

Eventually he came back around to the piano. "I noticed the guy at the piano always seemed to be surrounded by beautiful co-eds," he laughs.

Inspired by a colleague to come to Mount Desert Island for a vacation, Solomon and his wife Dee, who passed away two years ago after 52 years of marriage, soon found themselves visiting Maine regularly. Following the path of so many others, they stayed at Blackwoods Campground, in bed and breakfasts, and then graduated to renting a house. Eventually, after Howard retired from two decades as a mediator in labor dispute resolution with the National Labor Relations Board, other federal agencies, and in India, the couple built a home in Bar Harbor and divided their time between MDI and Maryland. He now spends four months in Bar Harbor and eight months in Bethesda. "I really cherish my time here," he says. "There's nothing like small-town living."

During those early years Solomon befriended Ken Sergeson through involvement with the Downeast Outing Club. One of the members of that group, Marianne Edwards, went on to help found FOA.

The camaraderie of working together on  
*continued on page 30*

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FOV JULIA WALKER-THOMAS

A flock of wild turkeys forage for winter food in Acadia National Park.

## ACADIA'S WILDLIFE IN WINTER

### *Wondrous Feats of Migration, Hibernation, and Adaptation*

By Lynn Fantom

Whether migrating, hibernating, or simply sticking it out, wildlife in Acadia National Park in winter show capabilities that still astound scientists.

And within all of these survival strategies, animals—from birds and mammals to amphibians and insects—continue to adapt, says Park Wildlife Biologist Bruce Connery.

Blackpoll warblers double their weight by fall before their nonstop migration of some 2,000 miles over the Atlantic Ocean.

In low winter, black bears nap for more than 100 days without eating, drinking, or excreting, although the dormant females still give birth and suckle.

Wild turkeys stay on Mount Desert Island, moving from the roadsides into the forest, where they can scratch through as much as a foot of packed snow to find nuts.

To witness the marvel of migration, park rangers, volunteers, and visitors have gathered on the top of Cadillac Mountain every autumn since 1995. During the Hawk Watch, they see thousands of raptors—not only hawks but also falcons, ospreys, and eagles—migrate through Acadia. It may start as early as August.

“Maine is a unique scenario: it has been the crossroads of migration for thousands of

years,” says Connery. “Acadia is special because it can still function in that way.”

Like raptors, songbirds and tiny ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate south for winter, not to return until late April or May. Butterflies also take wing to escape the cold. It takes three or four generations of monarch butterflies to complete the journey to



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE GOODBLOOD CLARK

A cedar waxwing feasts on a berry after a snow storm in Acadia National Park.

Mexico, where they then hibernate in oyamel fir trees.

According to the University of Maine, scientists still don't fully understand how the monarch knows when and how to migrate such long distances to a place they have never been.

But scientists do know now that birds

have a special protein in their eyes that allows them to visualize the Earth's magnetic fields to navigate. In addition, birds are highly adaptable as they journey south. “They may have routes 1, 2, and 3, but they pick their best option based on weather, food, and predators,” explains Connery. Many larger mammals in Acadia remain active all winter. “The white-tailed deer has developed a remarkable set of adaptations that enable the species to survive the deep snow and cold temperatures that occur in Maine,” say Joe Wiley and Chuck Hulse, wildlife biologists at the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, in an article “Living on the Edge.” One example: the hair of a deer's winter coat has hollow shafts, to trap more warmth, though the hairs are solid in summer. Like other mammals, deer build up body fat in the fall that serves as both an energy reserve and insulation. But they also change their behavior.

Family units amass into larger groups and move together to winter habitats that represent only 5 to 15 percent of their summer range. They choose areas of thick tree cover that reduces wind and snow depths. While moving about, they create a communal trail network to escape predators swiftly and save energy. “For deer, this is the differ-



ence between life and death,” say wildlife biologists.

But this doesn't always protect them from coyotes, which hunt them in packs and feed on their carrion. Coyotes in Acadia also prey on snowshoe hare, despite the hare's winter-white camouflage and large hind feet that help it bound through the snow.

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## Winter brings temperatures to Acadia sometimes cold enough to freeze salt water to the rocks at Thunder Hole.

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Another survival strategy is hibernation. Many mammals, including chipmunks, raccoons, and bears, enter various levels of dormancy, in which their breathing, heart rates, and metabolism slow. To exist like this, they need less energy and thus less food. Bats and woodchuck, considered true hibernators, drop their body temperatures near that of their surroundings.

In winter, some species literally go to ground. Insects and worms migrate deeper into the soil. Earthworms travel as far down as six feet.

Cold-blooded fish, aquatic frogs, and turtles also go into a dormant state after moving to the muddy bottom of lakes and ponds. Through their skin, they absorb the oxygen in the water (which increases when it's cold).

Similarly, terrestrial frogs burrow down below the frost line. Not all frogs are talented diggers, however. The wood frogs and spring peepers, which favor Acadia's boreal forests and wetlands, instead retreat into the

crevices of logs or rocks. Here they may partially freeze. But they don't die – saved by a high concentration of glucose in their vital organs that performs like antifreeze.

Winter brings temperatures to Acadia sometimes cold enough to freeze salt water to the rocks at Thunder Hole. To survive, the wildlife remaining on the island must both withstand the frigid temperatures and find food.

But winter may be the best time to see certain wildlife, says Connery.

For example, North American river otters, slender and serpentine, are fast on land and can stay underwater for up to eight minutes, so they may elude a sighting in summer. In winter, however, it's possible to see them eating or sometimes grooming themselves on the ice.

According to Connery, river otters may be so focused on a shore dinner of mussels and clams that they will not notice observers.

Birds that remain on Mount Desert Island also have developed impressive skills to survive. During winter, chickadees, tufted titmice, nuthatches, cardinals, purple finches, and woodpeckers are among those foraging for dormant insects, nuts, and seeds. Anna K. Stunkel, a College of the Atlantic alumna who wrote “A Natural History Guide to the Birds of Mount Desert Island, Maine,” has noted that chickadees store seeds in bark crevices and, with “remarkable memory,” can find them weeks later.

Birds adapt to winter by growing extra feathers and fluffing them out for insulation. They may stand on one foot, while pulling the other close to the body. Like kids waiting for a school bus, they switch feet. They



PHOTO COURTESY OF ANNIE COHEN

*Tracks left in a dusting of snow atop a frozen pond reveal the recent passage of an otter.*

shiver, too, getting heat from circulation and muscle movement. Small birds, such as chickadees and titmice, huddle together at night in small spaces to share body heat.

When it comes to contemplating nature's myriad adaptations to winter in Acadia, an inscription at the entry to Park Headquarters says it all—“Nature teaches humility and tolerance.”

It also leaves us in awe. ✱

LYNN FANTOM, freelance writer and Chair Emerita of the advertising agency ID Media in Manhattan, is a resident of Somesville.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KIMBERLY SWAN

*A white-tailed deer doesn't appear to mind the snow in woods along the Schooner Head Road.*



PHOTO COURTESY OF JULIE GOODBLOOD CLARK

*A downy woodpecker searches for a meal beneath the bark of a rotting birch tree in Acadia National Park.*

# CREWS READY ACADIA FOR WINTER SLUMBER

By Earl Brechlin

As Acadia's flora and fauna hunker down for another winter, the human stewards of the park are hard at work preparing its infrastructure and utility systems for the indignities of the cold weather ahead.

The park's maintenance staff, the largest single division at Acadia, cares for 175 buildings, 16 individual water supply systems, 19 sewer systems, and 49 comfort stations and waterless toilets. Each fall requires a carefully choreographed effort that maximizes the labors of the handful of workers who remain after seasonal positions end.

"The challenge has become getting it all done in fall as the visitation season gets longer and longer," says Keith Johnston, Chief of Facilities for the park. "It's getting colder, and we need to turn things off, but it is still really busy," he explains. "Staff plummets at the same time."

Despite a department of nearly 100 people in summer, the crew shrinks to just 25 in winter. That's four fewer positions than 30 years ago. And, the park still has only one plumber and one electrician on staff year-round.

Draining the park's water systems is a top priority. Most are designed for seasonal use only with feeder lines laying on top of the ground. The largest network is seven miles long. It begins at Jordan Pond and services the Wildwood Stables, continuing to Blackwoods Campground and on to Sand Beach. All pipes, fixtures, and storage tanks have to be drained and compressed air forced through them to make sure no water is left in low spots where it could freeze. Miss just one and, according to Johnston, "you'll have an ice fountain in the spring."

Winterizing facilities at Schoodic, where the park maintains 32 buildings, is especially challenging because the infrastructure at the

former Navy base was never designed to be scaled back in winter. "Two or three years ago we had the water tower there freeze solid even though there's a heater in it," explains Johnston. "It took us a month and a half to thaw it out."

In addition to draining the water lines at Seawall Campground and at Blackwoods, crews must also take more than a dozen restroom buildings off line. At Blackwoods, just one pit toilet and a hand-pump well remain available for winter campers.

Atop Cadillac Mountain septic tanks must be pumped dry or they will freeze solid.

Next on the list comes mothballing the scores of housing units in the 21 buildings used by seasonal workers. Along with plumbing issues, crews also have to take steps to reduce potential damage from mice and other rodents. "It's almost an impossible task," says Johnston.



Acadia National Park plumber Jeff Chamberlain works on draining a seasonal water line at Wildwood Stables to prevent damage from the winter freeze-up.

FOA/JULIA WALKER-THOMAS



Historic structures such as the Rockefeller Gate House have some heat left on inside all winter.

One area where Friends of Acadia volunteers are especially appreciated is in helping to put the park's 45 miles of carriage roads to bed for the winter. Those roads include 67 miles of ditches. On Take Pride in Acadia Day each November, as many as 500 FOA volunteers fan out to remove leaves from the ditches so dams won't form during winter thaws or heavy fall or spring rain events. This prevents rushing water from cutting through road surfaces that then require expensive, major repair efforts each spring. "Take Pride in Acadia Day really makes a huge difference," Johnston says.

Along with buildings and utility systems, Acadia has an enormous fleet of vehicles that must be maintained. The park has 162 cars, trucks, and pieces of heavy equipment. There are also six boats and scores of small motors on chainsaws, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, and string trimmers.

The park's two mechanics take around 100 of the vehicles out of service for the winter by removing batteries and topping off antifreeze. Again, minimizing rodent damage is a major challenge. "They chew on wires and hoses and get inside filter

housings and chew those," Johnston explains.

In the fall, park crews also have to get snow removal equipment ready, as well as the snowmobiles and units used by FOA's Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteers to groom the ski trails.

To keep it all on track, Johnston and his crews follow a pre-planned schedule.

All paved roads not open in winter are gated and locked by December 1. Restrooms, with the exception of the one at Fabbri that is heated year-round, are gradually shut down. The park's 235 trash cans are covered and protected from the weather.

Not long after getting it all done, crews will begin making plans to do it all again—in reverse order. And, they will begin fanning out on roads and trails with chain saws and other equipment to remove blowdowns and any rockslides that occur.

"It used to be we had until Memorial Day to get things ready and could start closing down any time after Labor Day," Johnston explains. "The window to do all this work seems to be getting smaller and smaller every year." ❄

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

## Jack Perkins, *continued from page 3*

According to Perkins, he got to visit nearly every corner of Acadia while filming for Dobbs' documentaries. "The park is such an amazing place. The scenery, the beauty is just overwhelming," he says. "We loved it there. Acadia is such an inspiration."

In an interview for this article, Perkins, now age 85, praised the ongoing work of FOA to help protect and preserve the park. "It's nice to see Friends of Acadia is continuing to do vitally important work," he says.

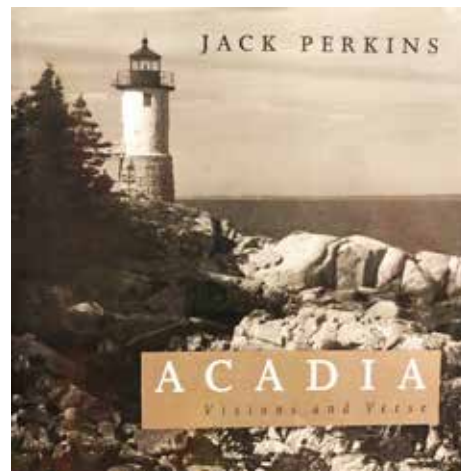
After living on Bar Island for 15 years, Jack and Mary Jo moved to Florida to an island, Casey Key, just outside Sarasota, in 1999. Ironically, among the couple's neighbors there is the man whom Perkins credits with sparking his love affair with Maine—Stephen King.

In the time since, he has continued to tell stories, take photographs, and share the wonder of the natural world around him.

"We look back on living in Maine and spending time in Acadia National Park with

great fondness," Perkins says. "It is truly one of the most special places in the world." ❄

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.



Jack Perkins' large-format, black and white photography, and original poems, were featured in the book "Acadia Visions and Verse."

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# DRAFT PLAN EYES FIX FOR CONGESTION

By Devon Brock-Montgomery

Traffic backups and congestion that prompted the temporary closing of the Cadillac Mountain Summit Road more than 50 times this past summer only underscored the need for Acadia to move forward with its transportation plan process. On some days at sunrise more than 450 cars attempted to cram into the area that only has 150 actual parking spots.

Isabella Connelly, a Friends of Acadia Summit Steward, spent a lot of time on Cadillac Mountain this summer. She helped educate visitors on Leave No Trace principles, answered questions, and assisted in initiating the road closure process.

“If it’s midday, we wait until traffic has backed up to the Blue Hill Overlook,” she explains. “If it’s backed up to that point, and it hasn’t moved for five minutes, we call it into dispatch and a ranger comes to the base and closes the road. That’s a serious backup at that point.”

Traffic congestion on Cadillac is no small inconvenience. There were more than 70 temporary closures during 2017 alone.

What if instead of scenic shorelines and granite peaks, Acadia becomes known for traffic congestion? Out of 417 units managed by the National Park Service last year, Acadia was the seventh most visited at 3.5 million visits a year. Managing visitation that only continues to grow has become a complex dilemma that the National Park Service plans to address through its upcoming transportation plan process.

Emphasizing outreach and community engagement, the Park Service earlier this year held a number of open houses both in-person and online, as well as shared a draft environmental impact statement newsletter during a 60-day public comment period.

Almost five hundred comments were received regarding the preferred alternative. Among other management actions it would institute a reservation system for Cadillac Mountain, Jordan Pond, and the Ocean Drive corridor, update infrastructure at Hull’s Cove Visitor Center, and establish off-road parking at Eagle Lake. All comments were reviewed by park staff. A few major themes emerged.

Many commenters recommended restrict-

ing large vehicles, such as buses and RVs, on both the Park Loop Road and the Cadillac Summit Road during periods of congestion. Support for developing additional parking lots and entrance stations was voiced, but caution was urged regarding how backups in traffic could affect traffic patterns in local communities.

Bicycle transport was also included in many comments. Requests for development of increased access for bicyclists were noted, as well as suggestions for wider travel lanes and road shoulders to improve safety. Improved and expanded signage was urged.

Public transit was often supported as a potential solution for congestion. Developing a transit-only system that excludes private vehicles (such as is used at Zion National Park) got mixed reviews. Commenters worried that it could exclude elderly individuals or those,

changes, potentially via a discounted pass.

In April, Friends of Acadia released a statement that emphasized its support for the fundamental direction of the park’s preferred alternative. “Acadia sees one million more visits annually than it did a decade ago,” FOA President and CEO David MacDonald commented. “This planning effort is absolutely essential... The status quo is no longer a viable option, and we applaud the park for tackling this complex issue.”

Over the course of this winter, Park Service staff will respond to all comments, develop a final environmental impact statement and transportation management plan, and issue a record of decision, according to Christie Anastasia, Public Affairs Specialist for Acadia National Park.

Preliminary reservation systems for Cadillac Mountain, Jordan Pond, and the Ocean Drive



Cars parked illegally make it difficult for vehicles to safely pass on a two-way section of the Park Loop Road.

such as climbers and photographers, who often need to carry extra equipment. Many agreed that extended hours of operation for Island Explorer buses would be beneficial.

The reservation system outlined in the Park Service’s preferred alternative drew a wide variety of responses. Some believe that reservations were long overdue, while others thought their user group should be exempt from such a system. Overall, many commenters hoped that adaptability and flexibility for those planning a trip would be prioritized under the proposed changes.

A number of commenters requested differential treatment for residents amidst these

corridor will likely not be in place until 2020 or beyond, after the final environmental impact statement is signed.

The National Park Service has released a 28-page summary of the transportation plan comments that can be accessed at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov>. With significant changes such as these, underscoring communication and cooperation in the coming days will help all those who love Acadia to protect it. ✱

DEVON BROCK-MONTGOMERY served this past summer as one of Friends of Acadia’s Recreation Techs.



## IN NOMINEE

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# TEACHERS HONE OUTDOOR SKILLS

By Stephanie Clement

Public school teachers from Trenton, Southwest Harbor, Tremont, and Swans Island gathered with Acadia National Park education rangers, representatives from the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary, and the 2018 Acadia Teacher Fellows in June to discuss curricula for outdoor classrooms. The group also toured the Trenton Elementary School's outdoor spaces and mapped out the possibilities for outdoor classrooms at their own schools.

The day was planned by education staff at Acadia National Park in conjunction with the Mount Desert Island Regional School System (AOS-91). Friends of Acadia provided stipends to the participating teachers, covered refreshment costs, and funded a National Park Service Education Ranger, Mackette McCormack, to help develop ideas for outdoor education curricula leading into the workshop.

The morning began with Ranger McCormack presenting ideas for lessons that teachers in grades K-5 might use to integrate the Next Generation Science standards with learning about Leave No Trace (LNT) ethics, safety messages, and ranger-led activities or field trips in the park.

For instance, if kindergarten students are supposed to be learning about how habitats are different from one another, teachers could opt for a sensory walk along the Jesup Path, explain the LNT principle to "Leave what you Find," and help kids learn about preparing for hikes and checking for ticks.

The presentation was followed by a tour through Trenton's outdoor classroom areas and discussions about safety considerations in the field.

Trenton was one of the first recipients of Friends of Acadia's outdoor classroom grants. Their school campus now features paths (constructed with assistance from FOA volunteers) through diverse forest habitats, shelters built by the students, a pollinator garden, and an orchard. Teachers are thinking about outfitting one of the dugouts at the athletic field with hatches to serve as blinds for observing birds at the edge of the forest.

After the tour, teachers from each school created maps of their own school grounds and discussed possibilities for the structure and theme of their outdoor classrooms. Potential themes had been suggested based on habitats easily accessible from each school.

For instance, the Tremont Consolidated School borders the Bass Harbor Marsh, so salt marsh stewardship was identified as a possible theme. As the Tremont teachers talked, their ideas broadened into an outdoor classroom trail that featured multiple habitats around the school, including the marsh, a pond, the coniferous forest, a meadow, and a wetland.

Similarly, the Pemetec Elementary School in Southwest Harbor is not far from Beech Mountain and the Charlotte Rhoades Butterfly Garden, so a focus on migratory species, such as raptors and butterflies, was suggested. As

*continued on page 24*



Participants in Friends of Acadia's Outdoor Classrooms and Acadia Teacher Fellows programs explore a survival encampment that is part of the Trenton Elementary School's facilities.



## Member and Friend Survey Coming in Early 2019

Some decisions are just too important to rely on guess work, especially those having to do with you, our members, donors, and volunteers. That is why Friends of Acadia is conducting a “Member and Friend Survey” in early January.

Every ten years or so FOA conducts an objective, unbiased, comprehensive survey to help us tackle critical issues related to our programming, volunteerism, communications, giving, and membership. We are fortunate to be guided in this process by Brian Robertson, longtime FOA member and Vice President for Research at Market Decisions Research. “We are thankful for Brian’s help now and would really benefit from broad participation from our members early next year,” said Director of Development and Donor Relations Lisa Horsch Clark.

The anonymous survey will be distributed via email. You may also see a link to access it on our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages. If you prefer, we can mail one to you. Call 288-3340 or email [info@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:info@friendsofacadia.org).

## Employer Match Increases Giving

More than 20,000 U.S. companies set

aside money to match qualified donations by their employees and retirees. By taking advantage of your employer’s matching gift program, you can double or even triple both the value and impact of your donation to Friends of Acadia.

As we build a stronger community at Friends of Acadia, you can maximize your giving using these great philanthropic tools.

To find out more, visit [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org), and click on Matching Gifts on the giving and membership page. There will also be opportunities to take an online survey and enter to win an exceptional Acadia prize package including copies of “Acadia National Park, a Centennial Celebration,” and “Creating Acadia National Park, The Biography of George Bucknam Dorr,” a Friends of Acadia t-shirt, hat, and water bottle, and a year’s membership for you, a friend, or someone you love.

## Canon U.S.A. Partnership Helps to Protect Acadia

For the last six years, Canon U.S.A. has been a significant sponsor of Wild Acadia, a Friends of Acadia initiative to help restore and protect ecological integrity at Acadia National Park and ensure that the park’s natural resources have the resiliency to

survive climate change and its associated environmental stressors. A team from Canon U.S.A. visited Acadia this past summer to learn about the projects Canon U.S.A.’s funding has made possible.

In addition to attending the Friends of Acadia Annual Meeting, the Canon U.S.A. group traveled to Jordan Pond to meet with Acadia National Park Air and Water Quality Specialist, Bill Gawley, and University of Maine Aquatic Scientist and PhD student, Rachel Fowler, and viewed the water quality monitoring buoy up close. Every 15 minutes, the buoy provides data about pH, temperature, chlorophyll content, dissolved oxygen, etc. in the water column. Scientists can use this information, paired with weather data from a monitor at the Jordan Pond House, to study long-term trends at Maine’s clearest lake. Visit [jpbuoy.com](http://jpbuoy.com) to see the real-time data during the season the buoy is deployed.

As part of Wild Acadia, Canon U.S.A. also supports the work of the Acadia National Park’s Exotic Plant Management Team (EPMT). The Canon U.S.A. delegation took a walk along the Jesup Path with Jesse Wheeler, the EPMT’s Coordinator, to learn about glossy buckthorn, one of 26 invasive plant species Acadia is managing. While at Sieur de Monts, the group also met with Wild Acadia Coordinator Brian Henkel, and Roger St. Amand of Atlantic Resource Company, to view the wetland at the former septic field. Acadia National Park connected the Sieur de Monts restrooms to the Bar Harbor sewer system, and Canon U.S.A.’s funding is enabling Friends of Acadia and the park to restore the former septic system site so that it functions similarly to the surrounding forested wetland.

In addition to funding Wild Acadia, Canon U.S.A. has supplied high quality photography equipment to Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service. The park is currently experimenting with a movable webcam to connect visitors digitally with park resources, especially in remote locations where power and Internet connectivity are challenges. The Acadia Youth Technology Team (AYTT) also




FOA/JULIA WALKER-THOMAS

**Despite high winds and heavy downpours** nearly 300 people turned out for the Annual Take Pride in Acadia Day events on Saturday, November 3. Crews fanned out across the Carriage Road system to help clear culverts and remove leaves from ditches along nine miles of roads. After the morning’s work, crews returned to park headquarters for a hot lunch—the event’s traditional “CCC” meal of chili, cornbread, and cider (plus an extra “C” of cake).

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FOA/EARL BRECHLIN

Members of Friends of Acadia's George B. Dorr Society enjoy hearing about the history of Fernald Point during the group's annual luncheon in July.

benefitted from Canon U.S.A.'s gifts, and they shared their photographs with the Canon U.S.A. group. Several of their images were also shared nationally by Canon U.S.A. through its newsletters and social media posts.

Friends of Acadia is grateful for the support of Canon U.S.A. Its gifts help ensure that Acadia will remain an intact natural wonder with great beauty for all to enjoy.

### Dorr Society Enjoys Special History Talk

A special celebration of and for the members of the George B. Dorr Society, Friends of Acadia's planned giving circle, brought together more than sixty guests at the home of FOA Honorary Trustee Ann Rockefeller Roberts and her daughter, Mary Louise Pierson, on Somes Sound at Fernald Point in July.

Guest speakers Cinnamon Catlin-Legutko, President and CEO of the Abbe Museum, and Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Protection at Acadia National Park, shared the importance of Fernald Point, both to native people and early settlers of European descent.

Mary Louise also shared stories about her beautiful family home. David MacDonald, President of Friends of Acadia, communicated his appreciation for the dedicated group of donors and all they will do to help preserve and protect Acadia.

Guests toured gardens, walked along the historic shore, and were treated to a buffet luncheon provided by the Jordan Pond House featuring their signature lobster rolls and other delicious sandwiches, salads, and desserts.

The Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park. The society was established in 2005 and has grown to more than 80 member families.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate or some other deferred gift vehicle, or would like information about becoming a member of the George B. Dorr Society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, director of development and donor relations, at 207-288-3340 or [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org).

### Island Explorer Sets New Record

The Island Explorer broke another ridership record in 2018, carrying 624,076 passengers over the summer and fall, a 7.4 percent increase over 2017.

The most popular route continues to be the Eden Street route, which connects hotels along Route 3 with downtown Bar Harbor.

The season went smoothly despite increased demand and the Route 3 road construction. The summer peak daily ridership was 9,602 passengers on August 8. The fall peak daily ridership was 5,200 passengers on September 2.

Downeast Transportation successfully recruited a full roster of drivers this year and has ordered new buses to replace older models. Island Explorer usage continues to increase at a faster pace than park visitation, which at the end of September was up by 1.1 percent over 2017.

Island Explorer partners will be meeting over the winter to consider ideas for future growth,

especially in conjunction with Acadia National Park's draft transportation plan.

### Night Sky Fest Draws Crowd

The 10th annual Acadia Night Sky Festival, September 5-9, was heralded by many as a starry success. The festival featured arts events, night sky photography workshops, boat cruises, a planetarium, and talks by volunteer astronomers, astronauts, teachers, and scientists.

Star parties at Seawall Picnic Area and Cadillac Mountain introduced more than 1,700 people to the brilliance of Acadia's celestial show.

Festival organizers implemented a parking reservation system for the first time this year. Visitors hoping to attend the star party via the shuttle buses to the Cadillac summit had to pay a small fee for a parking reservation at Mount Desert Island High School. Visitors with disabilities could still access the mountain via private vehicle. Reservations sold out, but the new system was well received and created a more relaxed, enjoyable experience for everyone.

Friends of Acadia supported the festival by equipping and helping to organize volunteers for the star parties, as well as providing a grant for programming. Visit: [www.acadia.nightskyfestival.org](http://www.acadia.nightskyfestival.org).



FOA/ATTI/WILL NEWTON

Auctioneer Lydia Fenet of Christie's acknowledges bids during the FOA Annual Benefit Paddle Raise that brought in a record \$389,000 to protect the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse.

### Paddles Up For Lighthouse Work

The big white tents on the lawn of the Asticou Inn were brimming again this August when more than 500 supporters gathered to celebrate conservation, community, and

philanthropy in Acadia at the 29th Annual Benefit. The event is always a labor of love, thanks to volunteers, artists, donors, businesses, and friends who come together to show their support for Acadia.

This year we were incredibly grateful for the hard work of our Host Committee—Gail Clark, Lydia Kimball, Betsy Mills, Laura Pierce, and Lynne Wheat—who led the Benefit Committee's planning effort.

Auctioneer Lydia Fenet of Christie's inspired the crowd during the Paddle Raise to collectively contribute a record \$389,000 to protect the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse. While much of the surrounding land has long been a part of the park, the lighthouse structures, including the tower, keeper's house, garages and generator buildings, are U.S. Coast Guard property. Funds are needed to address outstanding maintenance and preservation needs, along with future work to facilitate public access and to repurpose the facilities.

Thanks to FOA donors, this icon of the Maine coast will be protected for generations to come. Visit [FriendsOfAcadia.org/BassHarbor](http://FriendsOfAcadia.org/BassHarbor) to see a video about the lighthouse acquisition where you can also donate to support the project.

Additional funds raised at the Benefit help FOA support many other park initiatives in-



**NEW DIRECTORS** At the annual meeting in July, Friends of Acadia welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors. They include, from left, landscape architect Sam Coplon, attorney Margaret Jeffery, and climate change researcher Paul Mayewski. FOA Chair Anne Green praised the service of retiring board members including Brownie Carson, Jill Goldthwait, Linda Jensen, and Jack Russell.

cluding the Island Explorer bus system, youth programs, natural resource restoration, and trail and carriage road maintenance.

Special thanks to the Chilton Trust Company, which has been the event's top corporate sponsor since 2014.

Planning is already underway for next year's 30th Anniversary Benefit, set for August 10, 2019. To learn more, including how to donate an item to the silent or live auctions, contact Shawn Keeley, senior development officer, at 207-288-3340 or [shawn@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:shawn@friendsofacadia.org). ❄️

### Teachers *continued from page 20*

teachers thought about the Pemetic campus, however, they identified stations around the perimeter of the grounds that students could visit throughout the year for sensory experiences, writing, and phenology studies.

The Acadia Teacher fellows attended the workshop. Later, they spent a portion of their summer schedules creating more accurate maps for each school and developing more specific activities for teachers and students to collect and analyze field data related to migration and phenology. The fellows also benefited from information and demonstrations at a workshop about online educational resources, such as iNaturalist and Signs of the Season: A New England Phenology Program.

The National Park Service and MDI Regional School System are forming a team to continue adapting the work of the Acadia Teacher Fellows for area schools.

In addition to being a valuable training opportunity for educators, the June 2018 outdoor classrooms workshop linked several of FOA's youth initiatives and investments in education. By supporting education rangers partially dedicated to school engagement, by funding outdoor classroom spaces, and by supporting teachers through long-term opportunities like the Acadia Teacher Fellowship, and short-term training sessions and park field trips, Friends of Acadia is advancing greater environmental literacy and connections to Acadia National Park. ❄️



FOA/JULIA WALKER-THOMAS

**VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION** Nearly 100 Friends of Acadia volunteers turned out to enjoy an evening of food, fellowship, and fun at FOA's Volunteer Recognition event in September at Mainerly Meat BBQ in Town Hill. Above, FOA President David MacDonald chats with volunteers Jean Bell and Yvonne Johnson.



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MARY SHEA



# HONORARY TRUSTEES REMEMBERED

Friends of Acadia lost three of its Honorary Trustees this past summer with the passing of Patricia H. Blake, Janneke S. Neilson, and Nathaniel P. Reed. All three played important roles in the life of this organization via their engagement, advocacy, and philanthropy. Honorary



Patricia Blake

Trustees also are often called upon for advice and assistance in continuing to fulfill FOA's mission.

"Each of them was visionary and a committed leader here at Acadia and instrumental to FOA's early years and growth," said Friends of Acadia President and CEO David MacDonald. "They remained involved in recent years as generous donors and by providing wise counsel," he continued. "Acadia and FOA have lost some of our most passionate defenders."

Together, these three individuals gave back to Acadia and our MDI communities



Janneke Neilson

in so many ways at the local, state, and even national level. Blake and Neilson were key to forging strong ties over the years with area garden clubs, conservation groups, and landowners. Reed drew on his experience as a senior official within the Department of the Interior to benefit Acadia, particularly the Schoodic unit, given his deep love and ties to his home at Grindstone Neck in Winter Harbor. He also had a hand in creating and defending milestone environmental policies benefiting Acadia, such as the Clean Water Act and Endangered Species Act.



Nathaniel Reed

MacDonald recounts a story that illustrates the thoughtfulness of these long-time champions and their personal commitments to the park: "Pat Blake called us last summer as she and Curtis were going through some of their furnishings for their Northeast Harbor home. 'At our age, we are not supposed to have loose rugs underfoot—they are too likely to cause one of us to fall,' she said. She wanted us to have a gorgeous hand-stitched rug that featured wildflowers of Acadia, that she had purchased at one of the very first FOA Benefit Auctions. She wanted us to 'sell it again,' which we did last year, and it attracted tremendous interest and bidding, eventually raising another \$24,000 for Acadia.

"Pat, Janneke, and Nat all shared that spirit, and their collective impact on Acadia is an inspiring legacy," MacDonald said. ❁

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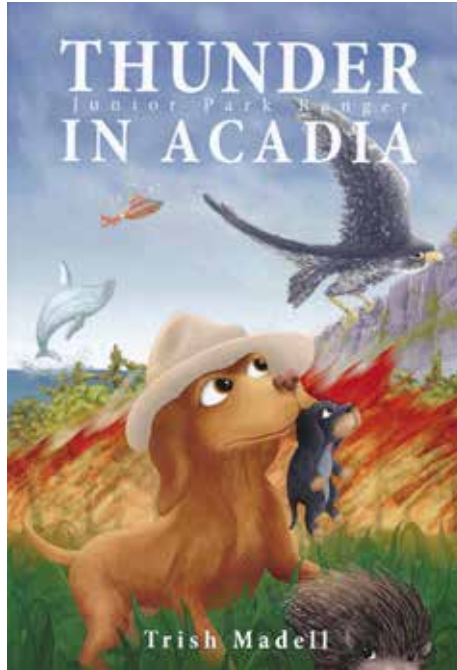
# Thunder in Acadia

Review by Sharon Broom

**T**hunder is a junior ranger and indispensable partner to Ranger Mike in Acadia National Park. He just happens to be a dog—a Hungarian vizsla, to be exact, with a shiny copper coat. His adventures with his animal pals, all of whom talk, make for fun reading for kids and adults alike.

We first met Thunder in author Trish Madell's first book, *Thunder: Junior Park Ranger*, set in Vicksburg National Military Park where Ranger Mike worked before coming to Acadia. Thunder has to figure out how to navigate Acadia, a very different park with unfamiliar wildlife and much colder water, but he's a quick study. As Ranger Mike's duties change from day to day, Thunder's responsibilities change as well. When Ranger Mike is assigned as the interpreter on a whale watch, Thunder is the interpreter for the passengers' pets. He meets two humpback whales, Piper and Pearl, who show off the synchronized breaching routine they have created to entertain passengers.

But it's not all fun and games. As the days go by, Thunder's adventures become more challenging. A child separated from her parents, a dog separated from her humans, a porcupine in trouble, a whale in danger, even a wildfire—all of these situations call



on Thunder's ingenuity. Courteous and courageous, Thunder is a natural born leader who often enlists other animals in coming to the rescue.

Perhaps the greatest strength of the books is Madell's ability to weave together exciting adventure stories with sound knowledge about animals in the wild. Thunder befriends an injured peregrine falcon named Perrot and makes sure the bird is treated by

a wildlife specialist so he can fly back to his mate and chicks in the nest. As we read Perrot's story, we learn about peregrines' incredibly sharp vision and ability to dive for prey at more than 200 mph, making them the fastest member of the animal kingdom. We also learn that peregrines and other birds of prey were almost wiped out by DDT before they became protected by law. As a ranger, Thunder knows all about protected species and he educates visiting animals about making sure not to harm wildlife.

*Thunder in Acadia* is a charming and entertaining read that gently reinforces the importance of responsible animal and human behavior in wild areas. Although Madell wrote her Thunder books with children in mind, they are delightful for adults as well and contain great stories to read at bedtime. Acadia area residents and frequent visitors will especially enjoy the familiar settings and events such as the Fourth of July celebration and Acadia Night Sky Festival.

Throughout the book, Madell includes whimsical elements that add to the fun. Ranger Mike's snarky cat, Spot, threatens to upload embarrassing photos of Thunder onto her YouTube channel. By the way, it's a little-known fact that Bark Ranger, the name of the animal safety program in dog-friendly national parks, was actually Thunder's idea.

In real life, Thunder lives in Bar Harbor with his humans, Trish and Mike Madell. Mike is deputy superintendent of Acadia. Thunder's role is unofficial. ✨

*Thunder in Acadia* is available at Sherman's Book Store and online.

SHARON BROOM is a Development Officer at Friends of Acadia.

*Thunder in Acadia*  
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Author Trish Madell and Thunder.

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## Howard Solomon, *continued from page 13*

Acadia's trails, a supportive park staff, and the close relationships he and Dee formed with other park lovers, only deepened their connection to the park and their desire to do more with FOA. "We were, and are all, dedicated to the same thing," Solomon says. "We were trying to give back, to do something to help Acadia."

Over the years, Solomon has served as a volunteer trail crew leader, membership

table volunteer, and FOA board member. He remains an Honorary Trustee. In all, he and Dee contributed thousands of hours of volunteer labor to the park. And, he is credited with founding the organization's "Imprecision Drill Team" that performs regularly in local parades.

Inspired by the marching units featuring people wearing business suits and doing coordinated movements with briefcases he'd

seen in places like New York and Washington, D.C., Solomon started an outdoorsy FOA version. Participants march in pre-set patterns with rakes, shovels, wheelbarrows and plastic buckets during the Bar Harbor 4th of July Parade and the Flamingo Festival Parade in Southwest Harbor.

"Howard is one of the people who makes FOA feel like an extended family. He clearly loves Acadia, but he also cares deeply for the people here. That's a powerful combination and a constant source of inspiration for many of us," says FOA President David MacDonald.

At the Balance Rock Inn, Solomon plays later in the evening, after a prime time show by area entertainer Roberta DeMuro. "It's a quieter time of night. Some folks just listen, others appreciate the background for quiet conversations," Solomon explains. On most nights a half-dozen guests or so will gather round. Other evenings it is more.



FOA ARTIST WILL NEWTON

Members of Friends of Acadia's "Imprecision Drill Team" march in Bar Harbor's 4th of July Parade.

**"Without music, life would be a mistake."**

**— Howard Solomon**

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"Sometimes it's only a few dollars in tips but it all adds up," says Solomon. One night, an older couple spent an hour listening to him play. "The husband slid me \$50 while his wife was out of the room," he explains. "As they were leaving she gave me a \$100 bill."

Solomon explains that he gets far more out of the experience of playing at the Balance Rock Inn than those who enjoy his music. "It's a real blessing and great privilege to be there. I have a great view out over the Shore Path to the bay. I look out and see the water and get to play music.

"I come back so relaxed," he continues. "Without music, life would be a mistake." ✨

EARL BRECHLIN is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director

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## Park Bills Getting Bipartisan Attention

By Stephanie Clement

The wheels of Congress continue to move slowly, but Friends of Acadia remains hopeful that several bills benefiting the National Park System will make it past the finish line this year.

The backlog of deferred maintenance projects in national parks is estimated at approximately \$11.6 billion total, and Acadia's backlog accounts for \$59.9 million of that. Maine became the first state in the nation where the entire Congressional delegation co-sponsored landmark legislation to reduce the backlog. The *Restore Our Parks Act* (S. 3172) and *Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act* (H.R. 6510) would direct up to \$1.3 billion annually for five years toward deferred maintenance projects from unallocated energy development revenues. The Senate and House versions of the bill have passed through appropriate committees and await further action. The final bill is anticipated to look more like H.R. 6510 as amended, which sets aside 80 percent of the funding for the National Park Service and 20 percent of the funding for three other federal agencies.

Senator Angus King, Congressman Bruce Poliquin, and representatives from Senator Susan Collins' and Congresswoman Chellie Pingree's offices toured Acadia's deteriorating maintenance facilities in September and joined National Park Service Acting Director Dan Smith at a press conference highlighting the importance of the deferred maintenance issue. The event was organized by the Restore America's Parks campaign of The Pew Charitable Trusts.

Friends of Acadia President David MacDonald joined the group and discussed FOA's investments to support volunteerism and the organization's philanthropic contributions to the trails and carriage roads as ways FOA is addressing park maintenance needs. MacDonald also stressed the need for robust National Park Service operating funds in order to



Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider speaks during a tour of the park's maintenance facilities in September. Acting National Park Service Director Dan Smith, members of Maine's Congressional delegation, congressional staff, Friends of Acadia representatives, and local dignitaries also participated.

prevent facilities from falling back onto the deferred maintenance list after being fixed.

Deferred maintenance is not the only national park issue receiving bipartisan attention this Congressional session. As a critical source of funding for federal and state recreation infrastructure and land acquisition in national parks and other public lands, the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) remains top-of-mind for many legislators. Unfortunately, Congress failed to reauthorize LWCF by the September 30, 2018 deadline, but all hope is not lost. Two bills (S. 569 and H.R. 502) that would permanently re-authorize the program have passed through committees in the House and the Senate. The Senate version of the bill also provides full and dedicated funding for LWCF, previously authorized at \$900 million from offshore energy development revenues. Senators Collins and King are co-sponsors of the Senate

bill, and Rep. Pingree has signed onto the H.R. 502. Both bills require passage on the floor, as well as reconciliation.

Congress has also not yet passed the Interior Appropriations bill for FY 2019, and the federal government is operating under a continuing resolution through December 7, 2018.

The National Parks Second Century Action Coalition, of which Friends of Acadia is a member, is also tracking the *Every Kid Outdoors Act* (H.R. 3186 and S. 1522) and the *21st Century Conservation Service Corps Act of 2017* (H.R. 2987 and S.1403).

Friends of Acadia would like to thank the Maine Congressional delegation and our national partners, such as Pew and the National Parks Conservation Association, for working together to support Acadia and the National Park System. ❄️

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is FOA's Director of Conservation.

## REFLECTIONS ON SUMMER'S HIGHLIGHTS

Each summer I find myself eager to switch up my usual daily routine with new experiences and trails in Acadia. Like New Year's, I start the season fresh with lofty goals. And, like many resolutions, some get accomplished and some do not come to pass.

There are always those overly-ambitious plans made with friends and family that seem to escape us as summer days evaporate off the calendar. At the same time, it is often an unexpected outing or spontaneous activity that becomes the most memorable, or the most satisfying.

This past summer I was fortunate to spend a lot of my time hiking Acadia's trails. Sometimes I would meet one of the young seasonal workers that FOA has hired to help work in the park under our Tomorrow's Stewards programs. These programs provide opportunities for youth to learn and gain community service. The stewards are doing what they love most—working outdoors in Acadia, one of the world's greatest classrooms.

In our chats I learned about some of their daily experiences on the trails. One gracious Summit Steward thanked me for supporting FOA when she noticed my coveted Acadia Centennial cap.

These youth programs are reservoirs of talent, dedication, and heart for helping FOA fulfill its mission.

Time on the trails yields many benefits. In addition to sparking inspirational conversations and nourishing meaningful friendships, new ideas can emerge and blossom while in the embrace of nature. Marianne Edwards' idea to form Friends of Acadia first materialized on a hike up Day Mountain in 1985. She wanted to form a volunteer "citizens group" to improve the dilapidated trails in Acadia. And, look how far we've come!

The crowning moment for me this year came at the end of August with the completion of a cross-island trek. The plan hatched quickly with a common re-



FOA

frain: hike as much as you feel like, and no pressure to finish! Logistics involved eight women (including two mothers and daughters) two water stops, and one spouse chauffeur on call. We covered 18 miles over nearly 12 hours, hit eight mountain summits, and took a swim in Maine's oldest lake.

According to a recent report by the University of Maine Climate Change Institute, the small shallow pond on Sargent Mountain is most likely Maine's First Lake. It dates back nearly 17,000 years when the glaciers receded. Sargent Mountain emerged as one of the first areas to be ice free. Our perfectly-timed arrival there was a "watershed" moment that provided a welcome respite and refreshing dip. The cool waters restored our drooping spirits, though we still had four peaks remaining to climb.

Throughout the hike we benefited from listening to the next generation of 20-year-olds. We shared support and motivation, formed new friendships, and enjoyed the comradery of a challenging adventure. Along the way we discovered new trails, fine-tuned map skills, and shared delicious snacks. The importance of advance planning and not being so overprepared as to be hampered by the crushing weight of an

overloaded backpack (guilty as charged) came into clear focus.

Given the heat of the day and the high numbers of park visitors one thing is clear, the park needs additional water filling stations.

During our hike I was inspired by a memorial plaque on Cadillac Mountain. The tribute to Steven Tyng Mather is set into a magnificent granite boulder near the summit, symbolizing the foundation he laid for the National Park Service. His remarkable legacy generated the policies under which park areas should be developed and conserved.

It is one of many memorials scattered across the park. Much like the granite mountains and rocky shores, they remind us of the perseverance and vision of the people to who brought Acadia to fruition.

That cross-island hike became the perfect high point to a terrific summer.

I want to thank members of the FOA board who have been incredibly busy attending events and meetings over the summer. The FOA annual meeting in July is always one of my favorite gatherings. I enjoy hearing updates from FOA President David MacDonald and Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider.

The presentation by Stephanie Clement, FOA Conservation Director, about the park programs she oversees is a crowd pleaser, as is the announcement of the annual awards.

Lastly, a bounty of thanks to all the park volunteers and to the 300 plus people who participated in Friends of Acadia's Take Pride in Acadia fall clean up last month. Throughout the year, and at every level, it takes thousands of dedicated people such as yourselves to protect and preserve this very special place.

With Gratitude,

—Anne B. Green



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THOMAS BLAGDEN

*Icicles on ledges along the Round the Mountain Carriage Road, below Parkman Mountain in Acadia National Park.*

## 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.