

# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal WINTER/SPRING 2022



## CLIMATE CHANGE

MEANS DIFFICULT DECISIONS

## LIFE UNDER THE ICE

GLIMPSES OF AN OVERLOOKED WORLD

## ACADIA HITS A RECORD

FOUR MILLION VISITS



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# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

WINTER/SPRING 2022

Volume 27 No. 1

*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.

Acadia is published three times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

#### EDITOR

Lori Schaefer

#### PHOTO EDITOR

Julia Walker Thomas

#### DESIGN

Z Studio Design

Lisa Williams

#### PRINTING

Penmor Lithographers

#### PUBLISHER

David R. MacDonald



A hiker descends Pemetec South Ridge Trail with her dog.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FRIENDS OF ACADIA



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Digital Media Manager  
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Administrative Assistant  
Lisa Williams  
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JoAnne Wood  
Development Assistant

## Stay In Touch



207-288-3340



info@friendsofacadia.org



friendsofacadia.org



@FriendsofAcadia



@friendsofacadia



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# WHERE IN ACADIA?

Only the most intrepid make the trek here in winter. The route requires microspikes because of the icy stairs and boulders. The reward is an often solitary skate in total silence, surrounded by parkland with no human noise.

*If you think you can identify the location of this scene, email us at [editor@friendsofacadia.org](mailto: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 AROUND ACADIA?"

WILLO GREENE/FOA



Thanks to the readers who responded to our “Where Around Acadia?” question in the Fall issue of Acadia magazine. This time, we tried to stump you with an aerial shot from just outside the park border, and only three readers sent in correct responses. We love hearing and sharing your personal stories here! Congratulations to those who correctly identified this shot as Northeast Creek, also known as Kings Creek.

it was a great place to catch the euryhaline killifish that many of us at the MDI Biological Laboratory used in our studies. We would set minnow traps, often un-baited, just upstream from the Route 3 bridge and catch as many as necessary.

Since some of our scientists studied the killifish early egg development, they often returned the fish to the stream after harvesting the eggs from the female. And we often kayaked upstream, even as far as near its headwaters at the junction of Norway Drive and Crooked Road, just beside the famous Stone Barn Farm. The fall foliage, especially near the bridge is always spectacular and sometimes leads to near traffic jams as folks stop to take pictures.

—David and Jean Evans, Salisbury Cove and Gainesville, FL

In your most recent issue of Acadia, I instantly recognized your aerial photo as Northeast Creek, also called King’s Creek. I recently accompanied my child on a class field trip paddling on the creek to harvest cranberries from the bogs upstream. The views of the mountains in the distance were amazing, and we encountered great blue herons and eagles along the way. This is a hidden gem of MDI!

—Adam McLean, Somesville, ME



This is, of course, Northeast Creek, which can be accessed at the bridge on Route 3 just west of Salisbury Cove. Since it is tidal for some of its length,

That looks like Kings Creek. I had the pleasure of paddling there in late September. Chris, the owner of the kayak which I used, described it as a “lazy river” and he was right. I picked a bag of cranberries. They are in the refrigerator for Thanksgiving cranberry sauce.

—Mo Dowd, Needham, MA

## Save the Date

Friends of Acadia  
33RD ANNUAL BENEFIT & AUCTION  
Saturday, August 13, 2022

Join us for a fun-filled evening  
at the Asticou Inn, Northeast Harbor

We’re hopeful that public health and safety conditions with respect to the pandemic will continue to improve, so we’re planning a mix of in-person and virtual events.

*Mark your calendars and save the date.*  
More details to come.

# Grateful to Acadia and its Amazing Community

When I am skiing the Around Mountain carriage road loop, with fresh snow piled in the surrounding woods and a sparkling blue sky overhead, I often think to myself, “It doesn’t get any better than this.” Just a few weeks later, however, while biking the Loop Road for the first time this year and needing to swerve to avoid the waterfalls pouring off the granite ledges above me, it does seem to get better: lengthening daylight, more roads and trails to access, and the promise of the coming summer. Seasonal transitions contrasted with the permanence of the park are often at the heart of my Acadia experience.

As I wrap up my final days and weeks on the job at Friends of Acadia, that same combination of change and continuity energizes me and fills me with gratitude for the opportunity I’ve had and for the ability of many others to carry the work forward.

There have been very few days in this job when I was not learning about Acadia, gaining a different perspective that I had not considered, experiencing the park in a new way, or trying to anticipate what might be around the next corner.

I feel fortunate to be part of something that brings people together and to work so closely with Superintendent Kevin Schneider (and Sheridan Steele before him) and their terrific team at the park, as well as the thousands of people who make our mission possible—including each of you.

The breadth of Acadia’s community and the depth of people’s relationship with this place continue to strengthen Friends of Acadia at a time when the park needs our partnership more than ever. When these varied experiences come together at our organization—as they do with a volunteer crew working to repair a trail; or a group of advocates for Acadia making visits on Capitol Hill; or donors large and small responding to a challenge grant to fund a project—our collective efforts make a real impact in

preserving park resources.

Just as much of our work during the last decade has built upon the visionary efforts of those who came before us, so do I view Friends of Acadia’s current position as preparing for the work that lies ahead. Acadia will face challenges in its second century that its founders could not have anticipated.

In this past year, Acadia has experienced severe storm damage from a warming climate, historic levels of visitation, and significant programmatic changes to manage the global pandemic. The park has been able to be resilient and adaptive, thanks in part to its partnerships with Friends of Acadia and others in the community.

Friends of Acadia’s staff and Board of Directors recently undertook an interim review of our five-year organizational strategic plan adopted in 2018. That plan has been an invaluable compass and touchstone amidst the upheaval of 2020-2021 and will now benefit from our experiences and insights gained during that time.

A renewed commitment to our four existing “strategic pillars” (visitor experience, natural resource protection, youth engagement, and trails & carriage roads) and a desire to expand our toolkit and partnerships to tackle issues more effectively like accessibility to the park for diverse and underserved audiences; housing for seasonal park employees; and development threats outside of park boundaries, will help strengthen our impact going forward.

To all staff and board members, volunteers, partners, donors and park colleagues: thank you for making my time at Friends of Acadia an absolute pleasure and for welcoming and teaming up with my successor to carry our important mission into the future!



—David MacDonald

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE



**“The breadth of Acadia’s community and the depth of people’s relationship with this place continue to strengthen Friends of Acadia at a time when the park needs our partnership more than ever.”**



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

DAVID MACDONALD and the Friends of Acadia team help prepare the Eagle Lake Carriage Road for winter at the 2021 Take Pride in Acadia Day.





The 2019 Acadia Youth Conservation Corps with members of the Acadia National Park Trail Crew before the start of a workday.

## Welcome Back to Acadia's Youth Conservation Corps

BY PAIGE STEELE

The Acadia Youth Conservation Corps is a life-changing summer job for participating teens. Not only do Corps members often discover their own personal strength and perseverance, but they also get to know a side of Acadia National Park they had not before imagined. Many of these teens eventually end up working for public land agencies and organizations, becoming tomorrow's stewards.

After a two-year hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia are excited to welcome back the Corps this summer.

Traditionally, this team of teenagers ranging in age from 15 to 18, has provided essential help to the Acadia National Park's Trails and Carriage Road Crews by making vital improvements such as reconstructing stone drainages and retaining walls, clearing vistas, and cutting wood at campgrounds.

This year, the park is hiring a new Acadia Youth Conservation Corps Coordinator to help facilitate an even more engaging and enriching experiences for youth participants. As the program restarts, Corps members will have a chance to visit other Acadia National Park divisions to learn the full breadth of park operations. For example, they may assist at activity tables designed to connect Acadia's younger visitors to the Junior Ranger program, or help monitor loons.

Friends of Acadia will continue to provide funds and equipment to the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps through an

anonymous gift endowed to the organization in 1999. Park staff will continue to provide the program leadership and training.

### How to Apply

Acadia National Park is recruiting applicants for the Youth Conservation Corps through March 30th. This year the program will employ ten teenagers ages 15-18 from mid-June to mid-August.

Acadia Youth Conservation Corps is a non-residential program and students must have their own housing on or near Mount Desert Island. Applicants are selected with a lottery system, although often there are unfilled spaces and a few members from the previous year return for a second year to mentor new participants.

Friends of Acadia is excited to see the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps program develop this year, and we look forward to the amazing work that the young participants will do as they continue their journey toward stewardship of our natural places.



For more information about the program or to apply, scan the code on left using your cell phone camera or visit [friendsofacadia.org](https://friendsofacadia.org). ■

PAIGE STEELE is Conservation Projects Manager at Friends of Acadia.



# Thank You to a Very Special Steward, Partner, and Leader

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia share a common purpose—preserving the incredible landscape of this magnificent place. But our partnership goes deeper than our two organizations.

After 24 years of working in national parks, I have learned that our work is all about the people. In fact, our most important resource in Acadia is not our mountaintops, not our cathedral-like forests, or even the spectacular pink granite cliffs. It is the people that steward this place, working to ensure that those mountaintops, forests, and shorelines are preserved, and that our visitors create life-long memories.

David MacDonald is one of those people.

Over the last six years since I came to Acadia National Park, David and I have spent countless moments together and I've enjoyed every minute. During my first year at Acadia in 2016, David helped welcome me, going out of his way to orient and introduce me to our communities. We went to countless events together during the park's centennial and in every year since. David has been a trusted confidant, someone with whom I could have an off-the-record conversation when needed, and someone whose advice and friendship I truly value. We have shared hikes and skis, chatting about our work together and the future of our beloved Acadia.

The mark David is leaving on Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia as its President and CEO will endure for years to come. Through David's leadership, Friends of Acadia helped the park create a better visitor experience at Cadillac Mountain. He led the creation of the Wild Acadia program, helping restore the

ecological integrity of the Cromwell Brook and Marshall Brook watersheds, while better positioning the park to tackle the impacts of a rapidly changing climate.

David led Friends of Acadia's Second Century Campaign, helping raise more than \$26 million for Acadia, which will pay dividends for years to come. And he has carefully stewarded Friends of Acadia's endowments, allowing these funds to continue to grow and positively impact the park for future generations.

David has also been a leader on the national scale of philanthropic partnerships in the National Park Service. For the last four years he has chaired the Friends Alliance, a national consortium of NPS friends groups and partners. He has helped ensure that NPS partners can be adept and agile, while raising important issues from the field to a national platform. David's national visibility has further reinforced Friends of Acadia's reputation as the gold standard among friends groups.

And, so, when David steps down from Friends of Acadia this spring, we will sincerely miss his wisdom, his patience, and his understanding of this incredible place.

David, from all of us at Acadia National Park, thank you for your deep commitment to Acadia and your service to this incredibly special place. You truly exemplify the word "partner!"



—Kevin Schneider

## SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



**"...our most important resource in Acadia is not our mountaintops, not our cathedral-like forests, or even the spectacular pink granite cliffs. It is the people that steward this place..."**



WILL GREENE/FOA

**AN EARLY SPRING** snowstorm blankets the mountains of Acadia National Park in snow.

# PASSION, PERSEVERANCE, AND PARTNERSHIP

## KEEPING ACADIA'S WINTER TRAILS AMONG THE BEST IN THE NATION

BY PAIGE STEELE AND LORI SCHAEFER

Passion, perseverance, and partnership. That pretty much sums up the success of the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA) over the last 30 years.

When you combine the passion and perseverance of the dedicated volunteer groomers with the partnership of Acadia National Park's expert mechanics and maintenance crew, and the stability that Friends of Acadia provides through ongoing funding and structural support, it's a win for cross-country skiing enthusiasts at Acadia.

The beauty of the carriage roads is unparalleled in winter, with vistas that reveal snow-capped islands in a sparkling ocean, mountains of evergreen trees draped in white snow, and ice cascading from the rocks. This January, *USA Today* voted Acadia National Park as the number one national park to visit during the winter, with groomed carriage roads being the top attraction to enjoy. The efforts of the AWTA volunteers are being noticed!

### A Program Rooted in Commitment & Dedication

In the early 1990's, trail-blazing volunteers such as the late Bob Massucco, a Somesville dentist, worked with their own snowmobiles and drags made of old bed springs weighted by cinder blocks, to pack the snow on the carriage roads. When Bob and his friends first began their DIY grooming, there were very few staff members to assist them with this endeavor. And winter

visitation to the park consisted of mostly area residents so they could keep up with demand.

Today, on a nice weekend in February, parking areas near carriage road entrances and trail heads can resemble a July day, with cars lining the road. When a snowstorm is forecast, the Acadia Winter Trails team readies so that skiing enthusiasts from near and far can hit the carriage roads and enjoy the fresh snow.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Acadia Winter Trails Association volunteer groomer Mark Fernald grooms the carriage road near Duck Brook Bridge.

### Perseverance Creates the Excellent Snow Conditions

Today's volunteer groomers often spend two to eight hours after each storm packing snow, setting ski tracks, refueling machines, and reporting out their contributions.

When a late January blizzard dropped more than a foot of snow, groomers were out packing and tracking even before the wind stopped. Frequently, their work continues for days afterward as they

even-out drifts, freshen classic tracks, smooth the center lane for skate skiers, and pack the outside line for snowshoers and walkers.

Thanks to the groomers' consistent efforts, skiers are able to enjoy loops around Witch Hole Pond, Paradise Hill, Upper Hadlock Pond, the Amphitheater, Around the Mountain (Sargent and Penobscot Mountains), as well as the Eagle Lake Connector from Witch Hole Pond.





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**“THE BEAUTY OF THE CARRIAGE  
ROADS IS UNPARALLELED IN  
WINTER WITH VISTAS THAT  
REVEAL SNOW-CAPPED ISLANDS  
IN A SPARKLING OCEAN,  
MOUNTAINS OF EVERGREEN  
TREES DRAPED IN WHITE SNOW,  
AND ICE CASCADING FROM THE  
ROCKS.”**

Left: A skier on the Eagle Lake Carriage Road.

Right: “Carriage Road Etiquette” signs are located at entrances to help visitors understand the “lanes of use” to help preserve the snow quality for skiing after grooming.



Following the construction of new multi-use trails at Schoodic Woods, grooming also expanded to the Schoodic District of the park. Two volunteers offer their time at Schoodic to enable skiers to enjoy quality conditions without traveling to Mount Desert Island.

### Partnership Makes the Program Successful

The winter grooming program would not be successful without the support of Acadia National Park staff and Friends of Acadia resources backing the volunteer efforts. Acadia National Park staff plow parking areas for skiers after storms, clear downed trees, maintain the grooming equipment, and help train volunteers in safe chainsaw usage, snowmobile operations, and more.

Friends of Acadia staff partners with the park to purchase the correct grooming equipment, which is then donated to the park for maintenance and storage. Additionally, Friends of Acadia recruits and supports volunteers, purchases fuel and supplies such as handsaws and first-aid kits, and communicates grooming reports to the public.

### Endowment Buoy Acadia Winter Trails

In 2005, the family of Elizabeth R. (Leila) Bright established an equipment fund and an endowment in Leila's memory and in honor of her love for skiing in Acadia. The endowment helps underwrite fuel costs, safety training, and the

maintenance of the snowmobiles, drags, tracksetters, and other equipment purchased throughout the years.

As funding allows, Friends of Acadia works to modernize the equipment, which has come a long way since the early days when old bed springs were used. Currently in the fleet are two Arctic BearCat XT 7000 Groomer Special sleds and one Kubota-X1100C, all outfitted with Yellowstone Track Systems Ginzugroomers. If you're interested in helping support the Acadia Winter Trails Association, the program needs two more Kubota RTV-X1100Cs.

### #SkiAcadia

The Acadia Winter Trails team will continue grooming when weather allows, and Friends of Acadia communicates the grooming report on social media and on a dedicated webpage using the hashtag #skiacadia.

While in the park this winter, please remember to be courteous of the many visitors enjoying different activities: classic and skate skiing, snowshoeing, and walking. Pay attention to signage at the carriage road entrances for best practices in how to enjoy these activities on groomed carriage roads. ■

PAIGE STEELE is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Projects Manager and LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.



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ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Left: Volunteer groomer Brett Binns rolls the bike path at Schoodic.

Right: A skier passes under the auto bridge at Eagle Lake.



For the latest grooming report, scan the code to be directed to the page. We also post frequent updates on Friends of Acadia's Facebook and Instagram pages when the groomers are active.



# The Pandemic Brought the Biggest Ski “Race” in the Country to Acadia

BY ARI OFSEVIT



COURTESY ARI OFSEVIT

## ACADIA WINTER TRAILS ASSOCIATION VOLUNTEERS

2021

Gordon Beck  
Brett Binns  
Dave Edson  
Mark Fernald  
Adam Garipey  
Rob Gaynor  
Matt Gerrish  
Jason Irwin  
Phil Lichtenstein

Craig Roebuck  
Jeff Roseberry  
Zach Soares  
Zack Steele  
Mia Thompson  
Christiaan van Heerden  
Adam Wales  
Chris Wiebusch

Every February, I ski the American Birkebeiner—a.k.a, “the Birkie”—which draws 10,000 cross-country skiers for a 50-km race through northern Wisconsin, finishing on a snowed-in Main Street in Hayward.

I celebrated completing my 14th Birkie in 2020 with beer and bratwurst on Main Street weeks before COVID hit. Traveling from Boston to Wisconsin for 2021’s race was out, so friends and I looked around New England for a spot to ski the 43-km (27-mile) virtual option.

A clear favorite emerged: Acadia National Park, and I set off for my first wintertime visit to Mount Desert Island.

I had planned a short “pre-race tour” of Acadia’s trails on Saturday, but conditions were so good that I skied 47 km—a Birkie-before-the-Birkie—and then downed a whole pizza in Bar Harbor.

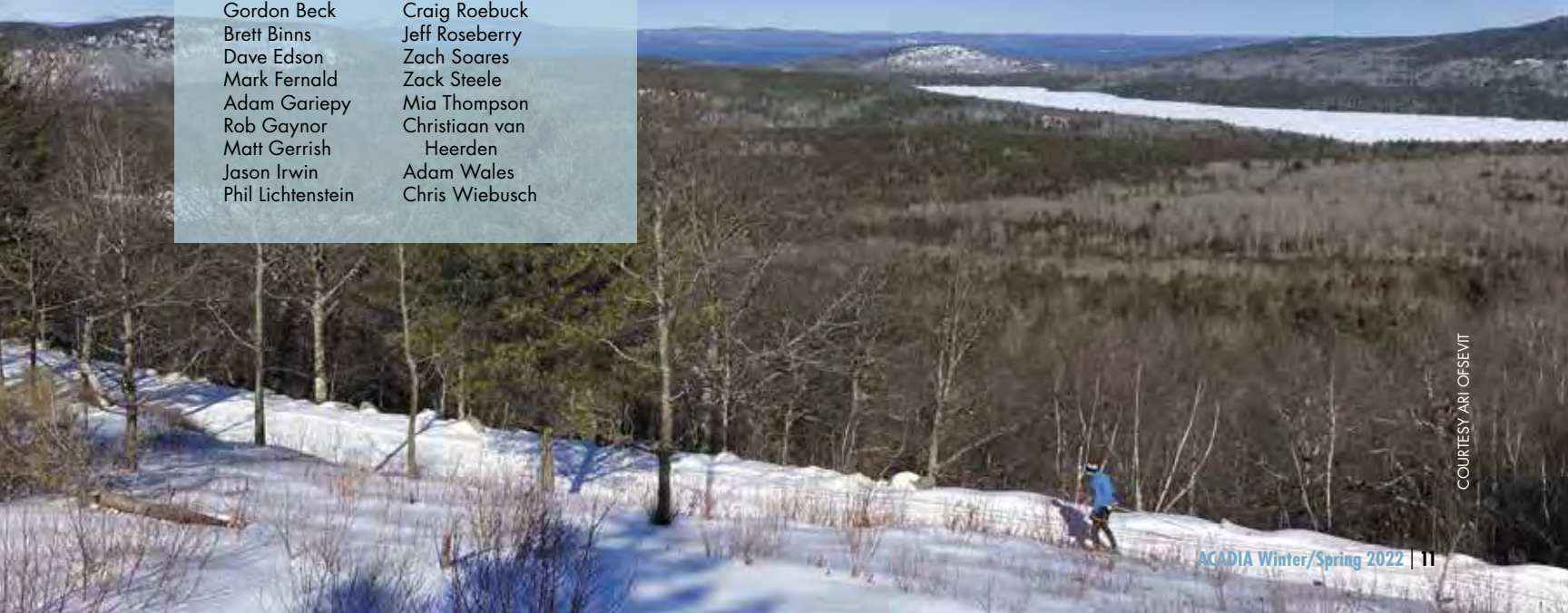
As my friends drove up from Brunswick, the Friends of Acadia Facebook page posted about fresh grooming and the weather was superb: mid-20s and sunny, so pleasant to ski, but with a firm, fast trail underfoot. The “race” was on!

Our “start line” was the Eagle Lake bridge, and we skied past Jordan Pond, looped the Amphitheater and Sargent Mountain, glided back to Hadlock Pond, and swooped down Seven Bridges a second time before skiing loops on Aunt Betty Pond.

Not ready to turn in, we continued on the northern trails, eventually covering every inch groomed by Friends of Acadia’s Winter Trails team. After 75 km—47 miles—it was time for another pizza, this time eaten on a dock on the Atlantic, a reasonable substitute for the traditional post-race brat.

The 2021 “race” will go down as one of my most memorable Birkies and the opportunity to ski Acadia inspired me to become a member and donate to Friends of Acadia. How often do you get to ski a “race” in a National Park with views of the Atlantic ocean? ■

ARI OFSEVIT is a new Friends of Acadia member and donor. He completed Birkie #16 in Wisconsin in February 2022, maintains an “unofficial guide” to the race at [BirkieGuide.com](https://BirkieGuide.com) and hosts “Cowbell Fever,” a podcast about all things Birkie.



COURTESY ARI OFSEVIT

# Winter Safety in Acadia

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Winter is arguably one of the most beautiful seasons in Acadia. Going into the park on a “bluebird day” with the sun shining after a fresh snowfall feels like stepping into a magical crystalline wonderland.

But with this incredible beauty also comes increased risk. Navigating the park’s trails and granite mountaintops when they are covered with ice and snow is more dangerous than doing so in the summer, and it requires special preparedness.

Ice, snow, and freeze-thaw-freeze cycles mean changes can happen daily or even hourly. Ice can behave differently depending on the type and temperature. Soft ice with temperatures in the upper 20s behaves much differently than sharp hard ice in the single digits and that requires distinct types of footwear and traction-control devices. Snow adds even more complexity by masking trail challenges.

As Acadia’s visitation hits record levels, an increasing number of visitors are coming to enjoy the park in the shoulder seasons and winter. Unfortunately, this equates to a greater number of emergencies requiring rescue.

## The Danger in Not Being Prepared

According to Acadia National Park’s Chief Ranger Thérèse Picard, all rescues in the park are physically taxing, dangerous, and require 10 to 30 rescuers, depending on the location, complexity, and length of the rescue. Winter weather and ice add layers of complications: cold temperatures, less daylight to work in, and uncertain terrain.

Because of these factors, search and rescue teams must move more slowly and use more technical techniques, resulting in rescues taking longer, increasing exposure risks for everyone.

“Being prepared and having ALL of the essentials in case something happens is the best you can do to enjoy the park safely in the winter,” Picard explained.

Help protect yourself, park staff, and volunteers by being as prepared as possible when heading out to enjoy Acadia in winter.

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is Friends of Acadia’s Digital Media Manager.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

A hiker uses microspikes for added traction and safety on an icy trail.

## Winter Preparedness: The 10 Essentials

When you head into the park in the winter, it’s always wise to check the latest forecast and current conditions. The park website at [nps.gov/acadia](https://nps.gov/acadia) is the best resource for the latest conditions and closures. Visitors must also have a park entrance pass year-round.

Most importantly, the National Park Service recommends bringing “10 essentials,” which are modified to better suit visitors to Acadia:

- **Topographical Map and Compass** (cell phones often don’t work in the park)
- **Sun Protection** for your skin and eyes
- **Layers and Insulating Clothing**, including a jacket, hat, gloves, rain shell, thermal underwear, and extra layers in your pack. Always bring a pair of micro spikes or crampons and hiking poles to help prevent falls on ice
- **Headlamp and Extra Batteries**
- **First Aid Kit**
- **Basic Repair Kit** with cut tape, knife, screwdriver, and scissors
- **Food**—pack an extra day’s supply of food
- **Water and Water-treatment Supplies**
- **Emergency Shelter**—emergency blanket and tarp/fly
- **Leave a Plan**—leave your exact route with a friend and check in with them before and after your trip.



# Remembering Sylvia and the Gift of Acadia

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

When I first spoke with John H. McGowin in March of last year, I could hear the deep sadness in his voice. The summer before, he had lost his wife Sylvia McGowin to pancreatic cancer. Sylvia was also his business partner, chief supporter, and best friend.

Now when I hear John's voice, I can almost sense a smile over the phone as he describes adventures with his Sylvia in Acadia National Park. It's as if those happy memories of their time in Acadia buoy him.

John and Sylvia were friends from Alabama and discovered Acadia National Park on a whim. Someone told them that everyone should visit Maine at least once in their lifetime. So, they packed their car and made the trip! They fell in love with Acadia, returning year after year, visiting mostly in the spring and fall when they could enjoy the park at a more leisurely pace.

Sylvia was a banker and an active supporter of many organizations. Prior to her illness, she was an avid walker, gardener, and fitness buff. When visiting MDI, they hiked the trails and carriage roads, and loved to picnic at Otter Cliffs. They were especially fond of the Jordan Pond area, and it was there, at the Friends of Acadia membership table, that they discovered Friends of Acadia.

John and Sylvia were able to make one last trip to Acadia together, scheduled between Sylvia's treatments. Sylvia said, "Let's go to Maine" and they did it in style, renting a BMW convertible, cruising through the park like kids and creating memories of their lifetime.



Sylvia McGowin during a hike in Acadia.

Because of their deep love for Acadia, John has chosen to remember Sylvia and their shared love of the park with a gift from his estate in memory of Sylvia McGowan to protect Acadia long into the future.

I hope to walk with John this spring when he returns to MDI and look forward to hearing more about Sylvia and those happy times, as we retrace their steps in their beloved Acadia. ■

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Director of Development and Donor Relations for Friends of Acadia.

## Meet the 33rd Annual Benefit Committee

(Annual Benefit Saturday, August 13, 2022)

Cynthia Baker	Linda Douglass	Diana Hambleton	Suzanne McCullagh	Katrina Rank	Courtney Urfer
Bob Bell	Lesley Draper	Laura Hamilton	Linda McGillicuddy	Jennifer Richardson	Thompson
Allison Bourke	Aubin Dupree	Anne Hopkins	Kathleen McIntyre	Deborah Schmidt	Patricia Toogood
Sharon Bradley	Donna Eacho	Heather Jervis	Charlie Merriman	Robinson	Julie Merck Utsch
Antoinette Brewster	Ann Fenno	Beth Johnson	Heather Mitchell	Diana Rowan	Bonnie Van Alen
Ellie Buchanan	Susan Ferrante-Collier	Kristin Johnson	Mary Morse	Rockefeller	Christiaan van
Ildiko Butler	Leslie Fogg	Lillie Johnson	Sunne Savage	Martie Samek	Heerden
Gail Clark	Ellie Ford	Hilary Kärst	Neuman	Liz Samek-O'Malley	Melissa Waud
Hannah Clark	Leandra Fremont-Smith	Maggie Kelley	Ellanor Notides	Meg Samek-Smith	Ariane Wellin
Karen Collins	Christina Godfrey	Lydia Kimball	Susan Paneyko	Laura Scott	Kim Wentworth
Whitney Kroeger	Linda Levy Goldberg	Wilhelmina Kipp	Jenny Petschek	Elizabeth Seher-Thoss	Lynne Wheat
Connor	Carol Grant	Christina Baker Kline	Lili Pew	Diana Davis Spencer	Louise Hartwell White
Malinda Crain	Keely Gray	Elizabeth Lake	Laura Pierce	Martha Stewart	Lynne Williams
Kate Davis	Anne Green	Sydie Lansing	Vassar Pierce	Maureen Stewart	Sydney Winthrop
Sydney Davis	Emily Griset	Story Litchfield	Hadley Powell	Christine Strawbridge	Diana Wister
Melinda Dennis	Mary Haggerty	Jada Loutit	Emilie Price	Nonie Sullivan	Effie Wister
Alexandra Doorly	Anna Hargraves Hall	Elizabeth Martinez	Bambi Putnam	Charlotte Thibodeau	Anna Woodward

# Life Under the ICE



STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY EDWIN BARKDOLL



**"Life in the pond is a story of struggles and triumphs: struggle to survive the harsh winter and evade predation long enough to triumphantly breed and reproduce in the spring."**

WINTER IS MY FAVORITE SEASON IN MAINE. The world is stripped to its barest essentials—nature's palette is reduced to black, white, and gray; sounds are muted; animals leave traces of their activity in the snow long after they've left.

Surely life under the ice of a winter pond would be more austere, or so I had believed since I was a child. Animals just buried themselves in the mud and took the season off.

In 2017, as part of the Maine Master Naturalist Program, I had the opportunity to observe the hidden life under the ice of a wintery Maine pond. The pond was small, spring-fed, with no inlet or outlet, and without fish. It hosted species characteristic of the vernal pools that dot Acadia, such as wood frogs and spotted salamanders, but lacked the ephemeral nature of vernal pools.

In early February, I cut a hole in the pond ice expecting that I might find a hibernating amphibian if I searched long enough, and I considered devising an underwater camera to monitor and record long-term activity. Upon submerging

Opposite: A water boatman, in the family *Corixidae*, on the ice.

Right, top to bottom: A giant case maker caddisfly larva in the *Phryganeidae* family forages for food. A salamander larva rests on the pond bottom. Plants serve as underwater highways for many aquatic insects, such as this Limnephilid caddisfly larva. A whirligig beetle (family *Gyrinidae*) on the ice undersurface shows off its split eyes for looking above and below the water at the same time.







my camera, however, it became clear that my preconceived notions would need revision.

Over the next two months, I chopped open the hole several times a week to observe the ebb and flow of life under the ice. I never ceased to marvel at the contrast between the often seemingly lifeless world above the ice and the bustling world beneath it.

A host of small invertebrates who inhabited the water column were omnipresent, primarily tiny crustaceans, who swarmed with their characteristic jerky movements toward the underwater camera lights at night. Herbivorous water boatmen and predatory backswimmers were common aquatic bugs, swimming, resting on the pond bottom or

Left: An adult eastern newt swims among pond plants.

**"I never ceased to marvel at the contrast between the often seemingly lifeless world above the ice and the bustling world beneath it."**



To view Edwin's documentary, "Life Under the Ice in a Maine Pond from Winter to Spring," scan the code at right with your cell phone camera.



Above: Window in the eight-inch-thick ice.  
Left: Edwin displaying how to keep warm while photographing under the ice.



on aquatic plants, and even crawling on the undersurface of the ice.

The insect architects, case-making caddisfly larvae, moved purposefully, consuming detritus and the occasional prey. They fashioned their homes as long, spiraling cylinders or bushy broom-shaped cases from plant material, metamorphosing into moth-like adults in the spring.

From the first day of the project, I was struck by the presence of amphibians under the ice. Larval salamanders were most numerous, followed by tadpoles. Occasionally, an adult eastern newt swam gracefully by. The larval salamanders occupied a soft spot in my heart, but after observing their predatory behavior as they snapped up tiny crustaceans, I developed a healthy respect for them as well, and, befitting their nature, the feathery gills behind their heads gave them leonine manes.

Early April marked a turning point. Adult amphibians began appearing in large numbers as they migrated from their winter hibernacula in the woods to breed, and I fell through the thinning ice.

Compared to the subdued sounds of winter, ice breakup coincided with the beginning of a nightly cacophony of frog choruses and a surge in activity around the pond. Salamanders and frogs choreographed their breeding rituals in a coordinated manner focusing on the task at hand, and within days spotted salamander and wood frog egg masses appeared in the pond shallows. The presence of the eggs signified the beginning of another pond lifecycle but was also a bountiful food source for many of the pond inhabitants, and I often saw caddisfly larvae feasting on egg masses.

Life in the pond is a story of struggles and triumphs: struggle to survive the harsh winter and evade predation long enough to triumphantly breed and reproduce in the spring. Witnessing these events unfold opened a window, a hole in the ice of my preconceptions if you will, for me to gain an intimate appreciation of this cycle. ■

EDWIN BARKDOLL has had a long-time love affair with the natural world—from the molecular as a biochemist, to the big and furry, as a veterinarian. He is a Maine Master Naturalist and nature photographer who enjoys prowling wherever an untrodden trail beckons.



Left: Aptly named a “water tiger” a predaceous diving beetle larva is armed with large, sharp jaws with which it captures its prey.



Above: Despite being trapped in the ice, some water boatmen species can survive freezing.

Below: A backswimmer (family *Notonectidae*) floats at the water surface under the ice.



# Acadia Hits a Record

## WHAT DOES FOUR MILLION VISITS MEAN TO ACADIA?

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT AND BECCA STANLEY



WILL NEWTON/FOA

**“We just had the busiest season in park history...  
I’m really proud of how our team stepped up.”**

PARK SUPERINTENDENT KEVIN SCHNEIDER

Whether you visited Acadia once or many times in 2021, chances are you noted an uptick in the number of visitors in the park. Now, that uptick is quantified: Acadia National Park set a record of 4.07 million estimated visits in 2021.

That’s an increase of about 15 percent over the previous visitation record of 3.5 million visits in 2018, and 23 percent over the pre-pandemic five-year average visitation of 3.3 million visits.

“We just had the busiest season in park history,” said Park

Superintendent Kevin Schneider. “It’s wonderful to see so many people enjoying Acadia’s natural beauty, but it does make our job of ensuring that visitors have high-quality experiences much more challenging. I’m really proud of how our team stepped up in a record year, during a COVID pandemic, to meet that demand with far fewer resources.”

What does four million visits mean to Acadia? Friends of Acadia set out to characterize some of the impacts from 2021 and think about what lies ahead in 2022 and beyond.





LILY LAREGINA/FOA



WILL NEWTON/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA

Left: Visitors take in the view of Sand Beach and the Beehive from Otter Cliffs. Center: Visitors watch sunrise from Cadillac Mountain. Right: A line of hikers ascends the Beehive Trail in June 2021.

## A Look Behind the Numbers at Visitation Trends

Acadia National Park's Social Scientist Adam Gibson tracked several key trends behind the visitation numbers in 2021, and they help tell the story. It's not just the large increases in the number of people visiting Acadia that present challenges, but also changes in the time of year visitors come, how they arrive, and how they want to engage in the park.

Acadia has hit a record number of visits in every month since October of 2020. Visitation in 2021 ramped up faster and earlier (April and May) and extended later (September, October, November) creating extra challenges for staffing.

A greater number of those visits were by car. Ninety-eight percent of visitors entering the park in 2021 were in a personal vehicle, compared to 90 percent during pre-pandemic times. There were about 210,000 more cars in the park in 2021 than 2019. Much of that increase could be attributed to COVID-related limitations with the Island Explorer bus system, which operated on reduced routes and with fewer passengers allowed per bus in 2021.

Additionally, data from the Maine Department of Transportation showed that more visitors to Maine are coming to Acadia, and more of them in cars.

Visitation is not distributed evenly throughout the park. More than 90 percent of visits were to the Mount Desert Island section of the park, which exacerbated the issues of traffic congestion and crowding.

Finally, Acadia is not alone. In 2021, six national parks set visitation records and countless more were challenged with increased crowds and congestion. Great Smoky Mountains, Yellowstone, Grand Teton, Glacier, Acadia, and Arches have all reported record visitation in 2021. Three national parks—Glacier, Rocky Mountain, and Yosemite—have reservation systems in place which limit their visitation.

## Cadillac Reservation System Worked

The Cadillac Summit Road vehicle reservation system was designed to help reduce congestion and improve the visitor experience on the Cadillac summit, and by all accounts it was a success in its first year.

Anecdotal observations and visitor comments proclaimed their visitor experience improved compared to their previous years visiting Cadillac Mountain. That's consistent with what Friends of Acadia Summit Stewards reported from their work on Cadillac with the reservation system in place.

The reservation system operated for 147 days—from May 26-Oct. 19, 2021—and according to Recreation.gov, 85 percent of the total available reservations were sold; 99.5 percent of sunrise reservations. About 42 percent of the reservations were made the same day.

# How Visitation is Calculated at Acadia

The National Park Service estimates the number of visits to the park, not individual visitors. An individual visitor is counted as a visit each day they enter the park.

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:** Vehicle counters are located on both lanes of the Park Loop Road near the Sand Beach entrance station, counting the actual number of cars passing through. To estimate visits, the traffic count at that location is multiplied by a "vehicle expansion" multiplier to estimate the number of vehicles going to all the other recreation areas in the park.

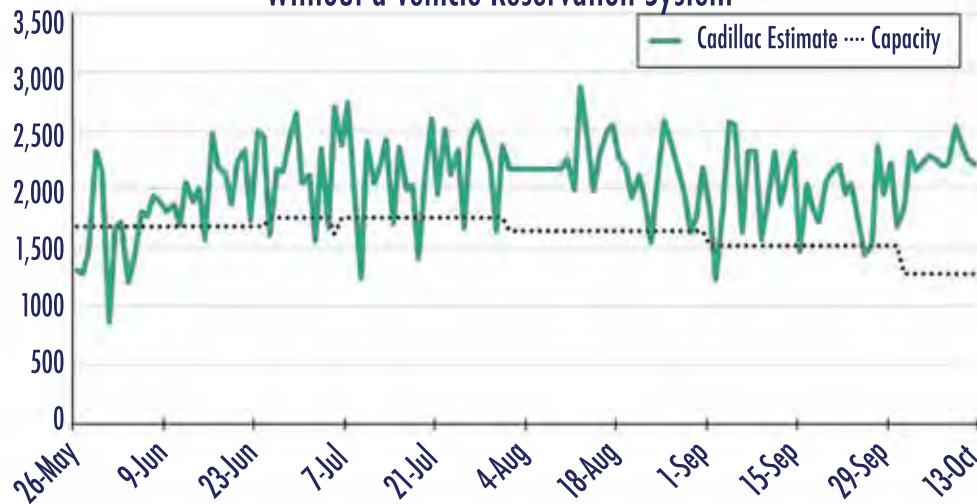
The adjusted vehicle count is then multiplied by the "persons-per-vehicle" multiplier.

Bus and van traffic is calculated using a slightly different methodology.

While the visitation numbers are inexact, they are good estimates and do show trends in park visitation that are useful for year-to-year comparisons.

The record visitation in 2021 is based on the same method used since 1990 to estimate visits. Visitation records were higher prior to 1990, but they were based on a different system of estimating visits.

## Estimated Cadillac Summit Road Vehicle Demand Without a Vehicle Reservation System



Estimated Cadillac Summit Road Vehicle Demand Without a Reservation, Dr. Adam Gibson/NPS

Perhaps the most compelling argument for the reservation system is data Gibson presented that estimated what would have happened if there were no reservation system. It showed that the Cadillac summit would have seen an average of more than 600 cars overparked each day.

“If you made a reservation, the Cadillac summit was the one place you could be assured a parking spot in the park on a busy day,” said Park Superintendent Schneider.

### Pressure on Existing Resources

The sharp, unexpected, and prolonged surge in visitation resulted in a 33% increase in the times park staff had to respond to daily congestion situations, visitor rescues, and other visitor assistance services, as compared to previous years.

Among the highly trafficked areas of Acadia National Park, Jordan Pond House, Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse, and the Ocean Drive corridor experienced a high volume of congestion and numerous parking problems.

Our national parks are struggling with a substantial operations budget shortfall, including significant understaffing. Concurrent to high visitation, national park budgets have, in essence, decreased when accounting for inflation over the last 10 years.

This is beginning to capture the attention of lawmakers in Washington, including U.S. Senator Angus King (I-ME), the Chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks. At a December 2, 2021, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing on outdoor recreation Senator King said: “We’ve got a real problem with staffing in our national parks. In 2011, there were 22,000 FTEs in the National Park Service and, in 2020, only 18,000. In other words, staffing is

declining, while visitation has gone from 278 million to 327 million. Added together that’s about a 30% gap from where we were in 2011.”

“We’ve got to do something about staffing levels, or we can’t serve the public adequately,” Sen. King added. If we’re going to invite people to the outdoors, we’ve got to be able to meet their needs.”

### Looking to 2022 and Beyond

Visitation to Acadia is a complex issue with many inter-related factors. If the visitation forecast holds true, 2022 will be just as busy as 2021. How can Friends of Acadia help the park manage visitation and create a better visitor experience?

Investments are being made in five areas: infrastructure, transportation, education, monitoring, and advocacy. Acadia National Park has made significant strides in managing visitation through the implementation of the Transportation Plan, and Friends of Acadia has funded the planning, design, and engineering for the infrastructure improvements at Cadillac that were needed for the reservation system. Friends of Acadia stands ready to help the park consider improvements that are needed at future reservation areas, including Jordan Pond, Ocean Drive, and Bass Harbor Head Light.

The fare-free, propane-powered Island Explorer bus system is expected to return to normal service in 2022 if COVID allows. Through its partnership with L.L.Bean, Friends of Acadia helps fund the Island Explorer as an efficient way for visitors to access destinations in the park and local communities, thereby reducing traffic congestion, parking hassles, and vehicle pollution.



## Proof the Reservation System Worked

Acadia National Park rangers noted a dramatic increase in sunrise visitation on Cadillac the day AFTER the reservation system ended. Scan the code to see the



dash cam video of overparked cars and unsafe conditions.



Friends of Acadia has also been a long-term partner in the Acadia Gateway Center, a transit and visitor information center being planned on Route 3 in Trenton. In the final design phase now, the project will hopefully enter construction in 2023 with a potential opening in 2025.

The Summit Stewards serve as field contacts and help educate visitors when they are here, and Friends of Acadia is considering new ways to connect with visitors before they arrive. In 2021, the Summit Stewards observed increases in

prohibited behaviors that can have harmful impacts on the park--such as pets without a leash or dismantled cairns (trail markers). This is likely due to increased visitation, and it reinforces the importance of the program.

Friends of Acadia's Recreation Technicians assist with monitoring visitor use statistics and providing critical data that will help the park make future decisions about managing visitation.

And finally, Friends of Acadia helps the park by advocating for additional operating dollars from Congress. As the climate changes and the visitor season lengthens, six-month seasonal employment will no longer match the park's visitor season. As visitation pressures increase, Acadia must be able to hire and retain permanent employees to ensure visitor safety, maintain infrastructure, and protect the park's natural and cultural resources.

Park visitors and supporters have a key role to play in the future of Acadia. While Friends of Acadia, the park and partners are using new tools to manage record visitation, the individual choices and actions of visitors will go a long way to safeguarding the park. ■

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Director and BECCA STANLEY is Friends of Acadia's Recreation Technician Lead.

## ACADIA NATIONAL PARK VISITATION IMPACT

2021  
2019

2021 2019  
1,220 Cairns  
Repaired

2021 2019  
987 Cairns  
Repaired

2021 2019  
18,467 Leave No  
Trace Contacts

2021 2019  
7,015 Leave No  
Trace Contacts

Summit Steward Program

2021 2019  
206 Dogs Off  
Leash Recorded

2021 2019  
101 Dogs Off  
Leash Recorded

2021 4.07 Million  
Total Visitation

2019 3.5 Million  
Total Visitation

2021 59 Search  
and Rescues

2019 38 Search  
and Rescues

# COMMITMENT, CONTINUITY

## Characterize Carriage Roads Partnership



Visitors ride horses on the north side of Eagle Lake in 1958. Horseback riding is no longer permitted on this section of carriage road.

BY EARL BRECHLIN

Two words best describe the partnership between Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service, which safeguards Acadia National Park's historic carriage roads: commitment and continuity.

For more than three decades, the partners have deftly blended private-sector philanthropy with Congressional action and park management priorities. That combination ensures that the 45-mile system, including its masonry bridges, continues to be a primary conduit for sharing the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the park with current and future generations of visitors.

In its latest incarnation, the partnership achieved the complete restoration of the park's carriage roads, which began in 1994 and culminated in 2021 with the reconstruction of the six-mile Eagle Lake loop.

### Restoring the Roads to Their Original Glory

Much like the original construction of the system, which was

done in phases between 1913 and 1940, the efforts to restore the carriage roads to their original glory spanned several decades.

Acadia, like many parks in the National Park System, suffered from a lack of funding during the later decades of the 20th century, most of that shortfall coming in budgets for infrastructure and maintenance. By the late 1970s, and early 1980s, encroaching vegetation, erosion, and washouts resulted in carriage roads that offered a less-than-satisfactory visitor experience. In fact, it was a testament to the design and quality of the carriage roads' original design and construction that they endured for as long as they did without regular and routine attention.

In 1989, the National Park Service completed a Historic Resource Study for the Carriage Road System that provided the foundation for the restoration, maintenance, and use of the carriage roads.

Founded just a few years earlier in 1986, Friends of Acadia offered to be part of the solution as well. Friends of Acadia



## The complete restoration of the park's carriage roads culminated in 2021 with the reconstruction of the six-mile Eagle Lake loop.

board members Frederic “Rick” Bourke and David Rockefeller, son of John D. Rockefeller, Jr., joined forces to fund a pilot restoration of more than a mile in the valley known as the Amphitheater.

The success of that effort culminated in a meeting between Friends of Acadia and the National Park Service with Interior Secretary Manuel Lujan, Jr., Maine U.S. Representative Olympia Snowe, and Maine U.S. Senators William Cohen and George Mitchell at the Jordan Pond House to discuss the rehabilitation of the remainder of the system. Subsequently, an unprecedented agreement was struck whereby the federal government would provide \$4 million in funding to restore the carriage roads while Friends of Acadia would raise \$4 million to create an endowment aimed at generating funds to care for the roads in perpetuity.

The first gift to that effort came from then Friends of Acadia Board Chair Charles Tyson, Jr., who also headed up the organization's Carriage Road Rehabilitation Campaign Fund Steering Committee.

As David Rockefeller commented at the time, “The restoration of the Acadia Carriage Roads, through joint efforts of the Congress and private initiatives, is a wonderful development for Mount Desert Island. It is a fine example of the effectiveness of public-private cooperation.”

Over the past 25 years, the original \$4 million endowment created by Friends of Acadia, has gradually grown with additional gifts and investment returns, and has provided more than \$5 million to help maintain the restored carriage roads. Friends of Acadia's annual Take Pride in Acadia Day was the brainchild of Merle Cousins back when the park's maintenance resources were thin. The event now attracts as many as 400 volunteers to clear leaves from the carriage road ditches before

Top: Construction closure on the north side of Eagle Lake. Center: ANP Chief of Maintenance Keith Johnston reopens the Eagle Lake Carriage Road. Bottom: A Park Visitor enjoys the Carriage Road.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



EMMA FORTHOFFER/FOA

winter each year, providing even more assistance for the systems' upkeep.

And, in August of 2019, the paddle raise at Friends of Acadia's annual benefit brought in more than \$300,000 earmarked to help the National Park Service maintain the 16 historic carriage-road bridges in the park.

The rehabilitation of the six-mile Eagle Lake carriage road loop in 2021 officially marked the completion of the original restoration effort. A new connector road was also added to a future parking area near Eagle Lake proposed in the park's transportation plan to reduce congestion caused by visitor vehicles parked along the state highway.

### New Challenges for the Beloved Carriage Roads

Now that the carriage roads in the park have been restored, the commitment of succeeding generations of thoughtful stewards will face new challenges as they strive to maintain continuity. Among the biggest concerns is climate change. Changing weather patterns threaten to test to the breaking point the original design specifications and century-old infrastructure.

Park managers are concerned that the frequency and intensity of major weather events will only increase, adding new challenges to keeping the carriage roads in top shape. And,

changes in use patterns, such as the increasing popularity of eBikes, ensure that officials and park partners will also need to remain vigilant about protecting the resource going forward.

While unforeseen challenges may lie ahead, the resources for meeting them head-on are undoubtedly the same that have served the public-private partnership so well for more than 100 years—commitment and continuity.

Thanks to philanthropic support, Congressional action, and the National Park Service skills, the carriage-road system will continue to be a primary conduit for sharing the scenic, natural, and cultural resources of the park with current and future generations.

EARL BRECHLIN is a Registered Maine Guide, former journalist, and award-winning Maine author.

This article was excerpted for Acadia magazine. To read the full story, including more about philanthropist John D. Rockefeller's vision for Acadia's historic carriage roads and the history of the rehabilitation process, visit [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org) and click on Stories of Acadia. Or, scan this code on your cell phone.



## CELEBRATING ACADIA'S CARRIAGE ROADS WITH MERLE COUSINS AND DOUG HOPKINS

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

More than 100 Friends of Acadia members and guests gathered online December 8, 2021, for a conversation with Acadia National Park's retired Roads Foreman Merle Cousins

and Greenrock's retired General Manager Doug Hopkins. This online gathering of the Acadia Society celebrated the official completion of the historic restoration of Acadia's carriage roads.

Cousins and Hopkins shared stories of their long tenure maintaining and improving Mr.

Rockefeller's beautiful carriage roads. Friends of Acadia's Director of Development, Lisa Horsch Clark, moderated the conversation and members asked questions of these two legends who cared so adeptly for Acadia's carriage roads over the decades.

This event was part of a series of events featuring park and conservation experts to thank the Acadia Society members who contributed \$1,000 or more to Friends of Acadia.

On March 1st, Acadia Society members also had the opportunity to hear from Friends of Acadia President and CEO David MacDonald, Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider, and former Friends of Acadia Board Chair Anne Green as they reflected on the collective accomplishments during David's tenure as president.

To learn more about becoming a member of the Acadia Society, please email [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org).

LISA HORSCH CLARK is the Director of Development and Donor Relations at Friends of Acadia.



FOA Director of Development Lisa Horsch Clark and Merle Cousins.



# David MacDonald Helped Friends of Acadia Reach New Heights

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT AND LORI SCHAEFER

After a decade of leadership, Friends of Acadia's President and CEO David MacDonald is stepping down this spring. Acadia National Park has met some of its biggest challenges during David's tenure, and Friends of Acadia has worked in close partnership with the park to strategically address those challenges and opportunities.

Friends of Acadia has truly thrived and grown under David's leadership. As we reflect on his legacy, we look at some of the major accomplishments as seen through the perspective of various partners and friends.

We are grateful for David's leadership as the park began its second century and wish him the very best as he begins his next adventure. ►



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



# David MacDonald, President and CEO 2012–2022



## Acadia's Second Century Campaign

David worked with the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, Development Committee, and staff to complete the Acadia Second Century Campaign, raising more than \$25 million to help the park address significant needs such as youth engagement in the park, addressing the increasing visitation and traffic congestion, investments in the trails and carriage roads, and stewardship of park resources in an era of climate change.

**"It was a highlight to work with David MacDonald on the Second Century Capital Campaign. His steady confidence in our team and thoughtful preparations in advance of donor meetings, meant the campaign yielded great success and broad participation. David's kind nature, his history with the Friends of Acadia board, and strong donor relationships were invaluable in helping build understanding and communicating why the Second Century Campaign was critical to Acadia National Park."**

—ANNE GREEN, Friends of Acadia Board Member, Former Board Chair (2018-2021), and Acadia Second Century Campaign Co-Chair (2014-17)



## Acadia Centennial Advisory Committee

David served as a member of the Acadia Centennial Advisory Committee—a board and citizen committee that welcomed 453 Acadia Centennial Partners into a year-long celebration of Acadia's 100th birthday.

**"David's enthusiastic support and guidance leading up to the 2016 celebration was invaluable to the members of the centennial team. At the many events held throughout the year, his always-eloquent words highlighted Friends of Acadia's strong and long-lasting partnership with Acadia National Park."**

—COOKIE HORNER, Friends of Acadia Trustee, Board member (2010-2019), and Acadia Centennial Co-Chair



## A Dedicated and Strategic Partner

One of David's key leadership traits was to work strategically with partners to advance shared objectives, such as land protection, scientific knowledge about the park, or public transportation. David maintained a key partnership with L.L.Bean, which has provided over \$4 million in funding for the Island Explorer transit system and supported many youth engagement programs. He's been a steadfast and devoted park partner.

**"David's leadership has helped foster our successful 20-year relationship. The Island Explorer bus system is the gold standard across the park system, easing transportation challenges, increasing accessibility, and improving the visitor experience. Our longstanding support would not have been possible without the strong relationships David cultivated between L.L.Bean, Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and Downeast Transportation."**

—KATHRYN PRATT, Director of Brand Engagement at L.L.Bean





## Acadia's Trails and Carriage Roads

Investments in trails, carriage roads, and volunteerism have always been a priority for Friends of Acadia, and David helped maintain core support while advancing new ideas.

**"David has always been a strong advocate for Acadia's needs. The long-term support provided through the trails and carriage roads endowments has been a life-support system, but strategic and creative investments such as the Greening Acadia Fund have been welcome innovations. Words cannot express our deep gratitude for David's partnership, leadership, and service."**

—KEITH JOHNSTON, Chief of Facilities Management, Acadia National Park

**"Whenever the volunteers had an issue they thought David should know about, he always found time and listened—really listened—to our concerns. This was especially gratifying as we knew he had many pressing and difficult issues to deal with. We always felt better after meeting with him."**

—MIKE HAYS, Leader of the Stewardship Volunteer Committee

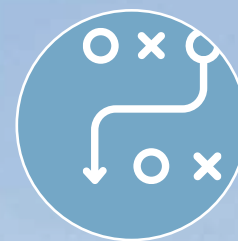


## Representing Acadia at the National Level

David represented Friends of Acadia at the national level, testifying in Congress and serving as the President of the Friends Alliance Steering Committee. The Alliance is an affiliation of national park partner organizations and park officials, assisted by the National Park Foundation, that meets twice a year to discuss current issues and share updates and model programs.

**"As the President of the Friends Alliance, David elevated a loose network of friends groups to a flourishing partnership with the National Park Foundation and the National Park Service. From testifying at congressional hearings to helping to create partnership policies, David advanced our collective goals around philanthropy in national parks."**

—KATIE NYBERG, Co-President of the National Park Friends Alliance



## Acadia's First Transportation Plan

Under David's Leadership Friends of Acadia advocated for the National Park Service to address the impacts of growing traffic and parking congestion on Cadillac Summit, which ultimately led to a comprehensive Transportation Plan for the park.

**"David's steadfast commitment to the park and surrounding communities helped advance major initiatives of the Transportation Plan, including the Acadia Gateway Center, and Cadillac Summit Road vehicle registrations."**

**David's vision and guidance was invaluable to developing a balanced approach to managing visitor use. He provided a long-term, big picture perspective and leveraged short-term opportunities and investments needed to implement key aspects of the plan.**

—JOHN KELLY, Management Assistant, Superintendent's Office, Acadia National Park



# CLIMATE CHANGE

## MEANS DIFFICULT DECISIONS IN ACADIA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA





STEPHANIE CLEMENT/FOA

Opposite: A signpost for the Maple Spring Trail lies at an angle in a damaged section of trail below the Hemlock Bridge. Insert: Park postings warn visitors about damage to Maple Spring Trail. The trail is currently closed after the June 2021 rainstorm. Above: Park officials, with the help of Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute, meet to consider options on what to do next with this heavily damaged section of the trail.

BY CATHERINE SCHMITT

Early on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, rain began to fall. It had been hot, and the warm air held a lot of moisture. Inches of rain fell within a few hours.

On the bare granite slopes of Sargent Mountain, sheets of water washed over carriage roads, carrying gravel hundreds of feet into the woods. In the narrow gorge where hikers have ascended the Maple Spring Trail for more than 150 years, the rain became a torrent, ripping through roots, washing away soil, and tumbling boulders.

Within a few weeks, the National Park Service had initiated plans to fix the carriage roads. But Maple Spring Trail? No one at Acadia National Park was sure what to do.

The June storm was the latest manifestation of rapidly warming temperatures. Among the climate changes impacting Acadia, flooding is especially prominent. Annual precipitation has increased by six inches over the last century. There is more rain and less snow, and more frequent intense storms.

The devastation along the Maple Spring Trail was enough to break the hearts of the Acadia Trails Crew, the master builders who had rehabilitated the trail just eight years ago.

You can only get your heart broken so many times before you decide it's time to make a change.

After a pandemic summer that saw record numbers of visitors, a warm fall when it seemed the leaves would never change color, and back-to-back Nor'easters that flooded some of the same carriage roads that washed out back in June, everyone at Acadia National Park was ready to try a different approach to deciding what to do about the Maple Spring Trail.

### A Climate-Scenario Planning Workshop

In early November, park leaders, rangers, scientists, historians, and the trail crew came together to evaluate their options under climate scenarios recently developed by the Park.

"This is the first time we are evaluating a trail as a group," said Gail Gladstone, Acadia's Cultural Resources Program Manager, who helped organize the workshop. Gladstone is overseeing the listing of Acadia's hiking trail system on the National Register of Historic Places. The National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consider the impact of management actions on historic properties.

With decades of experience building and rebuilding Acadia's historic hiking paths, trail crew members could not help but imagine reconstruction. But, having seen the power of the June runoff, no one could be sure that even big



ANP and FOA staff survey damage to the Maple Spring Trail during a site visit in November 2021.

blocks of granite wouldn't also wash away during the next deluge. They wanted to hear the perspectives of other park departments.

"We want to know, what does the science tell us?" said Trail Crew Leader Gary Stellpflug.

"Is what we are doing going to last, given everything with climate change?" asked Trail Crew Leader Christian Barter.

The uncertainty of Acadia's future climate hung like a cloud over the two days of the workshop.

## More Questions Than Answers

The June 9th rain was part of a belt of highly localized, fast-moving convective storms estimated to be of the size that only occurs every 250 years or more, according to Charles Hebson of the Maine Department of Transportation. "There is much uncertainty in assigning probabilities to such extreme events, so this is best understood as a rare extreme rainfall event well outside the limits of standard design," he said.

At its most intense moments, rain fell at a rate of two inches per hour. "This same volume over 24 hours would not have been nearly so damaging," said Hebson.

"We have an array of things that happen now that we didn't used to have to deal with," said Brian Henkel, a hydrologist and Wild Acadia Coordinator with Friends of Acadia. "I started this job six years ago and it's just been storm after storm after storm."

Restoring park trails inspired the creation of Friends of Acadia in 1986. Thirty-five years later, it's clear that the park's

drainage infrastructure was not designed for today's precipitation. When the park rehabilitated the Eagle Lake carriage road this year, they used larger culverts and raised its elevation where it had been repeatedly flooding and washing out. As simple as this seems, it goes against a preservation philosophy that supports repair and restoration, but not much remodeling.

"Our first instinct is to put things back together again, like Humpty Dumpty," said Schoodic Institute President and CEO Nick Fisichelli. "But we need to adapt. We need to change along with the climate." Fisichelli recently co-authored the Resist-Accept-Direct Framework for climate change adaptation that was being applied in the Maple Spring Trail workshop.

## Weighing Difficult Management Choices

Workshop participants discussed a range of possible management actions:

- **Do nothing** Remove imminent hazards and reopen as-is.
- **Primitive Trail** Do some work to construct tread and repair bridges.
- **Full Rehabilitation** Restore historic features and tread with significant work.
- **Reroute** Build a new trail outside the stream corridor or make small re-routes to connect to existing trails.
- **Delete** Close the trail and remove from parks maps and literature.

To re-build the trail as it was would be "resistance" to a wetter future. But the seasonality of flows that once left the stream route dry when most people used it, is no longer reliably predictable.

To close the trail permanently and delete it from the trail system would be "accepting" the likelihood of recurring damage. Many workshop participants had difficulty envisioning this option.

Other options included modifying the trail to accommodate more and bigger rains, or re-routing it along new paths, both a kind of "directing" response to climate change. But these, too, would have impacts on the environment, said biologist Bik Wheeler, who offered the perspective of someone who works with endangered species. "I'm used to letting things go. We need to get comfortable letting go of some things—that's what climate change planning is."

Cost and time are major considerations. Of course the trail crew could fix it, but at what cost? What work on other trails would not get done because all efforts would be directed at Maple Spring?



## BEFORE THE STORM



Maple Spring Trail before and after the June 2021 rain event.

Visitor behavior and perceptions are also factors. If the park does nothing, the trail would continue to erode and potentially be dangerous for visitors who would still use it, said Chief Ranger Thérèse Picard. “At this point, it’s very unstable.” Picard spent nine years at Zion National Park dealing with flash flooding and related trail closures, both temporary and permanent, and thinks about search-and-rescue operations. “When do we say ‘uncle’?”

“Doing nothing isn’t a real option,” said Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. “All of these choices are actions of some kind – so ‘doing nothing’ is not possible.”

### What Next for Maple Spring Trail?

The goal of the workshop wasn’t to make the decision, but to gather enough input and information for the trail crew to come up with a plan.

“We will continue to monitor the situation as the trail crew evaluates the options, including costs,” said Chief of

## AFTER THE STORM



Facilities Management Keith Johnston. But they also agreed that they will have to make a decision before too long, even if the decision is to take relatively small steps and adapt management of the trail as conditions change.

Environmental Protection Specialist Jason Flynn, who helped organize the workshop with Gladstone and Abe Miller-Rushing, expressed gratitude to the participants. “It shows the value of the trail network, and this process, that everyone spent a day and a half to listen to each other and try to figure this out. These are hard decisions, but we can sit down together and work through them.”

Whether or not the decision sets a precedent, there is a new precedent for making decisions about responding to climate change in Acadia National Park, and for that, the Maple Spring Trail will maintain its place in park history. ■

CATHERINE SCHMITT is the Science Communication Specialist at Schoodic Institute.

With this feature, we continue our series recognizing women of Acadia, both past and present. Here we present two sisters of the Gilded Age juxtaposed with a modern-day scientist. Their stories highlight how women's roles have changed, yet remind us of the influence summers in Acadia can have on the trajectory of one's life—and those of others.

# Women of Acadia

## THEN & NOW

# Gifts for the Future

### THEN... the Schermerhorn Sisters, Benefactors During the Gilded Age

Annie Schermerhorn Kane (1857-1926) and Fanny Schermerhorn Bridgham (1846-1919) of New York City, were sisters who spent summers in Bar Harbor during the Gilded Age, a period of great economic, technological, and governmental transformation. They personified American upper-class opulence, along with the rise of philanthropy.

After the death of her husband, who was an explorer, amateur scientist, and member of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Association, Mrs. Kane provided funds to build the Kane Path, in his memory. The two sisters also donated Lake Wood and the surrounding land. But their philanthropy extended to the local community as well. Two scholarships to assist Mount Desert Island high school students with college funding still exist today. Honoring her sister, Mrs. Kane designated that her award be given to young women.

### NOW... Morgan Ingalls, Biological Technician, Acadia National Park

BY LYNN FANTOM

Morgan Ingalls' connection to Acadia began just as the Schermerhorn sisters' was concluding. In the 1920s, her great-grandfather purchased property on Mount Desert Island, where her parents ultimately met.

Many memorable summers followed. Ingalls first "hiked" in Acadia, loaded into her father's backpack, with her infant sister resting on his chest in a snuggly carrier. She recalls "a really sad, rundown sailboat that we'd occasionally venture out on."

Ingalls attended a progressive elementary school near Brattleboro, Vermont. There she learned how to build a shelter in the woods—not part of a conventional curriculum, she chuckles. That education, along with her parents' encouragement, ignited her curiosity. As she moved through college and pursued environmental studies in graduate school, so much interested her that it was hard to zero in on a career plan.

Her love of learning and the outdoors stuck. And she found her specialty: bats. Today, as a wildlife biological technician in Acadia, she studies mouse-eared bats or *Myotis* with keen attention. Why? "Well, they're cool," she says.

It's easy to see why she thinks so. Bats are the only flying mammal. Adult females cooperatively care for pups in maternity colonies. Bats have different searching, feeding, and social calls, all at frequencies people can't hear.

But bats are also important to maintaining healthy ecosystems, Ingalls notes. In Acadia's food web, for example, they eat insects and barred owls eat them. More broadly, bats pollinate plants, distribute seeds, and provide nontoxic pest-control services to agriculture, valued in the billions.

Ingalls' role within the division of resource management extends to understanding the serious threats to bats and





Schermerhorn memorial bridge at Lake Wood, 1932, under water today.

protecting and managing them in the national park.

Loss of habitat, wind turbines, and a disease known as white nose syndrome have posed serious threats nationally. In Maine, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife estimates that the bat population has declined over 90 percent since the syndrome appeared in 2011-12.

"Acadia is one of the few places in Maine where a so-called 'remnant population' can still be reliably sampled so that we can monitor the bats' health, reproduction, and behavior," Ingalls says. She is pursuing questions like: Why do bats in Acadia do better than those in other parts of the state? Are there enough bats here for this population to grow? How can that occur? Can it help repopulate other areas?

Ingalls loves science because it involves asking questions like these. Plus, she's always enjoyed the actual work of seeking answers, whether in the lab as she did as a biochemistry major, or now in her field work as part of Acadia's wildlife team.

Acadia's bat researchers deploy sophisticated tools and techniques, including video cameras with infrared spotlights and specialized microphones and devices to record the calls bats make.

As far back as 2008, they set delicate "mist nets" to capture bats and band them for tracking. Since COVID, however, there has been much less capture of live animals, rising from concern that humans could transmit the coronavirus to bats.

Beginning in 2012, Ingalls began working in Acadia on a contract basis while employed at Biodiversity Research Institute, a nonprofit in Portland, Maine. She officially joined the



Morgan Ingalls unloads a netting system used to trap bats on the carriage roads near the Jordan Pond Gatehouse.

National Park Service in 2018.

One multi-year project has addressed a dual challenge that confronted the National Park Service: how to restore Acadia's historic gatehouses while not further endangering the female bats that roost in them. Fitting bats with radio transmitters, the technicians studied patterns and roosting areas over time. They learned, for example, that the clay tiles on the gatehouse roof retained heat, making it an optimal maternity ward. This led to specific recommendations for the repairs that occurred last year.

As compelling as the bat work is, Ingalls has other duties. In the spring, she is out with her binoculars and scope looking for breeding behavior among peregrine falcons, any of their nests, and hopefully fledglings. At other times, she is counting alewives, a species of herring whose breeding journeys between the ocean and freshwater have been interrupted by the dams humans have built.

Ingalls also works with visiting researchers who use Acadia as their laboratory. She is grateful for the stimulating work and the supportive environment she enjoys. "It's a really good place for a woman doing science," she says.

Though many years lie ahead for this committed conservationist, Ingalls has already established her own bequest to Acadia National Park: she is helping preserve its wildlife. ■

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

# GHOSTS of '47

PHOTOGRAPHS AND STORY BY DAVID MANSKI



DAVID MANSKI worked for 35 years with the National Park Service as a natural resource specialist, including 20 years at Acadia. He is on the board of Schoodic Institute and Frenchman Bay Conservancy and is the current President of the Mount Desert Island Photo Club.



Scan this code or visit [friendsofacadia.org](https://www.friendsofacadia.org), Stories of Acadia, for the full version of this story, including more photos of the relic tree stumps.

While exploring Acadia National Park during the pandemic winter of 2020-21, I stumbled upon some spectacular artifacts from the Mount Desert Island Fire of 1947. These 74-year-old relic tree stumps have decayed into fascinating ghost-like shapes resembling creatures from a science-fiction movie.

When I first discovered them, I didn't make the connection to the fire. But after investigating the area further, I came across flat-cut stumps and other downed tree parts that showed definitive charcoal scars.

The 1947 fire burned over 17,000 acres on Mount Desert Island, including nearly one-third of the lands comprising Acadia National Park at that time. Yet despite the devastation of that tragic event, why are charcoal scarred trees, cut stumps, and other traces of the fire so uncommon in the Acadia landscape?

Immediately after the fire, the National Park Service (NPS) and John D. Rockefeller Jr. crews and contractors conducted an intensive and wide-scale cleanup to reduce hazards associated with downed trees and to improve the aesthetics and appearance of the recently burned areas of the park. In total, over 11.8 million board feet of sawlogs and 820 cords of pulpwood were salvaged in the burned areas of the park. Short-length and defective logs went to a small Bar Harbor lath mill for manufacturing slats for snow fences and lobster traps. Some fire-killed and windthrown timber was used to reconstruct park structures and provided free to local residents for personal use.

In spite of the severe impact of the fire and the massive logging operations, the park's landscape was resilient. Just 11 months after the fire, the NPS reported that "there was already an abundance of natural reproduction that had become established in extensive areas within the burn." To complement this natural regeneration, plans were developed for replanting trees in some burned sections of the park through a partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and University of Maine nursery.

Given the extensive cleanup and restoration operations and the natural regeneration of vegetation, it's no wonder that today in the park, there are so few visible manifestations of the fire.

The Ghosts of '47 that I encountered are noteworthy, not only because of their fascinating alien shapes, but because they serve as important reminders about that tragic event that shaped contemporary Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island. ■



## CAPTURING THE MOMENT

By Will Newton



I remember waking up like a kid on Christmas on that blustery fall morning, more than ready to get into the park to photograph a new side of Acadia. I never had the opportunity to experience snowfall in Acadia before and was thrilled that my job as a seasonal employee for Friends of Acadia afforded me the opportunity to see the park in all of its glory covered in white! Since the Park Loop Road was closed, I trekked to my favorite scenic locations accessible by foot. I photographed Great Meadow, Ocean Drive, Otter Cliffs, and Jordan Pond, but it was this simple scene that really caught my eye—cattails

with what looked like scoops of ice cream on top. Sometimes the small details that make up the beautiful grand scenes go unnoticed, and this photo encapsulates the peacefulness, serenity, and newness on top of the familiar that was that day for me. ■

WILL NEWTON is a former Acadia Digital Media Team member (2018 and 2020) and now works as a staff photographer for the State of Arkansas with the Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism.



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Acadia National Park  
during the spring?



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10

- \_\_\_\_\_ American Bittern  
(*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ American Woodcock  
(*Scolopax minor*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Belted Kingfisher  
(*Megasceryle alcyon*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Blue Heron  
(*Ardea herodias*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Gray Catbird  
(*Dumetella carolinensis*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Hermit Thrush  
(*Catharus guttatus*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Osprey  
(*Pandion haliaetus*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Ovenbird  
(*Seiurus aurocapilla*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Red-Winged Blackbird  
(*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Turkey Vulture  
(*Cathartes aura*)

ANSWERS ON PAGE 40



## NEW MEMBERS

September 1, 2021 – December 31, 2021

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Mark Rugel

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Kathleen Jeffrey  
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Susan Landis  
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Susan Lawrence  
Judith and Lynn Lawyer  
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Gail Leiser  
Stephanie Levine

continued on page 39

# Acadia Quest Launches “Storytellers of Acadia”

BY PAIGE STEELE



Acadia Quest, the experiential scavenger hunt aimed at inspiring youth to explore, learn about, and protect Acadia National Park, is back for its 14th season.

New this year is the Storytellers edition. Questers will meet interpretive rangers, education interns, and Summit Steward team members who will guide teams to sites and trails in the park and uncover the stories intertwined

with these special places.

On Mount Desert Island, teams will fan out to Acadia Mountain, Carroll Homestead, Giant Slide Trail, Jordan Cliffs, Pretty Marsh Picnic Area, and more, while some rangers are sending teams to the Schoodic Peninsula, visiting Frazer Point Picnic Area to learn about one of the earliest black

settler families in Maine.

Quest teams will continue to be able to enjoy the park through this safe, fun, self-guided adventure, all while collecting digital badges in newly discovered corners of Acadia. Acadia Quest challenges appeal to all ages.

The Acadia Quest app is available for both iOS and Android platforms, operates on smartphones and tablets, and it's FREE to download. Just search the app store for “friends of acadia.”

A great time to begin your Acadia Quest adventure is during National Park Week starting on Saturday, April 16. To register and learn more about how to participate, visit the Friends of Acadia website at [friendsofacadia.org](http://friendsofacadia.org), click on Visiting Acadia, Activities, and then the Acadia Quest page. Teams may also download the paper version of the Quest on the website. Happy adventuring! ■

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



## Acadia Hosts a Women in Parks Intern

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia are hosting a Women in Parks internship in the spring of 2022, thanks to a grant from the National Park Foundation. The goal of the internship at Acadia is to research, document, and highlight the history of women in the park, including explorers, philanthropists, scientists, and current leaders within the park and community who have played a role in advocating for, protecting, and preserving park resources.

Zoë Smiarowski, a former member of Friends of Acadia's Summit Steward Team (2018-2020), was selected for the internship. She will be employed by Friends of Acadia through May to work with the Visitor Experience and Education staff at the park.

Smiarowski's research will provide a strong foundation for ensuring that women's stories are represented as a core component of interpretation at the park. Her work will also enhance the park's website, social media, virtual programming, and public presentations.

“We are excited to welcome Zoë to the team and are grateful for the partnerships with the National Park Foundation and Friends of Acadia that have enabled this opportunity,” said Josh Stringer, Supervisory Park Ranger in the Visitor Experience and Education division. “Zoë is a demonstrated advocate for Acadia National Park and will tremendously assist the park to continue efforts which proudly recognize the contributions of women throughout the park's history.” ■



Zoë Smiarowski, 2022 Women in Parks Intern

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Director.



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Lauren Cote  
Vicki Hall  
Carla Janoff and  
John Coyle  
Bonnie and  
Zev Kindler  
Bethany Kloc  
Margot Koerner

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Dean Mead  
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Nick Miller  
Robert Morton  
Graciela and  
Thomas Palumbo  
Bruce Raboin  
Anne Rankin  
Joanne and  
John Shriner  
Noel Vigu

### NEW MEMBERS *continued from page 37*

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Ann Marie Toscano  
Sam Tracy  
Lisa Turner  
Karen Tuttle  
Pam Twaddel  
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Stephen Valone  
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Wednesday, July 6, 2022  
4:00 p.m.

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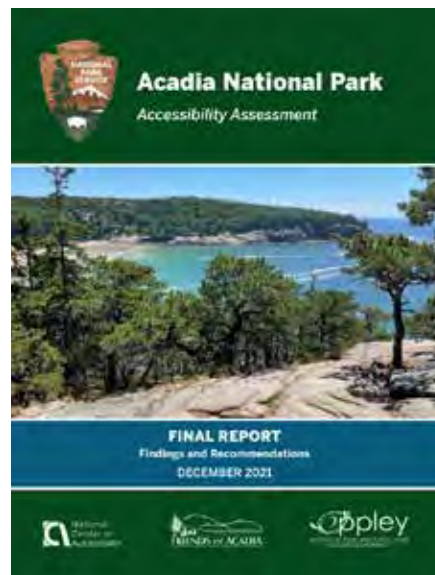
## Updates

### Cadillac Trail Selected as Next Accessibility Project

The National Center on Accessibility at the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University has published the final report regarding their research to identify barriers to accessibility at important visitor destinations throughout Acadia.

The assessment project was funded by a grant from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation to Friends of Acadia. The consultants studied 28 sites in the park and made recommendations for improvements. Additionally, they recommended that Acadia's website be updated with more detailed descriptions of park features so that visitors could decide for themselves what is accessible to them.

Acadia National Park has identified improving accessibility and connectivity at Cadillac Summit as a park priority. The need for an accessible connection between parking areas on Cadillac Mountain was noted in the report as a way for visitors to navigate and enjoy the area safely. Friends of Acadia's Summit Stewards have also recommended



such a connection, given that visitors often walk the road between the parking lots to get the best view of sunrise or sunset.

Preliminary planning to improve accessibility at Cadillac Summit will begin in 2022.

To read the accessibility assessment, scan the QR code or visit [friendsofacadia.org](https://friendsofacadia.org)



### ANSWERS to Early Birds IQ quiz on page 36

1. Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)
2. Red-Winged Blackbird (*Agelaius phoeniceus*)
3. Ovenbird (*Seiurus aurocapilla*)
4. American Woodcock (*Scolopax minor*)
5. Turkey Vulture (*Cathartes aura*)
6. Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*)
7. Hermit Thrush (*Catharus guttatus*)
8. Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*)
9. American Bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*)
10. Belted Kingfisher (*Megasceryle alcyon*)



## Welcome to Friends of Acadia's New Board Members

Please join us in welcoming Rob Leary, Cora Olgyay, and Laura Pierce to the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, as well as two new visiting student members, Vaclava (Vendy) Hazukova and Eleanor Gnam.

**Rob Leary** spent his career in the financial services industry and was the CEO of companies including Nuveen, ING Insurance (now Voya), and The Olayan Group. He currently serves as the Chairman of the National Forest Foundation. Rob previously served on the Friends of Acadia board and served on the Friends of Acadia Investment Committee for the past two years.

**Cora Olgyay** has taught and consulted as a landscape architect, including at the University of Pennsylvania School of Design. She also worked with nonprofit organizations to create landscape plans that can be sustainably implemented. Cora and her husband, Alan Rosenquist, have been Friends of Acadia members for 20 years and Cora has volunteered with Wild Gardens of Acadia.

**Laura Pierce** is the owner and principal designer of Keeler & Co, an interior design firm based in Boston and Seal Harbor, as well as Rusticator, a seasonal design shop in Seal Harbor. Laura has served on the Friends of Acadia Benefit Host Committee for three years and was the Benefit Co-Chair in 2020 and 2021.



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**Vaclava (Vendy) Hazukova** is a graduate student at the University of Maine and its Climate Change Institute, pursuing her Ph.D. in Ecology and Environmental Science. Vendy's research and field work has spanned much of the globe, including lake sampling here in Acadia and a poster presentation at this fall's Acadia Science Symposium.

**Eleanor Gnam** is an undergraduate at the College of the Atlantic, studying marine biology. She worked this past summer conducting seabird research on Great Duck Island and is passionate about creating more opportunities for students to help Acadia through research and other projects.

## Acadia's New Deputy Superintendent Brandon Bies Now Onboard



closely with Acadia's senior management team, overseeing the operation and planning for the national park.

"Brandon brings expertise to Acadia from many facets of park operations, communications, and community relations. We are thrilled to welcome him to the park," said Acadia National Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "He has an incredible depth of experience and is a highly accomplished professional with strong leadership skills that will help guide this park into the future."

Bies and his wife, Laura, have two sons and relocated to MDI in December. They enjoy camping, hiking, and fishing, and have already begun to explore many of the park's trails and vistas. When not out on the trails this winter, they've been enjoying new hobbies like skating and ice fishing.

"I'm honored to join the exceptional team of NPS employees, partners and volunteers that care for Acadia National Park," said Bies. "Acadia is an amazing place and I look forward to collaborating with Friends of Acadia and other park partners on the challenges and opportunities the park faces."

Welcome to Brandon Bies, Acadia National Park's new Deputy Superintendent. Bies succeeds Mike Madell who retired from the National Park Service (NPS) last July.

Prior to joining the Acadia team, Bies was the Superintendent of Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia. He also served a ten-month special assignment as the National Park Service Deputy Chief of Staff coordinating the agency's COVID response.

In his new role, Bies will work



## Friends of Acadia Welcomes New Staff

Friends of Acadia is excited to welcome two new staff members to the team.



**Nikki Burtis** joined Friends of Acadia in 2021 as the seasonal Stewardship Assistant, and in January 2022 was promoted to full-time Stewardship Coordinator. Nikki will work closely with the park and Friends of Acadia to coordinate stewardship programs and volunteers, and large-scale events such as Take Pride in Acadia Day.

**Lynn Verrill** is Friends of Acadia's new Administrative Assistant. She will assist the President and CEO, the CFO, and the organization with various administrative duties, including coordinating materials for the Board of Directors, maintaining employee policies, human resources files, and more.




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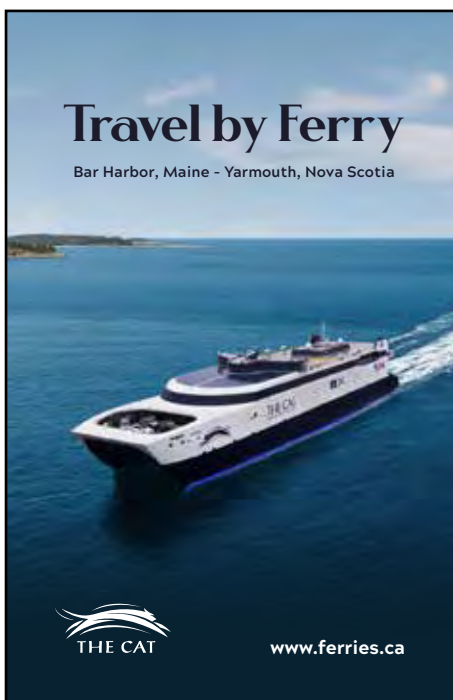
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The Resting Fisherman, oil on canvas, 30 x 40



Wash Day, 12 x 16



Woman Washing Windows, 12 x 16



# MY ACADIA

BY STEPHANIE FOGEL

Cathedrals of pine and fir tower over the hush of needled forest floor. Stained glass kaleidoscopes of light intrude upon the darkness, the slightest movement endlessly repatterning the sky. Swaying, the aged timbers creak like wearied bones settling into place in some easy chair. Stately monarchs of another time, heroes of last winter's storms, they strain, with the yearnings of the wind, to stand straight and tall. Locked within their dense stand, folded within encircling outreached arms, the tang of fresh resin stirs, unleashed by morning mist and evening fog.

Maine wood.

The farmer's tools honed and planed by generations, set upon the same task, now surrender to time and elements. Roadside fence planks, girdled by wire, splintered by an early frost, surround fields ablaze with flower. Shipyards of masted craft slowly seep into the yielding grave of muddied flats. Shelters, left abandoned in the fields of time, are haunted by the tourist in the search for last remains.

Maine wood.

Blues of chicory flourish in petaled softness, wrapped among the space of lobster traps. Hollow barnacles rise open-mouthed along stranded driftwood, calling for the tide that never comes. Backyard weeds stretch grasping fingers along barnyard doors, holding fast to tiny pores.

Maine wood.

Intermingling lives and livings. Tooled by man or regained by time.

**STEPHANIE FOGEL** is a writer, artist, and environmental activist inspired by Acadia's breathtaking union of ocean, rocky coast, fragrant pine forests, mountains, and trails. She experiences trees as a means of connecting with the earth—roots reaching into the ground, branches raised upward to the sun. Each, like us, has its own personality and power. Stephanie is also a member of Friends of Acadia's George B. Dorr Society.



# With Change Comes Opportunity

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with saying “the only constant in life is change.” While one could argue that the veracity of this statement even after 2500 years proves the statement itself to be incorrect, I choose to agree with Heraclitus.

Climates change, seasons change, our earth is changing, people change, and life is ever changing. We can’t “step into the same stream twice.”

Our good friend and intrepid leader David MacDonald will depart from Friends of Acadia this spring. Even though he will continue to hike the trails of Acadia and “step into its streams,” he will not be doing so as the President of our esteemed institution, but rather as one of Acadia’s visitors. David can do this knowing he has contributed tremendously to the success of Friends of Acadia in the last decade. In collaboration with park leadership, other like-minded institutions, Friends of Acadia’s generous supporters, dedicated staff, and committed Board of Directors, David has enabled us to become an increasingly effective and mature organization.

During David’s tenure, Friends of Acadia has grown and prospered. Among the achievements: a very successful capital campaign; national recognition of Friends of Acadia as a leader among friends’ groups; an enhanced transportation system on Mount Desert Island; an exponential increase in Friends of Acadia’s endowment; a greatly enhanced communications program; a new reservation system for Cadillac Mountain Road, and more.

David is too modest to admit the part he played in Friends of Acadia’s accomplishments; thus I’m hereby invoking the prerogative of the Chair to go on record: David, we thank you!

As one of my military superiors used to say: “with change comes the opportunity to excel.” Friends of Acadia is well positioned to take on the many

challenges Acadia faces in 2022 and beyond.

We are working diligently to address the lack of seasonal housing for park staff on MDI and in nearby communities. We’re ready, willing, and able to participate in creating more of such housing and are working directly with the park and other partners to find suitable options.

As park visitation has increased, Friends of Acadia has already contributed to the Acadia Gateway Center and the Cadillac Reservation system, and we will continue to support implementation of the Transportation Plan with the objective of preserving and protecting our wonderful park land while enabling the finest possible visitor experience.

We will continue to stand firm in opposition to the proposed industrial-sized salmon pens in Frenchman Bay that endanger Acadia’s core values, insisting instead that aquaculture developments be created in a manner and in locations that appropriately respect our environment.

When I joined the board in 2010, the priority issues on our “table” were not lack of housing for employees, dealing with more than four million visits, or the threat of industrial-sized aquaculture. We had no idea that our world would be coping with the vagaries and ramifications of COVID-19.

We are continually reminded that the key to our success remains to be dealing with change. As the Friends of Acadia, we must remain diligent, keep our “eye on the ball,” be foresighted, and be willing to act when it is called for.

We must be able to identify and manage change—our opportunity to excel. And we must bid our esteemed leader David MacDonald a fond farewell.

*Jack Kelley*  
—Jack Kelley

## FROM THE CHAIR



**“We are continually reminded that the key to our success remains to be dealing with change.”**

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

**HADLOCK BROOK**  
rushes off the  
Hadlock Brook Trail.

## Brett Binns: Member and Year-Round Volunteer

BY PAIGE STEELE

For 15 years, Brett and Celina Binns have been giving to Friends of Acadia. As they settled into retirement on the Schoodic Peninsula, Brett also became a year-round volunteer. I sat down to ask Brett about why he gives back to Acadia in so many ways.

**PS:** Brett, it's great working with you through the Acadia Winter Trails Association (AWTA). How did you first connect to Acadia?

**BB:** Celina's family is from the Fort Kent and Lewiston areas, so I inherited Maine from my wife. We kept driving east and planted our roots Downeast.

**PS:** How did you hear about Friends of Acadia?

**BB:** I honestly can't remember, it seems like we've always known about you. Acadia is my park. It's our treasure here locally and we feel strongly about supporting it.

**PS:** How did you begin working as a volunteer in the park?

**BB:** I met a ranger name Ed Pontbriand who told me about the Acadia Winter Trails grooming program, which sounded like fun. For the first few years, Ed and I would drive over to MDI for meetings, and to train and groom on the Eagle Lake carriage roads. I also volunteered with his wife, Ranger Kelly, to help train her search-and-rescue dogs. I would lie under a tarp in the snow and wait until the dog found me. It was quite memorable!

While we love our home, I do feel isolated living in rural Maine. It's nice to be social and make friends through volunteering. I like having a reason to be outside in the woods with my friends on a regular basis, while giving back to this amazing park. It doesn't get much better than that!

**PS:** Last year, we expanded grooming to the Schoodic District on the multi-use paths and you have led those grooming efforts. What's it like seeing visitors after you groom?

**BB:** I joined the AWTA team with the dream of being able to expand grooming to Schoodic someday. Dream realized! Before we expanded, I would see a trickle of local faces using the paths during winter. Now, after grooming, there are lots of new skiers, coming from much larger distances, to enjoy the park. It's great.

**PS:** You also volunteer in the summer, and you received a National Park Service award this year, right?



Brett Binns

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

**BB:** Yes, we have a volunteer crew that maintains the trails and multi-use paths on the Schoodic Peninsula in the summer. We brush back trails and clean downed trees, making sure our work looks very natural. We do a height test for branches and trim them back so a parent walking with a kid on their shoulders will clear the branches. I used to love hiking with my son in a pack.

**PS:** Brett, thank you for your wonderful contributions to Acadia National Park. We greatly appreciate your service and camaraderie and look forward to seeing you in the park.

**BB:** Thank you. It's an amazing place to live. The attraction of this place is the beautiful nature and I'm happy to help maintain it and share it with others.



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A RED FOX  
near Acadia  
Mountain

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