



ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal • SUMMER 2022

**ACADIA TRAILS
TELL A STORY**

NATIONAL REGISTER FOR ACADIA

FINDING A PLACE

HOUSING CHALLENGES
IMPACT WORK AT ACADIA

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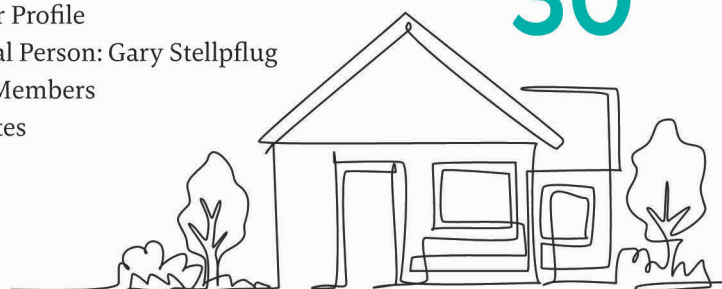
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ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

SUMMER 2022

Volume 27 No. 2

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.

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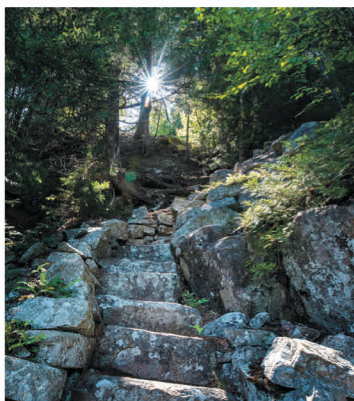
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The Perpendicular and Razorback Trails lead hikers up Bernard and Mansell mountains.

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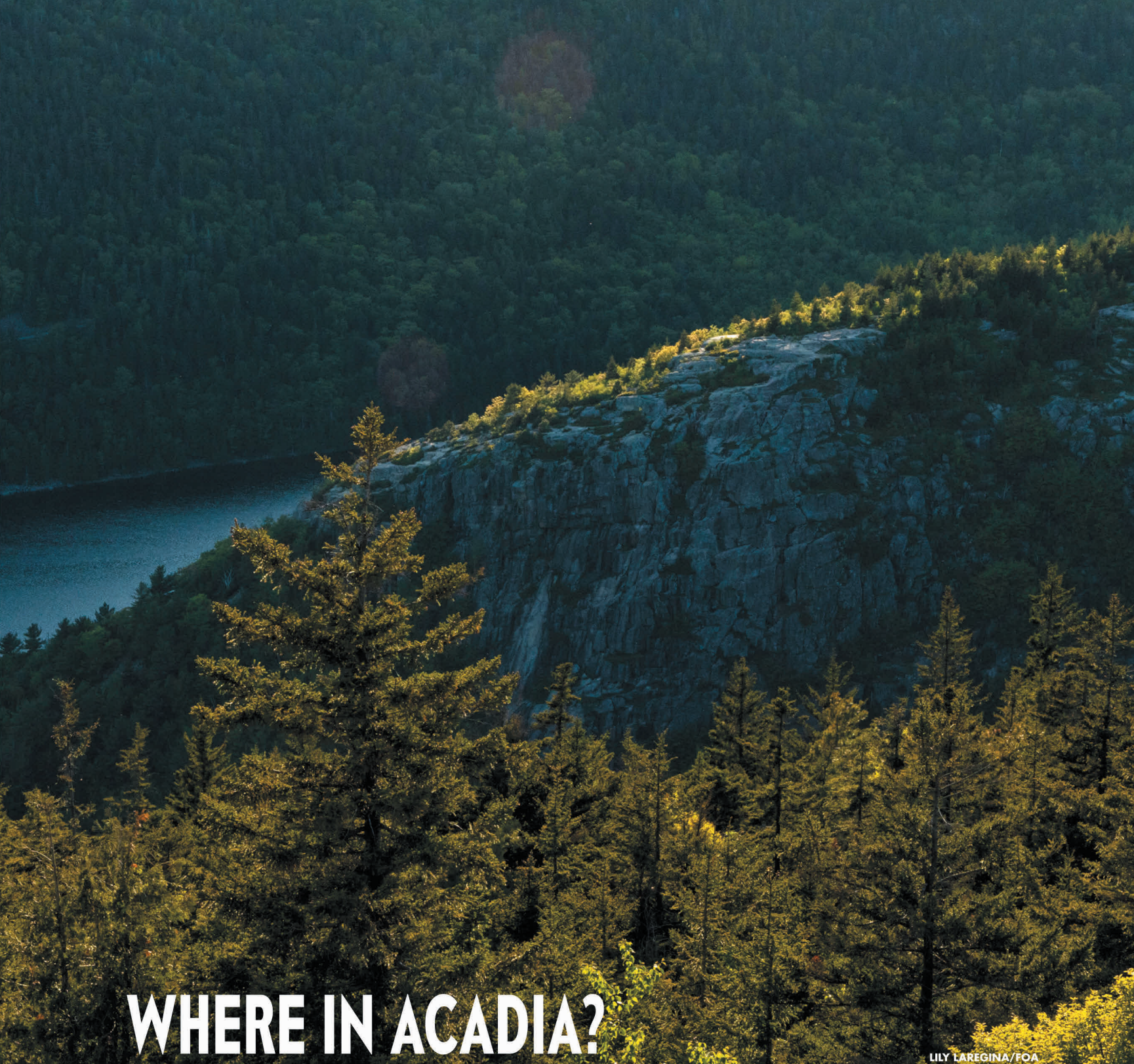
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LILY LAREGINA/FOA

WHERE IN ACADIA?

This is an angle not typically shown of one-half of Acadia’s most iconic views. The spot the photographer stood is actually “across the road,” but at sunset provides breathtaking panoramic views of both salt and freshwater bodies and many of Acadia’s peaks. Where is it?

If you think you can identify the location of this scene, email us at editor@friendsofacadia.org and include a personal story or memory with your answer. We’ll print our favorite responses in the next issue of Acadia and send a Friends of Acadia cap to a randomly selected correct respondent.

READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IN ACADIA?"



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Winter/Spring Where is it? **The Bowl**

Thanks to all the readers who responded to our "Where in Acadia?" question in the winter magazine and correctly identified the location as The Bowl. This pond is ideal for a refreshing dip and wildlife spotting, as many of our readers noted.

Below are a few of the correct responses that we received from members.

In each issue of *Acadia* magazine, we post a photo and clues to help readers identify the location. If you think you can correctly identify the location of the photo, email editor@friendsofacadia.org. We'll run a few of the correct responses in the forthcoming issue, and we love it when you send photos and stories to accompany your answers. Thanks to all of our readers who play along!

"We believe it is The Bowl. Our family was on a new adventure when we came across The Bowl. It was an incredible experience and surprise! We love that about Acadia. You just never know what you might come across on your journey."

—The Reilly Family

The location shown in the photo on page 3 appears to be The Bowl, possibly shot from the South Ridge Trail of Mount Champlain. I have swum here many times over the past four decades, usually in the early morning on the descent from a dawn Champlain hike. Only picked up one passenger (leech) over all the years and never pass by without a plunge.

—Gerry Lachance, Avon, CT

The location pictured in the *Acadia* journal for the Winter/Spring 2022 edition is The Bowl. This is always a refreshing stop after hiking up the Beehive. My wife and I enjoy the peaceful views of the pond from the rock ledges while watching the birds and dragonflies.

—Emile Richard and Rita Cantor, Farmington, ME

Is the "Where in Acadia?" photo of The Bowl? We took the Gorham Mountain trail up there in the summer—I think it was 2019. We wouldn't have made it up there via the Beehive with our boys—they were 5 and 8 then.

- Stefanie Junker, Berlin, CT

Although I have never been there in the winter, I believe this is The Bowl. I have hiked to The Bowl many times in my 20 years visiting the park and have many memories. But one stands out: A bright, crisp autumn day, the sun glistening off the water and the trees in full color. I was alone for a good hour just eating my lunch when suddenly an eagle swooped down and glided across the water. Magical! That's the word to describe The Bowl.

—Lenny Contaxes, Attleboro, MA

Hello Acadia!

I wasn't looking for a new job when I first learned that Friends of Acadia was searching for a president and CEO. For a decade, I'd been leading New Jersey Audubon—New Jersey's oldest and biggest conservation organization—and was in leadership with them a total of 21 years. I loved the people and the work and, until this year, I thought I was a lifelong New Jerseyan.

Typically, when I learn of great job opportunities in the conservation field, I view them as opportunities to uplift talent in our sector and enthusiastically recommend possible candidates. But this time, I didn't.

I blame too many amazing vacations in Acadia National Park, combined with the fact that Friends of Acadia is one of the premier Friends groups in the country, as the reasons that I let this one sit in my inbox and started imagining the possibilities.

Like many of you, Acadia tops my list of all-time favorite places. It's magical, unique in its intersection of the mountains and the sea, the diversity of plants and animals, and the way the park is woven into the communities surrounding it. I love, love, love exploring the wildlife, the plants, and the interface with the ocean! My whole family agrees, which is why we've returned so many times.

After discussing the idea with my wife Lydia and getting the green light, I researched Friends of Acadia more deeply. I explored its vision, its track record, its culture, and its synergistic and transformational relationship with Acadia National Park and its communities. The more I learned, the more excited I (we) got!

When you combine Friends of Acadia's reputation—which includes its amazing staff, board, donors, and volunteers—with the dedication,

creativity, and entrepreneurialism that Acadia's Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider and his incredible team bring—who wouldn't want to be part of that?! The icing on the cake is the Mount Desert Island (MDI) community, with its strong sense of self, its history, tremendous pride in the park, and a commitment to one another and the future. This is a dream job and an opportunity for which I am extraordinarily excited and grateful.

Lydia and I, and our son Nate, are thrilled to make MDI our new home. Thank you for your enthusiastic and warm welcome thus far. We look forward to joining this amazing community and to working with you.

As I think about the future, I am beyond excited. I recognize that the challenges facing Acadia are immense, but I am also confident that we deliver immense solutions. Together, we can make Acadia the poster child for the National Park Service's diversity initiative by making our park accessible and welcoming to all. We can work collaboratively to address workforce housing in a meaningful way, be a national model for climate resiliency and adaptation, and help create high-quality visitor experiences without loving the park to death. No single organization or sector can tackle these challenges alone. We must all work together—as individuals, for-profits, nonprofits, and government—to propose bold solutions.

It's exciting work. It's collective work. I'm rolling up my sleeves and diving in with you all. I look forward to this journey taken together for our beloved Acadia.



—Eric Stiles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"I recognize that the challenges facing Acadia are immense, but I am also confident that we deliver immense solutions."



WAVES CRASH
at the base of
Otter Cliffs.

SAM MALLON/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

Left: Bill Gawley, Air and Water Program Manager at Acadia National Park, leads the launch of the Jordan Pond water quality monitoring buoy. Right: Acadia National Park staff and researchers from the University of Maine install the buoy on its mooring at the beginning of the season.

DIVING INTO JORDAN POND

BY BILL GAWLEY

Despite the almost irresistible temptation, literally diving into the cool, clear waters of Jordan Pond may not be the best idea. For starters, swimmers—and even waders—risk incurring a hefty fine for violating a municipal “No Body Contact” ordinance put in place in 2009 to safeguard this drinking water source for the town of Seal Harbor.

The Mount Desert Water District is one of many diverse stakeholders in the Jordan Pond watershed, and the swimming ban is only a small part of the comprehensive efforts to better understand and protect this unique, valuable, and iconic resource.

I emphasize the goal of understanding. To develop effective protection, mitigation and adaptation strategies, one must first learn the intricate workings of this complex system. That includes how to identify and evaluate the magnitude of threats. In 2013 Friends of Acadia began funding the Jordan Pond Water Quality Project, which is implemented by my Acadia National Park Air-Water Resource team and researchers from the University of Maine’s Climate Change Institute. The project builds upon five decades of long-term monitoring and scientific studies by park staff, academic institutions, state environmental agencies, and local organizations to investigate changes occurring in Jordan Pond’s water chemistry and physical properties in response to improving air quality, extreme weather events, long-term climate shifts, and increasing park visitation.

Blooms of algae toxic to humans, pets, and wildlife (known as Harmful Algal Blooms, or “HABs”) and invasive aquatic plant infestations have just recently begun occurring in Hancock County lakes, and project staff are participating in local, state, and national prevention and response programs to try to address these issues before they reach the park.

Thanks to continued funding from Friends of Acadia, a high-resolution monitoring buoy was recently launched in Jordan Pond for the ninth year of data collection. The Jordan Pond Water Quality Project goals encompass more than simply amassing information. They also include engagement and collaboration with park visitors, residents, the Water District, the scientific community, and all other stakeholders to instill appreciation of and promote science-based protection for Jordan Pond, often referred to as one of the “crown jewels” of Acadia National Park.

For a deeper dive (figuratively!) into Jordan Pond and the Jordan Pond Water Quality Project, visit jpbuoy.com and stay tuned for updates on the progress of our protection and stewardship efforts in future editions of *Acadia* magazine. ■

BILL GAWLEY manages the Air and Water Resources program at Acadia National Park and has been monitoring Acadia’s air and water quality since 1994.

Impacts of Housing Crisis on Hiring Seasonal Employees

I began the Sunday of Memorial Day weekend with a wonderful long run on Acadia's carriage roads. Starting early, I easily found parking at Eagle Lake and saw only a few people out getting their own early start to a gorgeous day.

After my run and with my connection to Acadia refreshed, I joined our team at the Sand Beach Entrance Station on this busy holiday weekend. Wait times to enter the park there ran 25-45 minutes. The volume of traffic was impressive, and nonstop!

A question on the minds of many in the community is whether the price of gas will affect Acadia's visitation. Early reports indicate that visitation over Memorial Day weekend was consistent with 2021's record-breaking level. If this is how summer will play out, we can expect it to be as busy as last year.

Providing high-quality experiences for visitors requires critical staffing to keep traffic flowing, answer questions, and prevent illegal parking.

Unfortunately, this year we were not able to hire as many seasonal employees as we hoped despite the prospect of what will be one of our busiest years in the park's history. This is largely due to the lack of housing for our seasonal employees. Like other businesses in the area, park employees struggle to find affordable places to live, and this is magnified for our seasonal workforce for whom it is nearly impossible to find an affordable rental for six months.

Although we have park housing for approximately 75 employees, this falls short of

the 150 summer seasonal employees we try to hire each year. Those to whom we cannot offer housing typically turn down our job offers.

As of June, we have a total of 125 seasonal employees. We are particularly short staffed with fee collectors, trail crews, and custodians to pick up trash and clean visitor restrooms. These are critical, front-facing positions, and not having a full complement of staff creates added stress for the rest of our team members who do their best to serve visitors while short-handed.

Over the last 10 years, Acadia's visitation has increased by 70 percent, yet our staffing levels have largely remained flat. Increasing numbers of visitors have led to longer queues to get into the park, congested roads and parking lots, and long lines for information at our visitor center. We are happy to welcome visitors to Acadia but want to make sure they have great experiences and that park resources are protected.

My own Memorial Day experience as a visitor on the carriage roads is a poignant reminder that even on one of the busiest days of the year, you can still have an incredible experience in the park.

One of the people with whom I truly look forward to sharing these experiences is Eric Stiles, Friends of Acadia's new President and CEO. Eric brings much energy and enthusiasm to the position and his background and experiences are a perfect fit for Friends of Acadia.

—Kevin Schneider

SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



"This year we were not able to hire as many seasonal employees as we hoped despite the prospect of what will be one of our busiest years in the park's history."



THE SETTING SUN
illuminates Eagle Lake
from Pemetit Mountain.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

ACADIA'S TRAILS TELL A STORY NOW MARKED IN NATIONAL HISTORY

The Largest System of Trails on the National Register of Historic Places

BY LORI SCHAEFER



Left: Frederic E. Church, *Otter Creek, Mount Desert*, ca.1850. Right: William Stanley Haseltine, *Thunder Hole, Mount Desert Island*, 1859. Both are illustrations in the *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 2021.

Acadia National Park now has the largest system of trails listed on the National Register of Historic Places. It's also the first trail system on the register that originated from paths taken by mid-19th century American landscape artists, including Thomas Cole and Frederic Church, who found inspiration on Mount Desert Island and shared it through their works.

This spring, Acadia's hiking trails were listed in the national register, recognizing their national historic significance and ties to the history of Mount Desert Island (MDI) and the establishment of Acadia National Park.

This is an extraordinary feat and certainly one to celebrate! The National Park Service (NPS) has been working on the National Register nomination for several

years. Friends of Acadia helped fund the research and writing for the nomination.

The listing includes 109 historic, maintained trails covering 117 miles, and 18 memorial plaques or markers, 12 viewpoints, and unique engineering features. Some of those trails are outside the park boundary on Mount Desert Island, which is why the official listing is "The Mount Desert Island Hiking Trail System."

In making the announcement in April, Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider said, "This recognition is a testament to not only the historic significance of these trails, but also the incredible dedication of the National Park Service staff, partners, and volunteers who continue to preserve them today."

Two National Park Service staff members who were instrumental in the nomination—Acadia’s Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug and Cultural Resources Program Manager Gail Gladstone—confirmed that getting the trail system on the National Register helps the park in several ways:

1 National Recognition

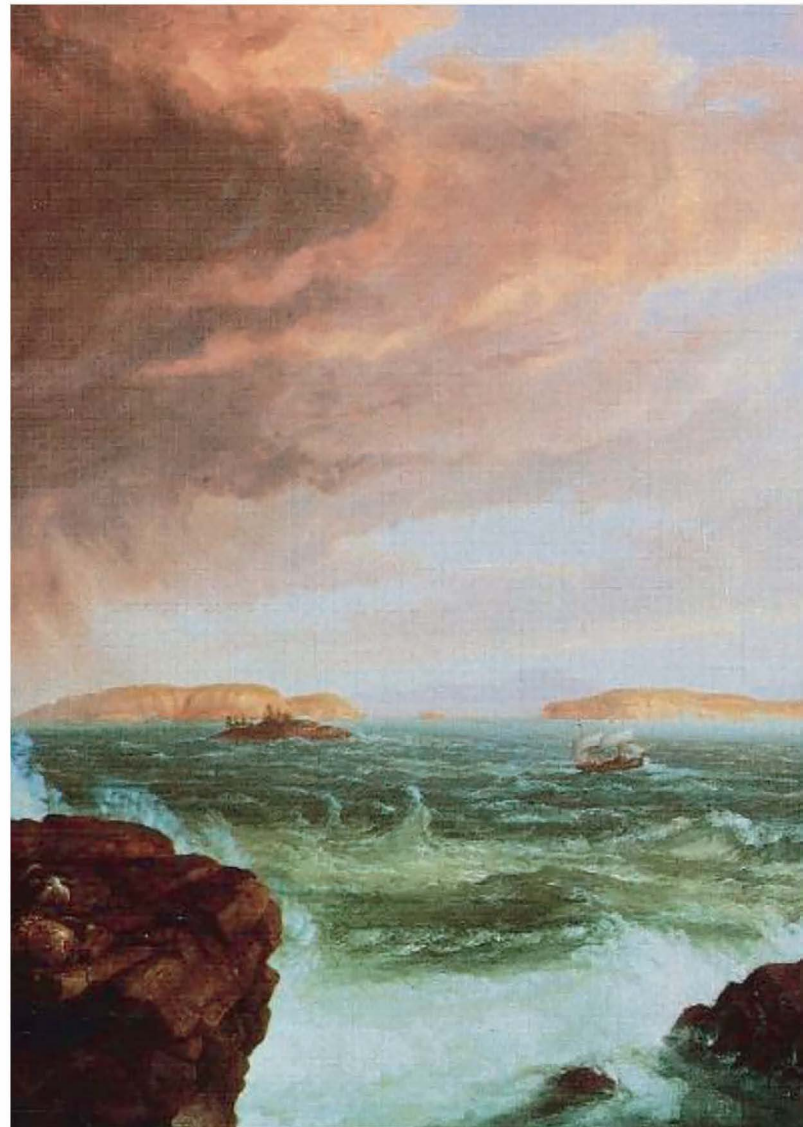
Being listed on the National Register of Historic Places confers national historic significance, going far beyond recognizing the trails as locally significant. “This puts the trail system right up there with the carriage roads, the gatehouses, bridges, and lighthouses that were already on the National Register,” said Stellpflug.

2 Funding Opportunities

Getting the trail system listed could also help the park procure more federal funds. “When requesting money from the National Park Service, we prepare proposals that make the case for why it’s important that Acadia receive funding,” said Gladstone. “Now, the narrative will include our National Register status, which automatically confers the importance that comes with it.”

3 Trail Management

“It’s another guidance document for the future,” said Stellpflug. “We have a trails plan, two cultural landscape reports, and now we have the National Register. This helps the next generation of stewards caring for our trails to have the same snapshot we have today.”



Above: detail from Thomas Cole, *View Across Frenchman’s Bay from Mt. Desert Island after a squall*, 1845. An illustration in the *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 2021. Below: Historic National Park Service photos of Civilian Conservation Corps workers of the 1940s. PHOTOS COURTESY NPS



Acadia's Trails Evolved Over Centuries

Acadia's trail system evolved over centuries of human use, settlement, and recreation on Mount Desert Island. The Wabanaki blazed early trails on this land, and Village Improvement Associations and Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) members built and maintained many of the trails we enjoy today.

The National Register listing focuses on the period of significance for the trail system starting in 1844, when artist Thomas Cole first documented views of the island landscape that influenced the trail system's development, and ending in 1942, when the CCC work at Acadia National Park concluded.

Thomas Cole (1801-1848) and his student Frederic Church (1826-1900) had keen eyes for stunning natural beauty. These great landscape artists traveled to experience Mount Desert Island's dramatic coastal scenery in the late 1830s and introduced the island to a wider audience through their writings and artwork. The National Register listing focuses on these "artist-explorers" who adapted Native American footpaths, cart paths, and settlement roads for recreational hiking, which grew into a network of trails that continue to guide us to well-known vistas—including the views of the Bubbles, Great Head, and Otter Cove—that served as inspiration for their writings and paintings.

The "Rusticators" (artists, authors, and tourists) who followed the earliest painters adapted existing routes and blazed new ones to visit the scenic locations, creating in the process a cohesive system of hiking trails.

In the early 20th century, the trail system was further built and improved by four key Village Improvements Societies in Bar Harbor, Seal Harbor, Northeast Harbor, and Southwest Harbor—adding to the trail system's historical significance.

Between 1866 and 1890, historic trails were initially documented and/or constructed by early tourists. And from 1933 to 1942, a significant part of the work was done by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), under President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal.



Top: Frederic E. Church, *Newport Mountain, Mount Desert Island*, 1851. Middle: Thomas Cole, *Sand Beach Mountain, Mt. Desert Island*, 1844. Below: Frederic E. Church, *Coast of Mt. Desert Island (Sand Beach)*, ca.1850. All are illustrations in the *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*, 2021.



Trail Features We Know and Love are Connected to History

The National Register listing notes how Mount Desert Island's earliest trails led directly between ponds, to mountain summits, and to other scenic and recreational points such as overlooks, coastal or mountain ledges, and waterfalls. Trails designed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries tend to be longer and more difficult, providing access to places such as Great Head, Thunder Hole, Cadillac Cliffs, and Bubble Rock.

One of the true hallmarks of Acadia's trail system are the presence of stone steps and staircases designed to harmonize with the natural surroundings. There are four major types of historic steps in the park, each named for their builders: Bates (for lawyer and path maker Waldron Bates), Dorr (for Acadia's founder George B. Dorr), Brunnow (for Princeton Professor Rudolph E. Brunnow), and CCC-style (for the Civilian Conservation Corps). Each style is categorized by characteristics such as layout, stone type, and degree of uniformity.

Many early Village Improvement Association trails, particularly cliff trails, use iron pins, rungs, ladders, and bridges extensively. The Precipice and Beehive Trails have some of the best examples of this ironwork.

For the park, this National Register listing will be a resource going forward to ensure continuity in managing the trail system to today's conditions.

"The Mount Desert Island historic trail system deserves all the recognition it has received," said Gladstone. "It is a testament to the artistry and talent of the original trail builders, through their thoughtful expression of design and ingenuity, and their desire to create adventure and celebrate the beauty and wonder of a place like Acadia. It's also recognition of the talent and dedication of many volunteers and park staff over the years who followed in preserving and maintaining the trails. And it is a testament to the generosity of the Friends of Acadia and the many ways this partnership has supported the trail system over the years."

To learn more or read the full National Register of Historic Places listing, visit friendsofacadia.org and click on Stories of Acadia. Or scan the QR code below. ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director. (This article was compiled from the National Park Service news release, the National Register listing, and interviews with park staff).



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Granite steps lead the way up the Schiff Path in Acadia National Park. Schiff Path is a popular trail that runs along the east face of Dorr Mountain and provides views of Frenchman Bay and the Tarn. It acts as a link between several trails starting at Sieur de Monts and the summit of Dorr Mountain.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

A NEW ERA BEGINS AT BASS HARBOR HEAD LIGHT STATION

BY LYNN FANTOM

When Tim Mount met Lynne Macco in 2005, he asked, “Would you ever be interested in being a lighthouse caretaker?” Her answer to what might be a unique question in the dating ritual was “Absolutely” and, three years later, they were living on Seguin Island, two miles off the Maine coast. They left the island only once a week to shop and do laundry. Seguin was only the start of their lighthouse adventures.

This summer the Adirondacks-based couple became the first to reside at the Bass Harbor Head Light Station since it was transferred in 2020 to the National Park Service from the U.S. Coast Guard, which remains responsible for maintaining the light as an aid to navigation.

“One reason Lynne and Tim were selected from about 50 applicants on volunteer.gov is that they had lots of experience

as lighthouse volunteers,” said Kathy Grant, a supervisory park ranger who is a specialist in visitor experience.

That includes caretaking lighthouses off the coasts of Maine, Massachusetts, Washington state, and Alaska. Three times they’ve been to a 4,000-acre island near Tasmania, where the only visitors are sailors in the summer. “They drop you off with all your provisions and come back for you three months later,” said Lynne. It is their favorite experience so far.

Though these lighthouse adventures have brought them to some remote locations, Lynne still practices medicine. Tim practices piano. A retired university choral director and singer, he now gives chamber music concerts. His keyboard goes everywhere, even when there’s no hot water, drinking water, or flush toilets.

The couple's tenure in Bass Harbor presents a different set of challenges. According to the job description, the light station is the fifth most popular site in Acadia National Park, drawing over 180,000 visitors annually. As uniformed volunteers, Lynne and Tim provide basic information about the park, but also monitor parking issues and report accidents.

Sharing a 32-hour work week, they also have some building-warden and grounds-keeping duties. (That's fine with Lynne who describes herself as the "small engine repair person.") Housing is free.

Working at a light station today in Acadia (which has a total of three lighthouses) is a far cry from the traditional isolation for which the role is known. In the 1920s, then-Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover, concerned about the loneliness

and monotony people faced in such an important job, appealed—successfully—to the public to donate radios for each light station to reduce their isolation.

Today, lighthouses are such an icon of coastal charm that it may be easy to forget their importance to maritime safety. In fact, they were so critical to the commercial success of the young United States that before the new Senate even acted on congressional salaries or appointed a single cabinet member, it sent a decree in 1789 to George Washington to fund lighthouses.

The Bass Harbor Head Light Station was built in 1858 high on a rocky promontory—the tower itself rises 32 feet—to help vessels avoid the "large and dangerous reef" in the middle of the harbor. Like other light stations, it also included a



Acadia National Park volunteers Tim Mount and Lynne Macco stand on the private porch outside the living quarters at the Bass Harbor Head Light Station.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

keeper's house, bell house, and oil house for storing the fuels to power the light, from whale and porpoise oils, to kerosene, to electricity in 1948. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1988.

History is one aspect of what has attracted Lynne to light stations. "You can read the stories about the families who came before you," she said, adding, "And they're always in gorgeous settings."

Another former resident of the light, Keri Conlon, said living in the light station felt like living on a boat. Keri and her then-husband lived at the Bass Harbor Head Light Station between the spring of 2008 and fall of 2009 when he worked for the U.S.

Coast Guard. "I felt intimately a part of nature and the ocean. I remember sitting at night and watching the moon make its circuit over the inky black water."

Visitors won't be able to experience that—the light station is closed at dark—but they can take the opportunity "to pause and reorient with nature" when they visit, said Keri. "The ocean air hits you and you hear the buoy bell. It is one of my favorite sounds in the entire world." ■

LYNNE FANTOM is a former New York advertising executive who has embraced her second career as a freelance writer in Maine.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

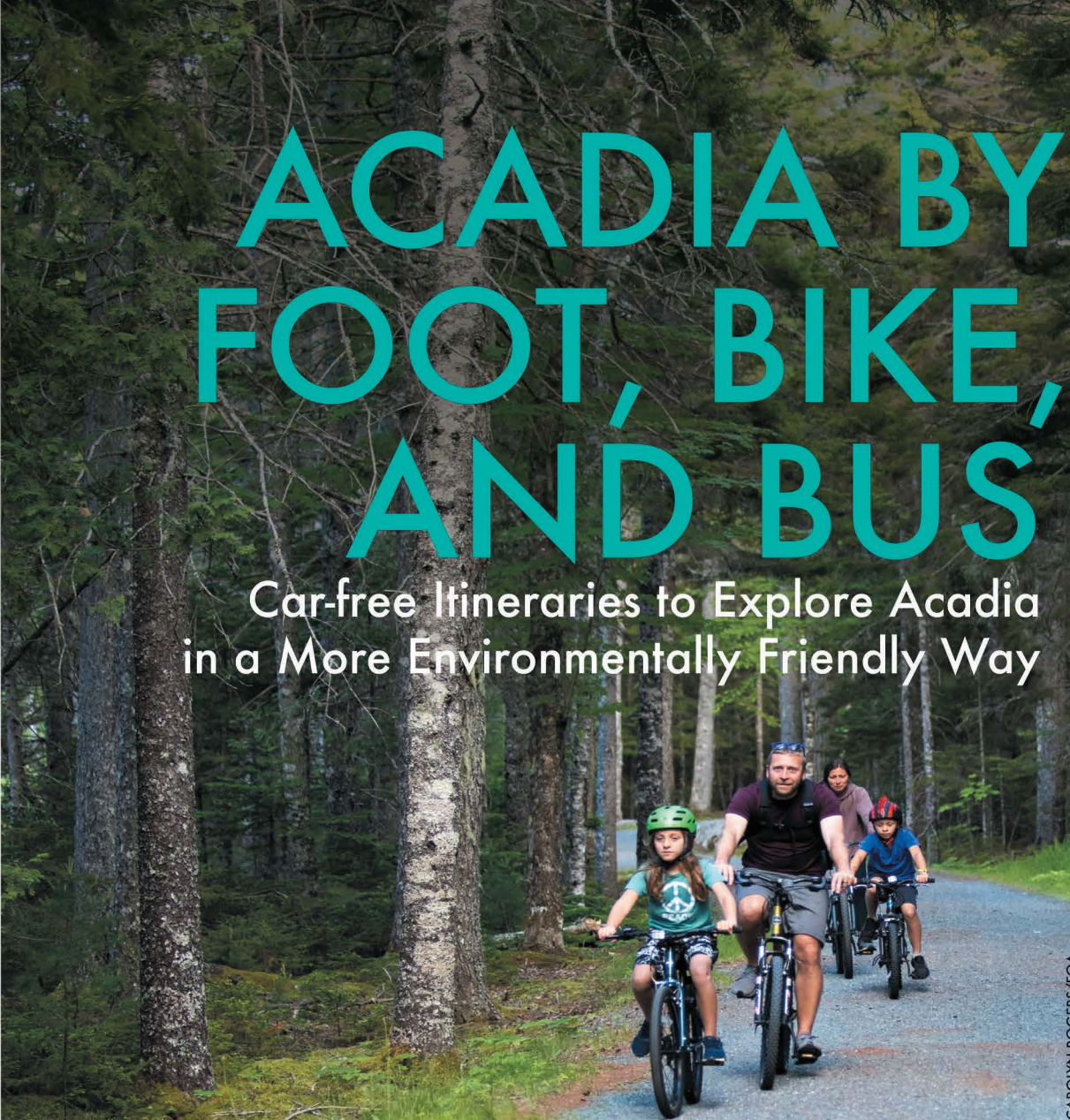


LILY LAREGINA/FOA

Above: The Bass Harbor Head Light Station from a window within the living quarters. Left: Lynne chats with a park visitor outside of the Bass Harbor Head Light Station. Right: Lynne and Tim take a break from visitors inside the Bass Harbor Head Light Station living area.

ACADIA BY FOOT, BIKE, AND BUS

Car-free Itineraries to Explore Acadia in a More Environmentally Friendly Way



CAROLYN ROGERS/FOA



LILY LAREGINA/FOA



JOE PHILLIPSON/FOA

Cyclists ride their bikes around the carriage roads near the Brown Mountain Gatehouse. Top: Park visitors walk along the Jesup Path boardwalk. Bottom: Island Explorer provides park visitors free transportation throughout the park.

BY SHANNON BRYAN

The best way to appreciate Acadia National Park—its salty coastal breezes and ecological diversity—is outside of a car. Car-free exploration enables us to immerse ourselves in the park we love, and it's a more environmentally friendly way to experience and steward the park.

With climate change challenging fragile park ecosystems, automobile traffic brings an additional burden. The exhaust expelled from visitors' vehicles is the biggest factor in the park's carbon footprint.

Record visitation is also putting added strain on park resources. Ninety-eight percent of visitors entering the park in 2021 were in a personal vehicle, up from 90 percent in the

years before the pandemic. Last year, there were 210,000 more cars in the park than in 2019, and visitors tend to go to the same popular spots, like Jordan Pond House, Bass Harbor Head Light Station, and the Ocean Drive corridor. That added traffic means park staff must respond more often to daily congestion situations, visitor rescues, and other visitor assistance services.

Friends of Acadia encourages all visitors—first timers and those who delight in Acadia year after year—to enjoy the park by bike, by foot, or by riding the Island Explorer bus. We've put together three day-trip itineraries for splendid car-free experiences in the park. Try them out and let us know what you think.

Be an Island Explorer Pro

BY SHANNON BRYAN AND STEPHANIE CLEMENT

When the Island Explorer was founded in the late 1990s, it was established to pick people up at campgrounds and hotels and connect them to village centers and places in the park.

The idea was so successful that the bus system has carried more than 8.7 million passengers over its history, reducing automobile trips by an estimated 3.3 million, and preventing an estimated 46 tons of smog-causing pollutants and over 30,000 tons of greenhouse gases.

The Island Explorer runs daily from June 23 to October 10, 2022 on Mount Desert Island. The bus system includes multiple routes to and from destinations like Sand Beach, Jordan Pond, Sieur de Monts, Otter Cliffs, downtown Bar Harbor, Northeast Harbor, Southwest Harbor, as well as many island campgrounds and hotels. Service on the Schoodic Peninsula runs from May 25 to October 10, 2022. It's free to ride, although you will need an Acadia National Park entry pass to visit park locations.

Two new routes have been added this year—Highbrook and Tremont. The Highbrook route carries passengers to/from the Bar Harbor Village Green to several of the large hotels southwest of Route 3 in Bar Harbor, and the Tremont route carries passengers from downtown Southwest Harbor around Route 102A to Bass Harbor and Bernard.

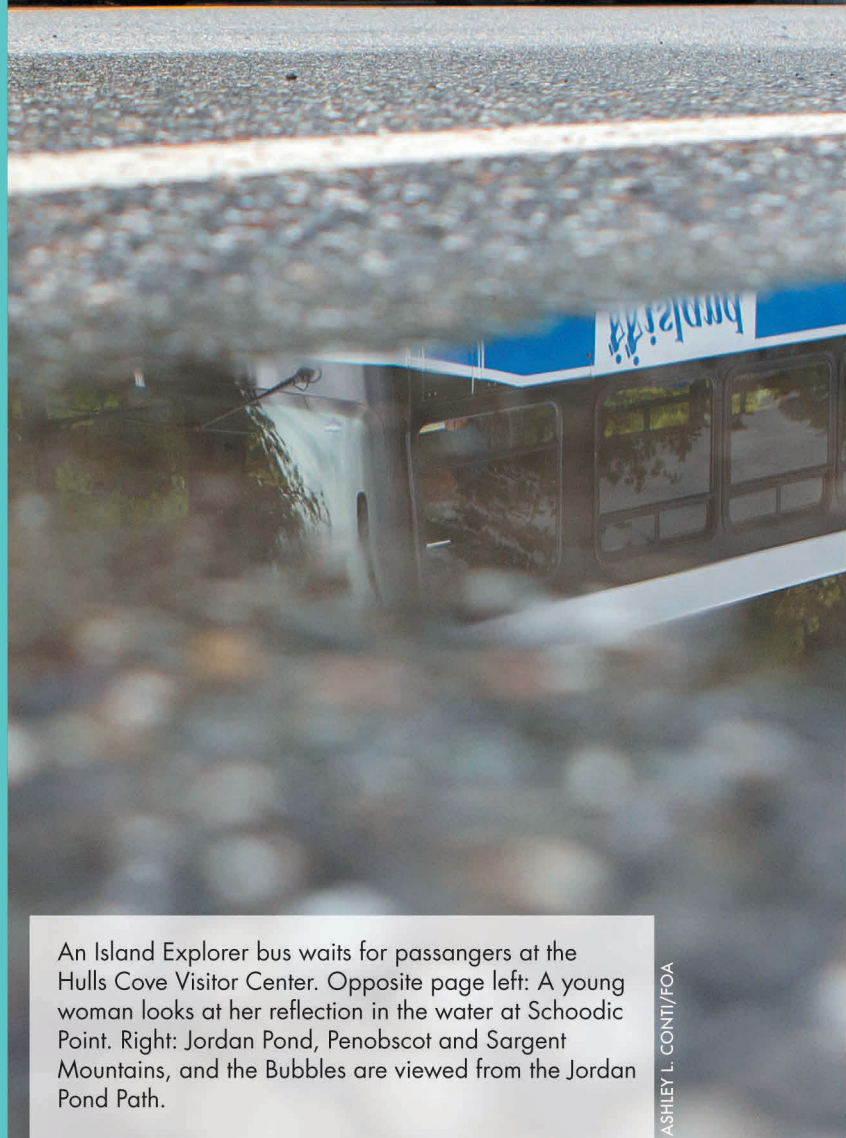
All Island Explorer buses are equipped with bicycle racks, although they cannot accommodate tag-alongs, tandems, bikes with fat tires, or motorized bicycles of any kind, including E-bikes.

If you're just visiting Mount Desert Island for the day or your lodging accommodations are outside downtown Bar Harbor, find parking and bus service either from the MDOT Park and Ride at the Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton or next to the CAT ferry terminal on Eden Street in Bar Harbor.

The Island Explorer is an easy and popular way to get around, so it's wise to think ahead when planning your day. If a bus is full, you'll need to wait for the next one, so be prepared with extra water, snacks, rain gear, and a good book or something to entertain the kids. If the most direct route is busy, consider taking a different route and remember that the last buses of the day can also fill up quickly.

Visit the Island Explorer website to see real-time bus tracking and set up an alert to remind you when to head to your stop. For more information, including routes, schedules, and FAQs, go to exploreacadia.com. ■

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Director. SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia's Content and Website Manager.



An Island Explorer bus waits for passengers at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center. Opposite page left: A young woman looks at her reflection in the water at Schoodic Point. Right: Jordan Pond, Penobscot and Sargent Mountains, and the Bubbles are viewed from the Jordan Pond Path.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

#1 Take a Ferry to the Schoodic Peninsula

Combine a ferry ride and the Island Explorer bus for a day on the Schoodic Peninsula, where you'll enjoy quieter park trails, quaint shops, and standout coastal views. This year, Island Explorer's Schoodic service runs through October 10, 2022 (service is limited starting in late August, so be sure to check the schedule on the Island Explorer website). The route includes stops all around the Schoodic Peninsula.

Getting there is half the fun. The privately operated Bar Harbor Winter Harbor Ferry runs multiple times a day between Schoodic and the Bar Harbor Inn pier from early June to early October. Cost for a one-way ticket is \$18 for adults and \$14 for children. You can even bring your bike aboard for \$10 (no E-bikes) or rent a bike for the day in Winter Harbor where Sea Schoodic Kayak and Bike is a short walk or Island Explorer ride from the ferry terminal.

To reach the Bar Harbor Inn's pier, catch any of the Island Explorer routes that travel to the Bar Harbor Village Green and walk down Main Street toward Agamont Park and the Inn.

Once on the Schoodic Peninsula, you can grab a sandwich and shop in downtown Winter Harbor, bike the one-way loop road around the peninsula or the multi-use paths, which are accessible from the Schoodic Woods campground. Or, ride the Island Explorer bus to the Frazer Point Picnic Area, Schoodic Point, or to access the trails from the Blueberry Hill parking area.



EMILY MOSES/FOA

#2 Jordan Pond Bike + Hike Adventure

Combine some pedaling on the bike-friendly carriage roads with a hiking side trip near Jordan Pond. Pack a lunch and ride your bike into the park or take your bike aboard the Island Explorer bus to Jordan Pond (buses are equipped with bike racks, but space is limited, and the racks cannot accommodate bikes with fat tires or E-bikes). Stow your bike on the bike racks at Jordan Pond House while you venture onto the hiking trails. There are several hiking options accessible from here, including the easy-going Jordan Pond Loop, the moderate-difficulty South Bubble, or the more challenging Penobscot Mountain.

Following your hike, enjoy a picnic lunch by the pond, or head to the Jordan Pond House for a popover. Once refueled, grab your bike and ride back to Bar Harbor via the carriage roads over to Witch Hole Pond and down the signed bike route to town. You can also ride to Eagle Lake, where you can pick up the Island Explorer's Bicycle Express route, which takes passengers and their bikes between Eagle Lake and Kids Corner in Bar Harbor.



EMILY LAREGINA/FOA

#3 Easy-Going (yet Oh-So-Scenic) Meanderings

While Acadia's mountain summits garner a lot of attention, the park also boasts a plethora of easy-going paths—through woods and gardens and along dramatic coastline—that are superb for hikers and walkers of all levels.

The Great Meadow Loop is a flat two-mile pathway through woods and along Kebo Golf Course, not far from downtown Bar Harbor. It connects with Jesup Path, where you can bird watch and take in views of Great Meadow. Great Meadow is a 100-acre wetland in the heart of the Cromwell Brook watershed and a focus area for Friends of Acadia. We're helping support the park's work to restore the natural stream channel, which has been stymied by a now-undersized culvert installed there in the 1930s. The work aims to mitigate future floods, improve water quality, and facilitate greater biodiversity in the Great Meadow.

The Jesup Path leads you to Sieur de Monts where you can explore additional nearby hiking trails or wander the Wild Gardens of Acadia, which features more than 400 native plant species. Catch the Island Explorer at Sieur de Monts to ride to Sand Beach. Enjoy the Ocean Path, a mellow oceanside walk with breathtaking views of crashing waves and cliffs. ■

SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia's Content and Website Manager.



Above: Evening colors are illuminated at Great Meadow. Left: Green grasses line the bog walk on the Jesup Path. Opposite page: Two hikers walk the summit of Cadillac Mountain, viewed from the Cadillac South Ridge Trail. Bicyclists ride along the carriage road near Bubble Pond. Park visitors ride horses over the Cliffside bridge along the carriage roads.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



LILY LAREGINA/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONIT/FOA



CAROLYN ROGERS/FOA

THE 33rd ANNUAL BENEFIT IS BACK IN PERSON!

All Can Participate in the Silent Auction and Paddle Raise Online

BY MARISA MARINELLI

After a two-year hiatus, Friends of Acadia is excited to return to an in-person Annual Benefit at the beautiful Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor on Saturday, August 13.

The evening will include some traditional celebrations, such as a cocktail reception and seated dinner under the tent. We'll reunite with auctioneer Lydia Fenet of Christie's for the live auction and paddle raise. And we're delighted to welcome back our presenting sponsor Chilton Trust Company for the ninth year in a row.

We've learned a great deal from the success of our virtual events over the last two years and will be modeling this year's silent auction and paddle raise after those events to allow everyone to participate.

The Annual Benefit is a wonderful opportunity to bring our community together to celebrate the park and raise critical funds for conservation projects in Acadia.

We're thrilled to continue that tradition *both* at the live event on August 13 and online August 5-14.

Online Silent Auction August 5-14

The silent auction will remain an online auction. Like last year, the silent auction will open bidding one week prior to the event on Friday, August 5, and close on Sunday, August 14, the morning after the Benefit. It will feature long-time Annual Benefit artists, experiences, and other unique offerings.

You do not need to purchase a ticket to the in-person Benefit to participate in the online silent auction. Items will be hosted online at bidpal.net/acadia. All are encouraged to create an online account and place your highest bid leading up to the auction closing at noon on August 14.

To view auction items in person, visit the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor from Friday, August 5 through Saturday, August 13. Items will not be displayed or auctioned under the tent at the Benefit.

If you have any questions, please contact me, Marisa Marinelli, at 207-370-4935 or marisa@friendsofacadia.org.

We hope you'll participate in person or online this year. Thank you!



SAM MALLON/FOA

FRIENDS OF ACADIA

33rd Annual Benefit

Join the festivities by placing a bid for the

Silent Auction and Paddle Raise

August 5 — August 14

PADDLE RAISE TO HELP ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IN ACADIA

There is no more pressing issue for Acadia than the rapid changes we are seeing in the climate. Average temperatures have warmed three degrees since 1890. Six inches more precipitation falls each year on average, with bigger storms, more rain, and less snow than in the past. The significant rainstorm Acadia experienced in June of last year that wiped out trails and carriage roads is just one example.

Sea level has risen by eight inches since 1950, and the ocean is warmer. The park has lost one out of every six plant species formerly found on Mount Desert Island, and non-native, invasive plants and insects are moving in as the climate becomes more hospitable for them.

While Acadia's landscape has always been changing, the pace of change has accelerated and uncertainty has increased. That's why Friends of Acadia is partnering with the National Park Service and Schoodic Institute to take action now to ensure that Acadia's beauty and vitality endure, whatever the future may hold.

The Wild Acadia 2.0 initiative is helping to restore important park habitats, but with an innovative forward-thinking approach of managing for future expected environmental conditions rather than looking to the past.

Your gift to the Wild Acadia 2.0 Paddle Raise in 2022 will help Friends of Acadia contribute to the long-term resiliency of park ecosystems.

Two Ways to Participate

There are two ways to participate in the paddle raise for Wild Acadia 2.0. One is to join us at the live Benefit Auction on August 13 and raise your paddle in person. Or you can raise your virtual paddle by making an online contribution via our Benefit Auction site bidpal.net/acadia.

The QR code below will take you directly to our Benefit Auction site where you can find information on how to bid on silent auction items and the paddle raise between August 5 and 14. ■

*Scan code to register
for silent auction.*



A Very Special Thank You

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Chilton Trust Company, and Christie's Lydia Fenet, who will be returning as auctioneer.

CHILTON TRUST

Led by our Honorary Host and Host Committee, a special thank you to the members of the Benefit Committee who have been a dynamic force in helping to revive our beloved event.

A Special Thanks to Our

HONORARY HOST COMMITTEE

Gail Clark
Donna Eacho
Lydia Kimball
Lynne Wheat

HOST COMMITTEE

Bob Bell
Katie & Hamilton Clark
Lesley Draper & Bob Stolar
Aubin Dupree
Anne & Jim Green
Laura & Dave Katona
Kathleen & Duncan McIntyre

Register Online

Purchase tickets online using the QR code or friendsofacadia.org/annualbenefit

For more information, visit or contact
Marisa Marinelli at
marisa@friendsofacadia.org

BROADER REACH, GREATER IMPACT



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



WILL NEWTON/FOA

(L) Acadia National Park Education Ranger Mackette McCormack films an educational video about tide pools at Ship Harbor for a distance learning program. (R) Grayson Staggs and Molly Tadenev, both 7 years old at the time, use their Nature Study Kits in Bar Harbor.

BY SHANNON BRYAN

Acadia National Park’s education rangers are reaching students near and far with a creative blend of in-person explorations, teacher-led visits, and virtual programs that engage and inspire the next generation of park stewards.

This year, the park welcomes classrooms back for “hands-on, feet-in” field trips, where students can investigate animal habitats, examine ecosystems, and explore the topic of human change in the environment with one of Acadia National Park’s knowledgeable education rangers.

Teacher-led and virtual programs, which were developed by education rangers during the pandemic, will continue. What began as stop-gap measures have become part of a longer-term approach that expands the park’s reach to classrooms far and wide.

It’s also the result of two years of adaptation and learning by

Acadia National Park Education Coordinator Kate Petrie and her team of hard-working and adaptable education rangers.

The rangers got an expedited education in virtual and socially distanced learning when the pandemic prompted a stop to in-person school field trips to the park. They quickly grew fluent in translating existing park programs and creating new ones that would engage K-12 students in different ways, including ranger-led interactive programs conducted live from the park and teacher-led visits where rangers prepare a program, set up activity stations, and welcome the students, but the teacher leads their class on the field trip. Park ranger outreach into the schools is still on hold.

Throughout this period of adaptation and evolution, Friends of Acadia continued to be a critical partner. Proceeds raised from the 2020 Resilience Fund paddle raise enabled the

Creating Tomorrow's Stewards Through a Creative Blend of Virtual, Self-guided, and In-person Programming



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Conners Emerson School sixth-graders make their way to tide pools to participate in a citizen science project identifying crabs as part of the Schoodic Education Adventure Program through the Schoodic Institute.

National Park Service to acquire equipment and expand virtual educational programming. Last year, education rangers reached 13,581 students and teachers in 632 virtual programs, and 237 students from eight local schools came to the park for field trips. Friends of Acadia supported Outdoor Classroom Grants and an expansion of the Outdoor Teacher Collaborative, all of which helps bring Acadia to students – wherever they may be.

While in-person programs are the most impactful to students, virtual programs make the park accessible to more students. This past winter, Acadia's educational programming reached schools in 46 states.

"Greater reach equals greater impact," Petrie says. "Virtual programs are conducted live, and since those same education rangers lead all the in-person field trips, it's not possible to run

both programs simultaneously."

Instead, Petrie and her team are finding a balance throughout the year, focusing on in-person field trips this spring and fall, with virtual programming resuming in late October.

It's Good to be Back with the Kids

Education Coordinator Kate Petrie heard a common refrain from her team of education rangers once students started coming back to Acadia for field trips: It's so good to be back with the kids.

"Our staff are educators. They love to work with the public and with children," Petrie says. "That joyous kid energy on field trips feeds their souls."

This spring, the park led 60 in-person programs (six of which were Schoodic Education Adventure programs; the remainder

Giving Students RAD Tools to Understand Climate Change

Education Ranger Mackette McCormack developed a program around climate change that enables students to learn, engage, and problem solve

BY SHANNON BRYAN

Students are natural problem solvers, says Acadia National Park Education Ranger Mackette McCormack. To get them thinking seriously about the impacts of climate change, she modified a National Park Service initiative known as Resist, Accept, Direct (RAD), with 6th to 10th graders specifically in mind.

“Climate change is a hard topic,” she said. “I’ve talked about paleo-ecological records in glaciers, historical changes caused by climate, phenology, and ocean and forest climate change.” But what really gets students engaged, she said, is when there is something they can do—right now—to be part of the solution.

“RAD became this fantastic bridge for student agency and building background,” McCormack said.

The RAD framework, which is being employed by Acadia National Park and other national parks around the country, recognizes that the climate has already changed and will continue to do so. Decision makers then assess and choose what changes within the environment to resist, accept, or direct, based on a number of criteria including feasibility and cost. For students, RAD becomes a tool to make informed decisions in the future.

“The RAD model accepts where we are without putting the onus on the students to save the world,” she said.

McCormack has presented the program virtually about a dozen times to students in grades 6-10, but she’s found the most enthusiasm for the program in 7th and 8th grade teachers in Maine. The program will be offered again in late fall when Acadia’s education rangers return to virtual programming.

“I like teaching RAD to kids because choices are important,” said McCormack. “It’s so important to start stretching those problem-solving muscles in real-world scenarios, and RAD does that well.”

To read more about climate change in Acadia and the Resist, Accept, Direct model, visit friendsofacadia.org or scan the QR code. ■



were K-8 field trips), reaching more than 1,670 students and 245 chaperones and teachers.

Kindergarteners learned how animals and plants adapt to their environment and third graders got up close and personal with the sheltered shoreline at Otter Cove.

Petrie expects a similar number of field trips this fall, Covid-dependent. Students will be able to explore the forces that shape Sand Beach, participate in bio-monitoring of Acadia’s plant and insect life, and receive their badge as they become a Junior Ranger.

And they’ll be guided along the way by knowledgeable education rangers who are most in their element when they’re with kids in person.

Teacher-led programming also continued this spring at the Thompson Island and Seawall Picnic Areas. Students walked the nature observation trail and employed all their senses as they perused plants and shoreline features. There was also an Animal Olympics Challenge Course, Water Cycle and Migration games, and a Geology Scavenger Hunt.

These self-guided field trips enable students to get an immersive experience in the park, even with masks and social distance, depending on the protocols followed by each school. Rangers set up all the needed materials and lead a 10-minute talk, and then the teacher takes the students to do the activity.

When distance learning picks back up in late October, after the field trip season comes to end, Petrie is expecting she and her team will run approximately 150 virtual programs by the end of December. Classrooms from Maine and beyond will tune in for live, interactive, nature-based programs with an education ranger.

Over the last two years of virtual programming, they’ve learned that silly hand gestures and “animal calisthenics” go a long way to keep young brains engaged, and that even low-tech experiments performed at their desks keep older students interested.

For that, Petrie credits her talented team.

“I’m very fortunate to have staff that is so good with K-4 or high school students or students in between,” she says. “They create the kind of programming that lights kids up, engages their brains. It gets them thinking about themselves in a way that they’re a part of this environment and they have the power and obligation to take care of it—they want to take care of it.”

And that’s exactly how today’s students become tomorrow’s stewards. ■

SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia’s Content and Website Manager.

DONOR PROFILE

Investing in Our Future The Importance of Fostering Environmental Stewardship in the Next Generation

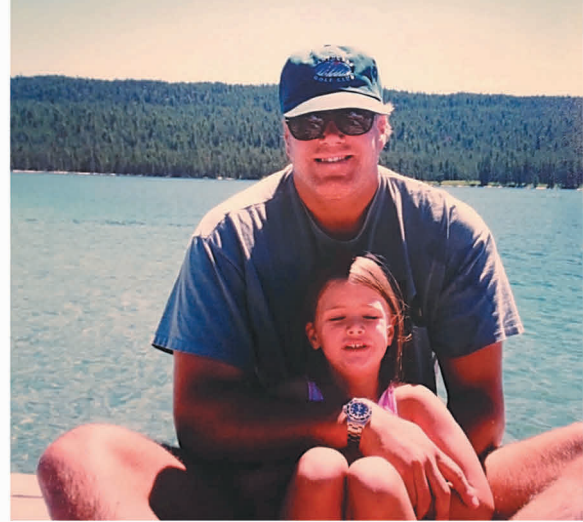
BY RICHARD LOCKWOOD CHILTON JR.
AND CHARLOTTE CHILTON

If you've ever noticed a flower growing through a crack on the sidewalk, you've witnessed the marvel of nature's resiliency. Our planet's species adapt to human interference for survival, but we cannot underestimate their fragility. Yes, the flower can find a way to bloom through the concrete, but it will not thrive. We must remember that these vast ecosystems exist despite us, not because of us.

As a long-term financial investor, I make decisions with an outlook that spans decades. As a conservationist, I apply the same type of thinking. When it comes to our finances, we are accustomed to the idea of "investing in our future." A portion of our paycheck contributes to our 401(k) plan, our monthly mortgage payments help us build equity in our homes; but far too often, our planet's long-term future is robbed in favor of short-term convenience.

While environmental reform has become top of mind in recent decades, conservation has been a priority within our country since Theodore Roosevelt's presidency. When I think of the splendor of our National Park System it pains me to think of what could have been if these areas were not protected long ago.

The shift towards viewing our natural resources as assets to be maintained and preserved, rather than commodities to be bought and sold, is a perspective that is important to instill



COURTESY THE CHILTON FAMILY

Richard Lockwood Chilton with his daughter, Charlotte Chilton, experiencing the great outdoors in 2000.

in future generations. We must dedicate the necessary means to achieve an end that is bigger than the individual, even if we will not reap the benefits in our own lifetime. Personally, that's why I support conservation organizations like Friends of Acadia, whose initiatives have the power to create lasting legacies and will be invaluable to the lives of my grandchildren, their grandchildren, and so on.

There is no endpoint to preserving our natural resources, protecting our environment, and restoring wildlife populations; it remains an ever-changing battle to protect the future by preserving the past. Every conservationist's journey began with some type of experience within nature highlighting how crucial it is for people to connect with the natural world before they can be motivated to protect it.

Through programs like those at Friends of Acadia, we can promote education and accessibility to nature to secure the next generation of conservationists who will take up this cause and improve upon the work we've achieved thus far. n

RICHARD LOCKWOOD CHILTON JR. is the Founder, Chairman, & Co-Chief Investment Officer-Equities of Chilton Trust Company. CHARLOTTE CHILTON is the Marketing Associate at Chilton Trust Company.



RESTORING CADILLAC'S SUMMIT

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Jim Burka, Acadia National Park biological science technician, waters the plants that were planted in test plots to determine the best methods for revegetating Acadia's summits.

BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

Acadia National Park is continuing the long-running effort to restore the Cadillac Mountain summit, where decades of footsteps have eroded soil and vegetation down to bare granite.

Every bit of damage leaves remaining plants, mosses, and lichens—part of the unique sub-alpine community—more exposed and vulnerable to the intensifying rainstorms, freeze-thaw cycles, and prolonged periods of hot, dry weather on the mountaintop.

Park managers have been evaluating different ways to bring plants back to the mountain, in partnership with Friends of Acadia, Native Plant Trust, and Schoodic Institute. Beginning in 2016, Bill Brumback and Jill Weber of Native Plant Trust led a series of experiments on the Cadillac summit. Over the next five years, the partners set up 79 plots, outlined with rope and sandbags, in eroded areas of the summit. Each received a different combination of soil, erosion fabric, seeds (collected from Cadillac plants), and/or seedlings (grown from the collected seeds). Other plots received no treatment to serve as control groups for the study.

Measurements of plant growth and survival revealed mixed success, but a main conclusion is that “soil helps,” said

Weber, who reported on the results with Brumback in March. Growth was better in the plots with deep layers of compost or loam—even in plots without any seeds or plants, as seeds from neighboring areas arrived on their own. Of the species planted, three-toothed cinquefoil and green alder were the most successful.

Planting nursery-grown seedlings (as opposed to seeds) was the most time and energy-intensive treatment and only resulted in high plant cover in some plots. This method also isn't feasible on other summits where managers plan to extend restoration efforts. Erosion is occurring at other sub-alpine locations, such as South Bubble, Penobscot, and Sargent Mountains, which don't have the road access and water supply of Cadillac Mountain. These less-accessible summits and ridges will require a fine-tuned restoration approach using methods proven effective for Cadillac, but also that will work for each unique site.

It is also too early to draw any conclusions, said Brumback. “Continued monitoring is essential.”

Additional monitoring and data analysis by Schoodic Institute scientists, ongoing since 2017, has confirmed these results, said Forest Ecology Director Peter Nelson.



Chris Nadeau, postdoctoral research fellow, checks the plot near the Blue Hill Overlook on Cadillac Mountain. Top right: Nadeau takes plant measurements. Bottom right: Jesse Wheeler (right), Acadia National Park biologist, shows U.S. House of Representatives and members of the media the revegetation plots on Cadillac’s summit during a Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition tour in 2021.

Acadia National Park biologist Jesse Wheeler agrees. “There are still so many questions, including what does successful restoration look like in 20 years, and what do we need to know?” Wheeler said that answering these questions will require inviting more voices into restoration decisions.

To that end, Chris Nadeau of Northeastern University, who is researching the tolerance of mountain plants to future climate conditions in Acadia, is facilitating a series of meetings to help the park identify summit restoration goals and adaptive management approaches. These workshops will include a diverse Science Advisory Committee, coordinated by Nelson, to better incorporate diverse expertise and user groups. For example, the Science Advisory Committee will include Scott Abella of University of Nevada Las Vegas. Abella is the restoration expert with both hands-on and theoretical experience in restoration, including with desert soil crusts, which are not unlike the moss and lichen that are the first to become established on bare rock and gravel and help build soil on Acadia’s granite peaks.

“Our monitoring of the experimental plots on Cadillac documented new growth of soil-forming mosses and lichens,”

said Nelson. “We want the restoration to follow nature’s lead and mimic these processes,” said Nelson, who has studied lichens in Maine, the Arctic tundra, and other boreal and alpine ecosystems.

This summer, Nelson and Wheeler plan to test the application of a slurry made from Cadillac moss and lichen samples on additional small plots on Cadillac. “We aim to use crust organisms to stabilize gravel beds or partially eroded patchy vegetation, in combination with methods from the first phase of the project, such as the use of mesh netting to hold soil in place and potentially selective planting and soil amendment,” said Nelson.

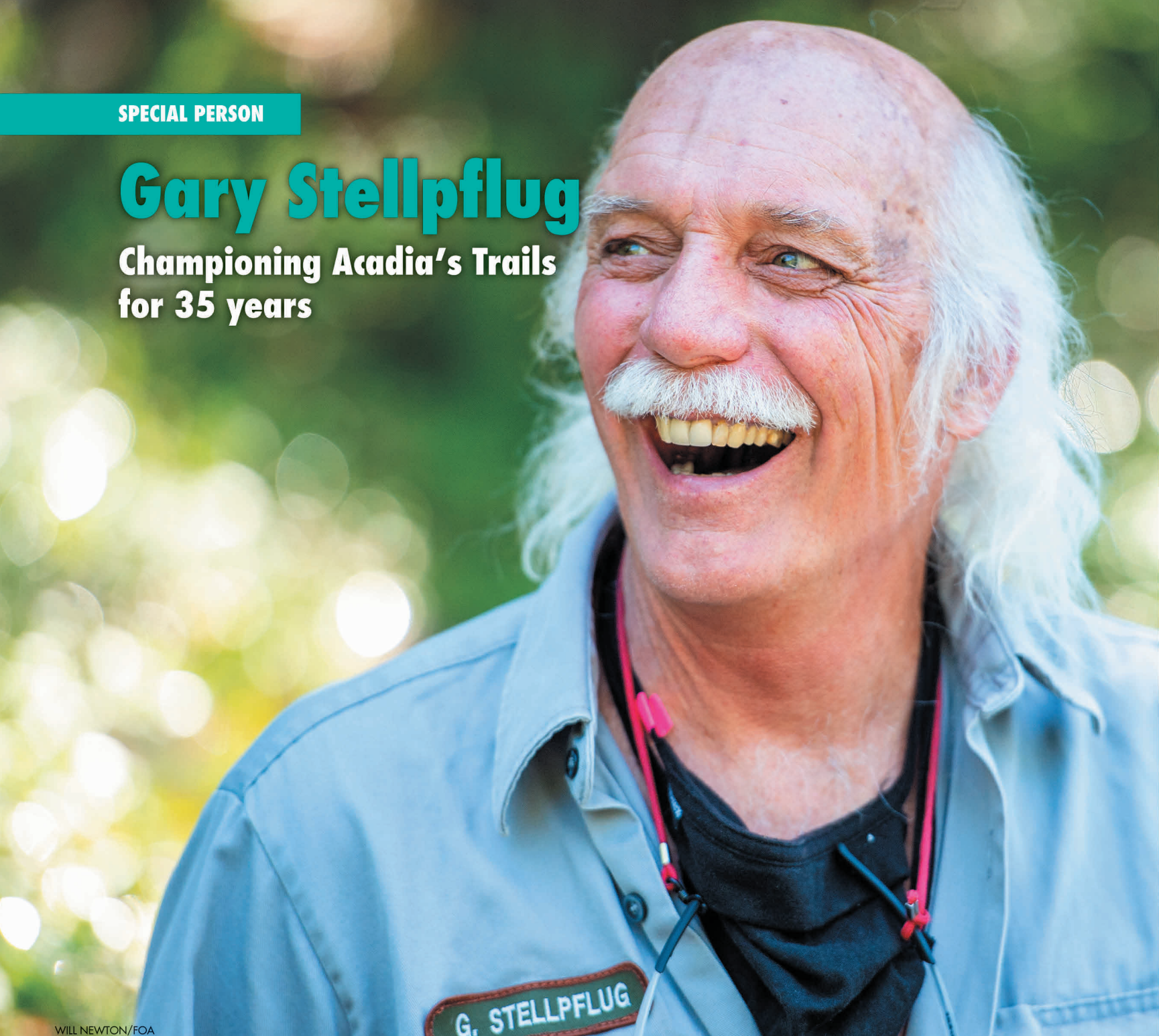
They will also continue to monitor the previously planted areas and survey other summits to learn more about natural processes of soil and plant regeneration. The hope is that with more voices, more information, and more preparation, they can be more successful in protecting Acadia’s unique and wild mountain summits. ■

CATHERINE SCHMITT is the Science Communications Specialist at Schoodic Institute.

SPECIAL PERSON

Gary Stellpflug

Championing Acadia's Trails
for 35 years



WILL NEWTON/FOA

BY LORI SCHAEFER

There's one "special person" who immediately comes to mind as a champion of Acadia's trails and a devoted steward of Acadia: Trails Foreman Gary Stellpflug.

After 35 years with the National Park Service—most of it as Trails Foreman—Gary Stellpflug knows just about every inch of Acadia's 155-mile trail system. His career milestones include restoring and maintaining Acadia's hiking trails after Acadia became the first national park with a trail-system endowment

and securing a place for Acadia's trail system on the National Register of Historic Places.

For Stellpflug, that last milestone is the perfect culmination to his career with the National Park Service. "I'm elated, overjoyed, and extremely proud," he said. "It's an honor to have played a part in getting the recognition that Acadia's trails are part of national history—like the carriage roads, bridges, gatehouses, and lighthouses already on the National Register."

And with that accomplishment under his belt, Stelpflug is ready to pass the baton. He plans to retire from the National Park Service at the end of August.

While Stelpflug's accomplishments are vast, he is appreciated most for his approachable and laid-back style, his sense of humor, and a deep commitment to Acadia. He's also known for his humility.

"Stewarding Acadia is a team effort," he said. "From the incredible trail crew and volunteers that I get to work with, to other park staff like interpretation, maintenance, roads crew, clerks—basically everyone at the park, to Friends of Acadia, we all have a role to play in protecting and preserving this special place. Doing this work, for this long, with these folks, has truly been an honor."

We met up with Stelpflug in Sieur de Monts this June to learn more from the person who's been stewarding Acadia's trails for more than three decades.

Q. Do you have a favorite trail project? What are you most proud of?

A. There are so many, and for different reasons. Getting Acadia on the National Register of Historic Places is a highlight, for sure. The boardwalk on Jesup Path is a favorite project because we worked together to get the funding, address the cultural and natural resource challenges, and solve problems. We kept the trail—which was a mudhole when we started—opting for a different look and feel, and it is incredibly popular with visitors. Jesup is also an accessible trail that meets American Disabilities Act (ADA) specs. That makes me proud. Jordan Pond Path was the first big project. It took years to complete, and it's such a popular, well-visited trail. It's feels good to get people out of their cars enjoying the trails.

Q. What was the most difficult project during your tenure?

A. We've done any number of repairs on the Precipice, Orange and Black, and Homans Path. We've done some really hard work on Jordan Cliffs. Probably the most significant were repairs after the earthquake in the fall of 2006. We closed Homans, Orange and Black, and Precipice for a while.

Q. In your opinion, what makes Acadia's trails so special?

A. The intimacy. We don't have the 1,000-mile trail systems that many parks have. People can hike our trails each way, in any season, rain or shine. The system is small enough that people get to know their favorite trails and loops.

The history is important. A lot of our trails began with Village Improvement Societies. Volunteers put in time and effort on the trails and they have ownership. We saw that commitment and passion when the Acadia Trails Forever endowment was started. Acadia is accessible—and I don't just mean ADA accessible. If you want to hike a trail this afternoon, you can get on one of our connector trails and walk into the park and go for a hike and then go back to work. Or drive into the park and go for a hike. We have a lot of bang for the buck. The viewsheds. You don't have to walk for 1.5 hours through a forest to get a view. Some of our trails you walk for 10 minutes, and you've got a view of the ocean or the rest of the park.



Q. What was the most dangerous moment you ever had on the trails?

A. Whoa, I almost killed myself a few times, but not at work! I do remember the time a rock dislodged from above on the Beech Cliffs. It whizzed by within inches of my head. Yikes! Usually, we're a safe bunch.

Q. Do you have a worry or concern for the future of Acadia's trails?

A. The budget issue is always looming. Can we keep trails open? Can we afford to maintain them? Can we stop erosion? Can we repair historical steps? We can't without budget and crew, so that is something I worry about. But I worry a lot less because we have Friends of Acadia and the endowment.

Climate change and sea-level rise are also concerns. Are we going to continually experience rain events and washouts like last year's June storm? We just had 100 yards of damage this year on the Ocean Path. If the ocean comes up six inches, it's going to affect us for sure.

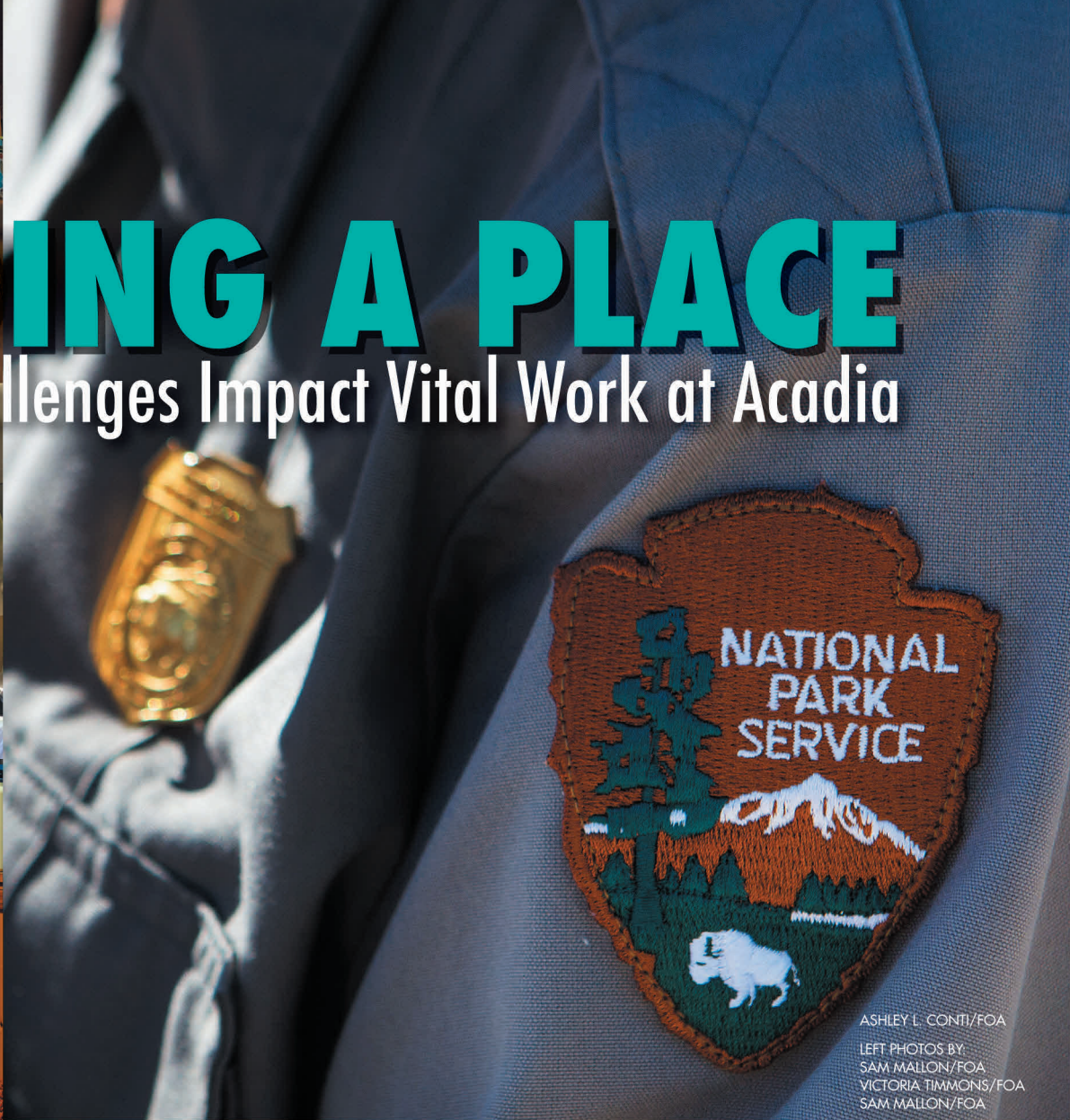
I also worry about housing and hiring issues and how they'll affect our ability to effectively staff in the future.

Q. How does it feel to be retiring, and what will you do next?

A. It feels great. I've loved my job, but now that the decision is made, I can't wait! I'm going to play. Travel. I'm not a world traveler, but I'm a Maine traveler and want to do more of that. I've got a son to see in California who's long overdue for a visit. I have a to-do list around the house that's a mile long. The people that are here on the trail crew now are amazing. I'm leaving things in a good place.

To read more of Gary's interview, visit *Stories of Acadia* at friendsofacadia.org or scan the QR code.





FINDING A PLACE

Housing Challenges Impact Vital Work at Acadia

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA
LEFT PHOTOS BY:
SAM MALLON/FOA
VICTORIA TIMMONS/FOA
SAM MALLON/FOA

BY SHANNON BRYAN

When visitors explore Acadia, it's the landscape that typically captures their attention. They delight over tree-lined trails and granite peaks, coastal vistas, and calm ponds. What visitors don't often see is the employees who keep the park humming day in and day out: the hard-working law enforcement rangers, wildlife biologists, trail crews and maintenance workers. Even more difficult to grasp is the challenge those workers face trying to find a place to live for the season—and the serious impact that lack of workforce housing has on the park's ability to meet its mission.

Each spring, both the park and Friends of Acadia hire seasonal staff to complement full-time teams and support the considerable increase in park visitors—numbers that continue to climb year after year, to the point of four million visits in 2021.

Friends of Acadia hires around 15 seasonal employees each year, including Summit Stewards, a Wild Gardens intern,

Recreational Technicians, Stewardship Crew Leaders, and members of the Acadia Digital Media Team. Acadia National Park hires 10 times more—approximately 150 people. These seasonal employees do everything from managing trails, assisting visitors, maintaining buildings, ensuring visitor safety, cleaning restrooms, and more.

In recent years, filling those vital seasonal roles—as well as full-time positions at the park—has become more challenging. The reasons why are multifaceted, but one significant factor is the lack of affordable housing on and near Mount Desert Island.

Seasonal staff historically would find summer lodging in and around the island, perhaps an apartment, room share, or an RV parked at one of the campgrounds. But those options are increasingly out of reach.

A 2018 housing study conducted by the Island Housing Trust, a Bar Harbor-based organization that promotes viable,



year-round island communities by advancing permanent workforce housing on Mount Desert Island, highlights rising housing costs that far exceed the rise in median income. The study also acknowledges the increase in short-term rentals, which cater mostly to vacationers who are generally on the island for a week or two. Every short-term rental listed on platforms like AirBnB or VRBO means one less housing option for a seasonal or year-round worker.

And these factors have only multiplied since the pandemic. Kyle Shank, an Island Housing Trust Advisory Council member and quantitative researcher, noted in a meeting last fall that Hancock County saw an 88 percent increase in relocated households from out of state in 2020.

The impact on Friends of Acadia is direct. For Summit Steward Coordinator Stephanie Ley, the lack of housing has hindered her ability to hire for her team. “We have really wonderful candidates from across the country,” she says. “To get them to accept the job, they need to have housing—but it’s very difficult to find, especially from afar.” As a result, she’s lost candidates.

“We have great local candidates, too. I’m excited about the ones we have on the team,” Ley adds. But being able to cast a wider net helps to build the team’s skill set and provides opportunities for people who aren’t lucky enough to already live here.

“We have really wonderful candidates from across the country. To get them to accept the job, they need to have housing.” - Stephanie Ley

Friends of Acadia Board Prioritizes Housing Effort

The housing challenge isn’t exclusive to Acadia National Park; many parks around the country are facing similar pressures. But it does directly impact work to help the park be more resilient in the face of climate change, engage youth, balance visitor experience with resource protection, and maintain Acadia’s amazing trails and carriage roads.

That’s why in fall 2020, the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors established the Seasonal Employee Housing Committee to better understand the challenges and to explore what role Friends of Acadia might take to support the park, as well as how our efforts could complement the work of others on this issue.

“The Friends of Acadia board realizes that it is absolutely essential to our ability to help preserve and protect Acadia going forward,” says board member Dave Edson, who chairs the housing committee. “We believe it’s critical for Friends of Acadia to play an active role in both short and long-term solution-finding to establish housing for seasonal staff, while also being mindful to not have a negative impact on the larger community and

the housing challenges of year-round residents.”

Former Friends of Acadia President & CEO David MacDonald agrees. “The word ‘crisis’ is not putting it too strongly,” he says. In fact, it’s so important, that while MacDonald stepped away from his position at Friends of Acadia earlier this year, the Board of Directors asked him to continue to support this work on a contract basis while transitioning to new President and CEO Eric Stiles.



Opposite page: (Top) Chiara Jeanfils, lead Summit Steward for Friends of Acadia, and (Bottom) Sam Mallon, of the Acadia Digital Media Team, live in rental units owned by Pat and Bob Foster who switched some of their rental properties from weekly rentals to seasonal housing. (Middle) Former Acadia Digital Media Team member Victoria Timmons set up her car as living quarters during her seasonal work last year. (Bottom) Like other employees in the area, park employees struggle to find affordable places to live. (Left) Harden Farm apartments is one of Acadia’s existing properties that provide seasonal employee housing.



Acadia National Park hasn't been able to fill its lifeguard positions at Sand Beach for several years in part due to the seasonal housing shortage.

Pursuing Short and Long-Term Housing Solutions

Friends of Acadia is engaged with the park and other partners on several fronts:

- Appealing to Friends of Acadia members to help identify local property owners and landlords who see the value in stepping away from the short-term rental market and instead renting longer term for the season to help park seasonals find a home in this tight market. For example, Somesville residents Pat and Bob Foster converted some of their weekly rentals to seasonal housing for Friends of Acadia employees in recent years.
- Networking with partners and property owners who may be interested in conveying their land to the park or to Friends of Acadia for housing.
- Assisting the park by funding renovations that would remodel existing park buildings to create more beds.
- Working with College of the Atlantic to house staff in dorms that are otherwise empty in the summer, although staff often must move mid-season as students return to campus.
- Hiring locally when possible. Meeting immediate needs through a combination of creative solutions is

important now, but Friends of Acadia is equally invested in assisting the park in establishing reliable, sustainable housing for staff well into the future.

The Seasonal Housing Committee is working to identify ways that Friends of Acadia can help accelerate park efforts to build new housing for seasonal employees in appropriate locations on park land. One example is the Harden Farm tract on Kebo Street in Bar Harbor, which is already the site of a handful of park units, and has been identified since the 1960s as a promising location that could accommodate additional housing. Agreeing on a suitable level of development, then doing the planning and design work to make the project “shovel ready,” while advocating for federal funding from Congress to enable it to happen, are steps that will require a strong public-private partnership.

Another property subject to discussions is a 55-acre tract in Town Hill. Owned by the park, it was identified in the 1986 park boundary legislation for transfer to the town for use as a solid waste facility; the facility was never constructed, however, and now the need for one has diminished.

This spring, U.S. Sens. Angus King and Susan Collins introduced legislation to

change its intended use to allow for the development of workforce housing for seasonal workers and full-time residents, as well as slating a portion to the National Park Service to construct staff housing. The Island Housing Trust is willing to work with the park and the town to pursue the shared goals. Friends of Acadia has already begun advocating for passage of the required federal legislation and has offered its support for site assessment work needed to answer questions about the potential level and location of development here in the future.

As with any complex and nuanced challenge, there's no magic bullet. Instead, Friends of Acadia's approach is based in creative problem-solving, partnering with others, and advocacy.

“The ways in which Friends of Acadia has been asked to help support the park have grown and evolved over the years,” says MacDonald. “This is yet another example of that, and we are encouraged by how Friends of Acadia members and partners are already responding with support and ideas.” ■

SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia's Content and Website Manager.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

DROP IN TO HELP OUT AS A STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

L-R: Volunteer Jessie Creelman works to floss the coping stones along the carriage road near the Waterfall Bridge. Volunteer Kirsten Chery widens a part of the Hadlock Ponds Trail as part of a service group stewardship crew project.

BY SHANNON BRYAN

A few hours spent wielding a rake or pulling vegetation helps keep Acadia National Park's trails and carriage roads safe, accessible, and looking sharp. The park's trails and carriage road crews work hard maintaining the trails and carriage roads we enjoy walking, hiking, and biking on, and this season we can bolster those efforts by pitching in as volunteers.

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia are excited to welcome back volunteers through the Stewardship Volunteer Drop-In Program. As part of the drop-in program volunteers will be maintaining carriage road and trail drainage systems, cutting back overgrown vegetation, and working on a cadre of other needed tasks.

Projects run 8:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from now through October (weather permitting), and no experience or reservations are necessary.

"We are delighted to welcome volunteers back to the park this summer," said Nikki Burtis, Friends of Acadia's Stewardship Coordinator. "It's a great opportunity to learn about and contribute to maintaining our trails and carriage roads. A half-day's effort volunteering makes a big difference in protecting the park we all love!"

Service groups are welcome and can volunteer for a half day, full day, a week or more. Reservations are required. Please

visit [friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/volunteer/stewardship-volunteers](https://www.friendsofacadia.org/get-involved/volunteer/stewardship-volunteers) for more information.

Whether you volunteer for a few hours, a few months, or year after year, you will see a new side of Acadia, feel a deeper connection to the park, and leave this national treasure a little better than you found it.

Volunteers should arrive in work clothes, closed-toed shoes, and bring a backpack with water and a snack. Stewardship Staff and Volunteer Crew Leaders provide the rest, including tools, safety gear, and transportation from Park Headquarters to the morning's work site. Participants meet near the flagpole at Acadia National Park Headquarters, 567 Eagle Lake Road, Bar Harbor.

Over the years, hundreds of volunteers have contributed thousands of hours on crucial projects, making a real and lasting difference for Acadia National Park. Come lend a hand this season and keep Acadia's trails and carriage roads in excellent shape for decades to come.

To learn more about Stewardship volunteering in Acadia, visit [friendsofacadia.org](https://www.friendsofacadia.org) or call the Stewardship Team at 207-288-3934. ■

SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia's Content and Website Manager.

FUN FACT:

Those large blocks of granite that line the park's roads and serve as guardrails are called coping stones. They're also often referred to as "Rockefeller's teeth," in honor of philanthropist John D. Rockefeller Jr. who built the roads. The process of removing vegetation around them to prevent erosion damage is known as "flossing." This and several other accessible options are available to volunteers and service groups.



With this final feature, we conclude our series recognizing women of Acadia, both past and present.

Women of Acadia

THEN & NOW

A Passion to Serve

THEN... Margaret Stupka

Margaret Stupka, a trained botanist, was among the many “park wives” in the 1920-1940s who served the National Park Service without pay. When Margaret’s husband, Arthur, was hired as the park’s first ranger-naturalist in 1932, Acadia “bought one and got one free.” Their first summer, the couple organized four wildflower exhibits and created the bimonthly bulletin *Nature Notes*, for which Margaret wrote and illustrated features. Although Margaret wasn’t paid, she was recognized both in the *Nature Notes* masthead and in an annual report where her husband noted, “For two summers Mrs. Stupka has donated her entire time aiding the cause of the Ranger-Naturalist Service in a very capable and enthusiastic manner.”

NOW... Zoë Smiarowski, recent National Park Service intern on women’s history

BY LYNN FANTOM

“Even though I am paid, and she was not,” Zoë Smiarowski, a recent National Park Service intern on women’s history, feels aligned with Margaret Stupka because of their mutual passion and desire to share knowledge about natural resources.

At 25, Zoë has already invested her energy into land stewardship and outdoor education, working with the National Park Service (NPS), state parks, and organizations like Friends of Acadia. Recently, she turned to women’s contributions to Acadia National Park.

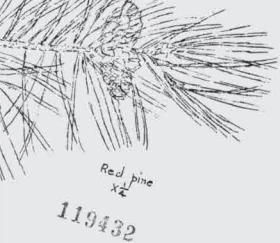
During a four-month internship funded by the National Park Foundation, Zoë unearthed women’s stories and brought them to light not only for NPS personnel but for the public. She dug into resources from Pennsylvania’s Bryn Mawr College (the alma mater of Florence Bascom, a professional geologist who surveyed Mount Desert Island and published her work in 1919) to the Denver Public Library (for files about the Student Conservation Association, which has placed both women and men into positions at Acadia since the 1960s).

But Zoë didn’t hole herself up with historical archives in her office, though its walls did display some beautifully illustrated Margaret Stupka articles. She also reached out to community experts, such as Terese Miller, a Mount Desert Island teacher and Bar Harbor Historical Society lecturer, and enthusiastically credits a range of collaborators.

That kind of generosity is part of Zoë’s charm, along with a big dose of humility about the resulting work, some of which is showcased on the Acadia National Park website. It is both comprehensive and insightful.

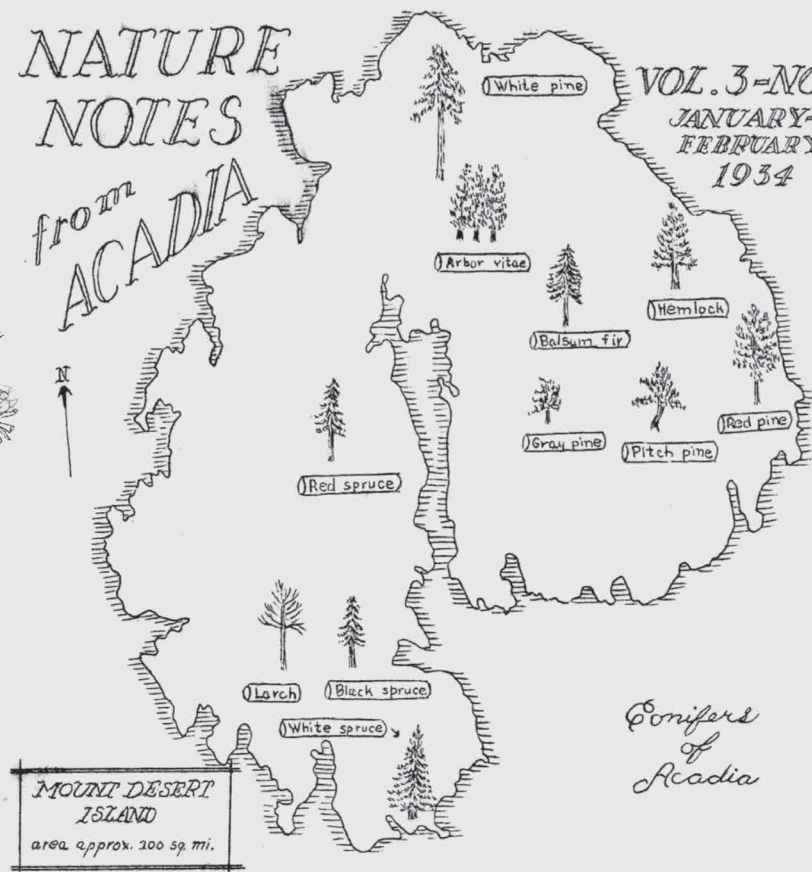
“One of my biggest takeaways was that women were really a large part of getting the park established,” she says. She points not only to the wealthy women, like Eliza Homans (1832-1914), who funded trails and made land donations, but also to conservation advocates such as Belle Smallidge Knowles (1871-1959), active even before women had the right to vote. “Both helped create a reputation that this is a place that deserves protection,” she adds.





NATURE NOTES from ACADIA

VOL. 3-NO. 1
JANUARY-
FEBRUARY,
1934



Conifers
of
Acadia

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK BAR HARBOR, MAINE

Department of the Interior; Office of National Parks, Buildings, & Reservations.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



Zoë Smiarowski, Friends of Acadia stewardship assistant. Background: Illustrations and cover by Margaret Stupka for the January-February 1934 Nature Notes, a bimonthly bulletin for the National Park Service.

Another of Zoë's insights: women did not dominate just one corner of the story. In science, for example, Annie Sawyer Downs (1836-1901) was a botany expert credited with discovering the white variety of *Rhodora*. (She also founded the Southwest Harbor Public Library.) Barbara Patterson (1912-1991) was a citizen scientist who recorded over 23 years of bird banding data on Mount Desert Island, now a resource at NPS to help scientists assess changes in bird behavior and activity.

Zoë herself is a generalist. "When you look at my resume, I've dabbled in all different kinds of land stewardship," she says. A 2019 University of Connecticut graduate, the Branford native majored in Natural Resources and the Environment.

With a connection to Mount Desert Island from summertime visits with her grandparents, she later worked as a Friends of Acadia Summit Steward for two and a half years. She then joined AmeriCorps and served as a trails specialist in Montana, organizing volunteers and developing resources, such as a

trails management plan. Upbeat about what she learned from that experience, she does admit that on the prairie, "I definitely missed trees."

Now back in Maine, with the NPS internship on women's history concluded, she has started a new position at Friends of Acadia helping organize volunteer groups who come to work on trails, carriage roads, or other vegetation projects. She quickly notes that it was a woman, Marianne Edwards, who had the idea to bring more structure to volunteering at Acadia and became the driving force behind the founding Friends of Acadia in 1985, as well as its first donor.

"It feels nice to be part of that legacy," she says. ■

LYNN FANTOM is a former New York advertising executive who has embraced her second career as a freelance writer in Maine.



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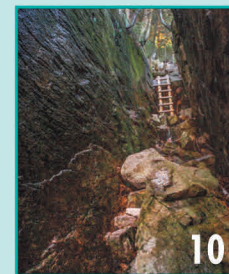
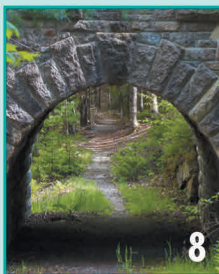
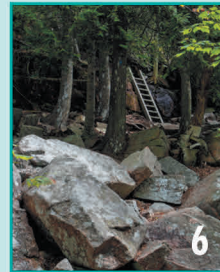
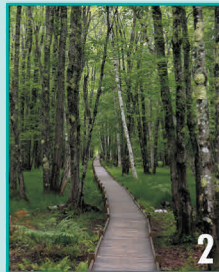
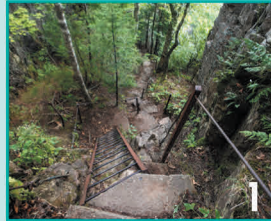
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that run throughout
Acadia National Park?



- _____ Beehive Ladder Trail
- _____ Cadillac West Face Trail
- _____ Canada Cliffs
- _____ Goat Trail - Isle Au Haut
- _____ Jesup Path
- _____ Jordan Cliffs Trail
- _____ Jordan Pond Walk
- _____ Pemetic Northwest Trail
- _____ Seaside Path
- _____ South Bubble Trail

ANSWERS ON PAGE 47



WILL NEWTON/FOA

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

June brought an exciting arrival to Wildwood Stables: A new accessible carriage was added to the fleet of carriages used by park concessionaire, Carriages of Acadia, for tours in the park. The carriage will open opportunities for people of all abilities to enjoy the experience of riding on the historic crushed-stone roads, and over Acadia's unique carriage road bridges.

The accessible carriage was purchased through Friends of Acadia's endowment originally established by the Shelby Cullom Davis Foundation, now called the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation. It was built by Raber Buggy Works

in Indiana and will transfer to any future concessions operations as the contract for carriage rides is reissued.

Friends of Acadia reached out to groups across Maine who work with people with disabilities to let them know of the carriage's availability. Reservations can be made by calling 1-877-276-3622 or 207-276-3622. For more information on the tours offered by Carriages of Acadia, visit acadiahorses.com. ■

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Director.

Above: Malena Dornemann, a carriage driver with Carriages of Acadia, drives horses Shorty and Shamu to pick up guests prior to giving a tour of carriage roads in Acadia National Park. Below: The new accessible carriage joins the fleet at Wildwood Stables.



EVERY HOWE/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Great Meadow Wetland and Bass Harbor Marsh Selected for Federal Funding

BY SHANNON BRYAN AND LORI SCHAEFER

Acadia National Park will receive federal funds for two crucial environmental projects in the park over the next two years.

The Great Meadow Wetland restoration will receive \$500K in fiscal year 2022 and Bass Harbor Marsh \$400K in fiscal year 2023. The funding was authorized through the bipartisan \$550 billion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act that Congress passed last November. Both projects are Wild Acadia initiatives and a collaborative effort between Acadia National Park, Friends of Acadia, and the Schoodic Institute.

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is a \$1 trillion investment in America's infrastructure and will support National Park Service efforts to tackle the climate crisis in parks across the country. This is the largest investment in American history devoted to the restoration and protection of the environment.

Rebecca Cole-Will, Acadia's Chief of Resource Management, said the new funding is intended to do ecosystem restoration for recreation and climate-smart management. "This federal funding supports and leverages significant investments by Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service in forward-thinking adaptive management. The Wild Acadia Initiative is a model approach, and this funding recognizes that."

In the Great Meadow Wetland, the work will build on six years of previous efforts. Project plans include plugging ditches in the wetland to retain water naturally and prevent flooding downstream, installing culverts and boardwalks to enhance the recreation value of the trails and restore natural water flow, and planting native plants appropriate for future climates. The project will begin in 2022 and will enable a more climate-resilient and recreation-friendly environment.

Additional funding is allocated to Bass Harbor Marsh in 2023. Bass Harbor Marsh is the largest salt marsh in the park and provides an important habitat for Nelson's sparrows, which breed in salt marshes. It is also a culturally significant landscape for traditional harvesting of sweetgrass by Wabanaki people from the four federally recognized Indian Tribes affiliated with Acadia.

The Bass Harbor Marsh project is a part of a public-private partnership project to co-manage the marsh by integrating indigenous science and climate-smart techniques to restore salt marshes throughout the Maine Coastal Watershed. This project will leverage more than \$6 million in private funding for restoration in the region and will be completed in 2023.

Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Project Coordinator, said he believes that Acadia was well positioned for this federal funding thanks to its leadership in addressing how parks tackle climate change through the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework.

"In 2021, Acadia received national press for its work on climate change and the RAD framework. We in turn had visits from U.S. Department of Interior Secretary Deb Haaland and a delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. Other parks are also reaching out to learn more about our work and I think we've built momentum. This is a great example of how private philanthropy and government can work together." ■

SHANNON BRYAN is Friends of Acadia's Content and Website Manager and LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

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January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022

Bass Harbor Group
Gerrish Chiropractic Center
Gideon Asen
Lynam Insurance Agency
Lynam Real Estate
Wilderness Medicine Leadership

NEW TRAILBLAZERS

January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022

Anonymous	Linda Napier
Beverly Carrick	Marion and Brian Pawlow
Dunbar Family	Dee and Bob Reich
Teon Edwards	Barbara Thompson
Colleen and Jason Grabosky	Anna Coxe Toogood
Leslie Hudson	Heather Wilcox

NEW MEMBERS

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Caroline Barnes	Stefanie Firestone
Mary Blake	Stephanie Fogel
Suzanne Blum	Regina Gallihugh
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Keith Corson	Paul Howe
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Continued on pages 40-41

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Lynn and Jeff Verrill	Diane White
Ted Waldron	Craig Wilkey
Patsy and Fred	Mary Woodruff
Walschburger	Bonnie Woodworth
Martha Walsh	Whitney Zeh
Wendy Webb	Linda Zilembo

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January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022

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Ann Caswell	Nick Miller
Donna Gaines	Georgia Munsell
Mary Galperin	Carole Puglisi
Marshall Ginn	Alan Rosenquist
Annlinn Kruger	Barbara Roth
Judi Lyles	Bonnie Trigg
Rick Lyles	Don Wagner
Joan Mansfield	Gerri Wagner

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January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022

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Bob Hartley	Desiree Sirois
Judy Hines	Bonnie Trigg
Nancy Howland	Amelia Vandongen
Jeff Martin	Leila Weir
Doug Monteith	Sam York
Anouk McDonald	*Deceased

ACADIA TRAILS AND CARRIAGE ROAD VOLUNTEERS

January 1, 2022 – May 31, 2022

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Don Bell	Marycarol Lenahan
Jean Bell	Jim Linnane
Jenn Brandt	Fred Mansfield
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Maureen Brooks	Bill McArtor
Sam Bulger	Barb Nealon
J.C. Camelio	Mark Nadel
Bruce Denny-Brown	Cliff Olson
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Joey Engling	Donna Reis
Mike Engling	Betsy Roberts
Randy Ewins	Bob Sanderson
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Updates

Teacher Training in Acadia

The Acadia Teacher Fellows program is back to full operations this summer! With one steadfast local fellow representing the program for the past two years, the park welcomes seven teachers from around the country to learn, explore, and rejuvenate in Acadia this summer. The cohort will spend six weeks in the park, hiking trails, shadowing interpretive rangers, assisting park biologists, and visiting cultural sites.

The Outdoor Teacher Collaborative will also continue in 2022 as a professional development opportunity for local teachers, mirroring the Acadia Teacher Fellows program, which is open to teachers from across the country. Teachers in the Collaborative hail from school districts in the Downeast region and will participate in one-day workshops each week in July. Both cohorts will continue to focus on creating outdoor learning curricula for their grades and campuses to support their students studying in the outdoors while also connecting them to the natural and cultural resources of Acadia National Park.

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps



Acadia excitedly welcomed back the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) program this summer after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Traditionally, the team of teenagers helps the park trail crew by improving Acadia's trails and carriage roads. The Corps continues this essential maintenance work, but this year has added training and mentorship opportunities for youth to experience other park operations.



Pat Sandefur, of Burlington, CT, runs with Brian Henkel, Friends of Acadia Wild Acadia project coordinator, along the carriage road near Eagle Lake.

Pat Sandefur Raises Funds for Wild Acadia with 50K through Acadia National Park

Friends of Acadia member Pat Sandefur combined his love for running and his love for Acadia National Park into a 50K fundraiser for Friends of Acadia in early June. Pat's 31.1-mile run raised \$1,925 for Wild Acadia initiatives.

"Climate change is something I have been concerned about for a long time, and I worry about its impact on Acadia National Park," Pat said. The Friends of Acadia member and Burlington, CT native has been visiting Acadia since he was six years old; his wife has joined him for the last 33 years, and his kids have been visiting Acadia their entire lives.

Pat is also an avid ultra-runner, which is why he chose to do a 50K in Acadia National Park to raise funds and awareness for a place so close to his heart. He committed himself and his company, Bass

Harbor Group, to being socially responsible by helping Friends of Acadia preserve and protect Acadia for future generations, specifically through the Wild Acadia project.

Thank you, Pat, for your dedication!

Friends of Acadia agrees there is no more pressing issue for Acadia than the rapid changes we are seeing in the climate. The Paddle Raise at this year's Annual Benefit is dedicated to Wild Acadia. Join us at the Benefit Auction on August 13 for the live Paddle Raise, or raise your virtual paddle by making an online contribution via our Benefit Auction site: bidpal.net/acadia.

Read the full story by scanning the QR code or visiting friendsofacadia.org and click on Stories of Acadia.



2021 Annual Report Now Online

This year, we decided to go online with our 2021 Annual Report, now called the Impact Report (to better reflect the vital impact Friends of Acadia and your member dollars have on important projects in Acadia National Park).

2021 was an historic year. Friends of Acadia teamed with Acadia National Park to address record visitation, erratic weather events caused by climate change, the lack of housing for employees, and the potential of an industrial-scale aquaculture operation in our front yard. We launched a nationwide search for our next President and CEO, Eric Stiles, who recently took over the helm after a decade of David MacDonald's outstanding leadership.

Our members have been with us every step of the way, providing critical resources to address park needs. The 2021 Impact Report is a tribute to the power of friends coming together to preserve and protect our Acadia.

Visit our new Impact Report at www.friendsofacadia.org/our-impact/impact-report or scan the QR code.




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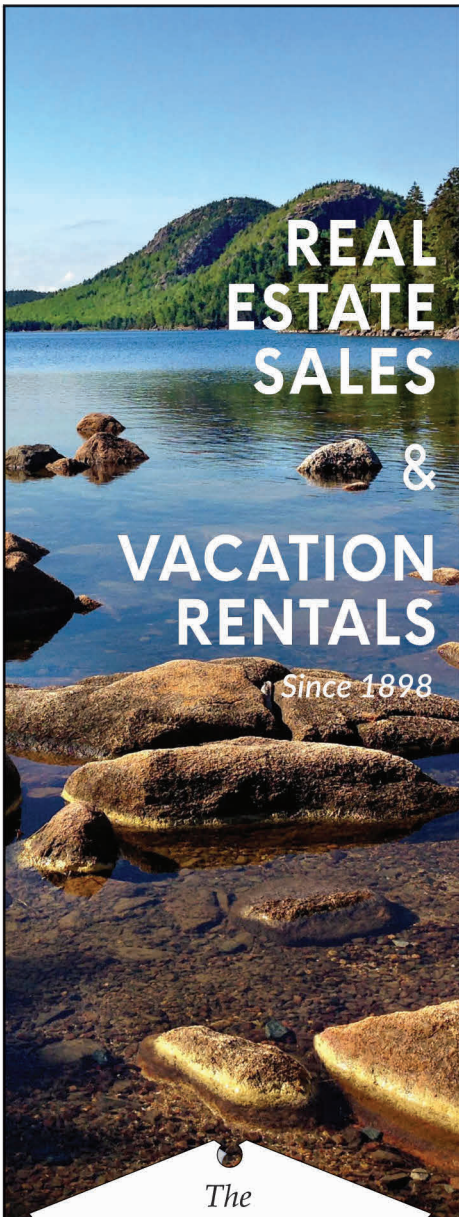


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Updates continued

Staff Retirements and Additions

Amanda Mogridge and Shannon Bryan joined the full-time Friends of Acadia staff in May, filling positions that opened as two of our wonderful, long-term employees retired.

Development Officer Mary Boëchat retired in June after 13 years with Friends of Acadia, and



Amanda Mogridge took her place as Friends of Acadia's Database Manager. Amanda brings a vast array of skills to Friends of Acadia, including a specialization in fundraising database management. She works with the development and communications teams, the board, and volunteers in the overall planning, integration, and administration of development

information systems to further the mission of Friends of Acadia.



Shannon Bryan brings 17 years of experience as a writer for Maine-based newspapers, magazines, and digital brands to the position of Content & Website Manager. As part of the communications team, Shannon takes on some of the responsibilities previously held by Lisa Williams, who semi-retired in May. Lisa moved to a contract position and continues designing *Acadia* magazine. Shannon helps develop and create content for *Acadia* magazine and the organization's website, as well as other communications and development materials.

A Special Thank You to Z-Studio

When Friends of Acadia decided to redesign its journal in 2020 and rename it *Acadia* magazine, Karen Zimmerman of Z-Studio enthusiastically championed the effort. Karen and her design partner, Corey Blake, designed the Friends of Acadia Journal for five years and the Friends of Acadia annual report for 10 years.

This year, Karen decided to retire, and she passed the magazine

design to Lisa Williams of Indigo Art Design (formerly our Friends of Acadia Design Associate who is now semi-retired and working by contract). A huge shout out to you, Karen, for the energy, creativity, and passion you brought to this work and our creative team for so many years. Enjoy your retirement. We hope to see you again soon on Acadia's trails.

The Beat Goes On

“The Beat Goes on.” As some of us remember, this song was recorded by Sonny & Cher in 1967—it is a timeless truism that relates very well to our beautiful Acadia National Park and the Mount Desert Island region.

Despite the challenging times we’ve all experienced in the past few years, these “gems” remain an anchor for many veteran residents and visitors, and are still being discovered by many new friends. This region and our wonderful Acadia National Park are as beautiful—and as busy—as ever.

Interestingly, during the interviews of candidates for David MacDonald’s successor as Friends of Acadia’s President and CEO, the search committee was asked by a very thoughtful candidate what brought us as individuals, staff members, and an active board to this place. It was obvious to the candidate (even before the interview) that Acadia was very special.

After a short silence while we all gathered the right words to explain how we “got” here, how we came to love being here, and why we felt a responsibility to “preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources,” we shared our stories.

To a person, we ended our explanations with the observation that there is a strong “sense of place” here. This “sense of place” is timeless. It’s about the natural geography and ecology, but it is also about the community of both year-round and summer residents, as well as short-term visitors. We feel a sense of belonging—both as residents and staff—helping to “preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of” this very special place.

The retaining of Friends of Acadia’s new President and CEO, Eric Stiles, in just this mold, is serendipity of the finest order. Eric and his family have visited MDI over the years, experiencing and appreciating this “sense of place” long before the possibility of his becoming part of our community ever presented itself. Eric and his wife, Lydia, have lived and loved a rural lifestyle. Their professional credentials (she is a middle- and high-school teacher; he has extensive experience in management and environmental stewardship) and connections are “ready-made” for Friends of Acadia and MDI.

The Friends of Acadia Board of Directors is pleased that the Stiles family has come our way and that they belong here, continuing the good work of educating our children and stewarding our natural resources. “And the Beat Goes On.”

FROM THE CHAIR



“We feel a sense of belonging—both as residents and staff—helping to ‘preserve, protect, and promote stewardship’ of this very special place.”

Jack Kelley

—Jack Kelley



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rests on a rock in Jordan Pond in Acadia National Park.

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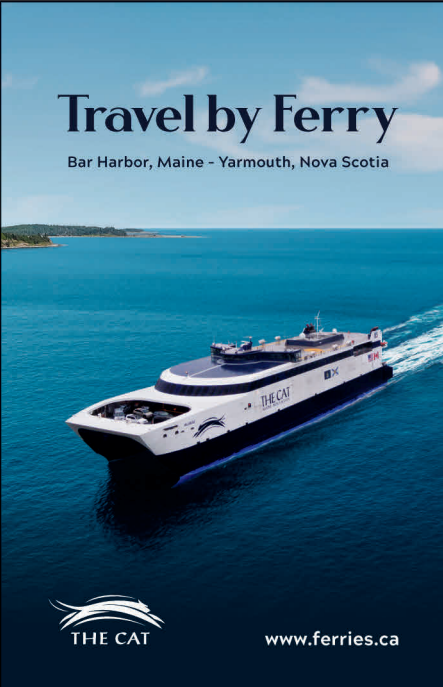


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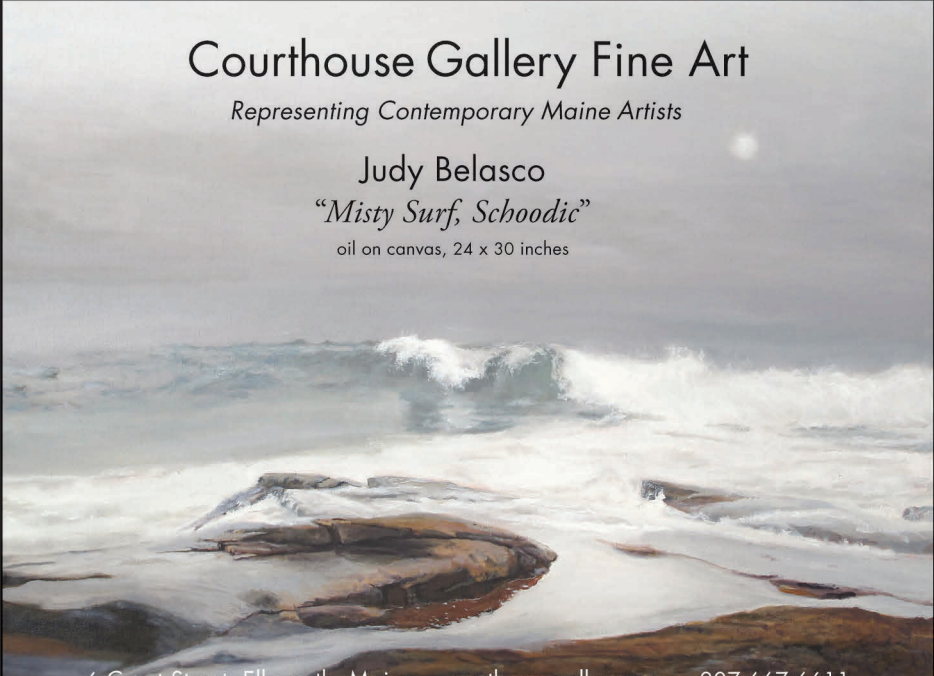
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ANSWERS to TRAILS IQ quiz on page 36

1. Canada Cliffs
2. Jesup Path
3. Jordan Pond Walk
4. Beehive Ladder Trail
5. Goat Trail - Isle Au Haut
6. Cadillac West Face Trail
7. South Bubble Trail
8. Seaside Path
9. Jordan Cliffs Trail
10. Pemetic Northwest Trail



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MY ACADIA

BY STELLA VIGUSHIN

In my opinion, Acadia National Park has some of the most beautiful sights in the world. Me and my dad took a road trip from Boston to Bar Harbor in June. We were only there for about three days, but we were able to explore enough of Acadia to create a good opinion about it: We loved it!

At first, I thought the views would just be everyday greenery, but I was proven wrong. The scenery was amazing, and the nature was truly breathtaking. I saw lakes bigger than all of the lakes I've seen put together. I was amazed by the views from atop all the mountains we climbed.

However, my favorite view was atop Conners Nubble. From there I saw a remarkable view of Eagle Lake. My second favorite was the view from atop South Bubble. From there I saw a beautiful forest from another nearby mountain as well as Jordan Pond.

Those are just a couple of my favorites, but I think that all of the views, whether looking from atop a mountain or looking through binoculars, everything you'll see is unique and special.

Acadia National Park is definitely a place I'll want to visit again!!!

Editor's Note: Stella Vigushin is nine years old. She wrote this column after her first visit to Acadia. In June, we received this note from Stella's Dad, Paul Vigushin.

My daughter, Stella, and I just spent four days exploring Acadia National Park. We live in Richardson, TX, just north of Dallas. This was Stella's first trip to Acadia and my second. She loved the park so much that she begged me to stay, but we couldn't extend our trip. I told her we'll definitely be back. Stella also loves to write. During one of our hikes, we met a very nice couple who lives in Bar Harbor and are members of Friends of Acadia. They suggested that Stella submit a short article to your publication about her trip and impressions of Acadia.



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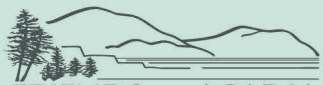
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