

ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal FALL 2023

**NEW BATTERY-
ELECTRIC BUSES**
PILOT TESTED IN ACADIA

HEAVY LIFTING
MOVING HEAVY ROCK IS A BIG PART
OF BUILDING AND MAINTAINING TRAILS

BORDER CROSSING
COLLABORATING TO ADDRESS
INVASIVE PLANTS AND INSECTS

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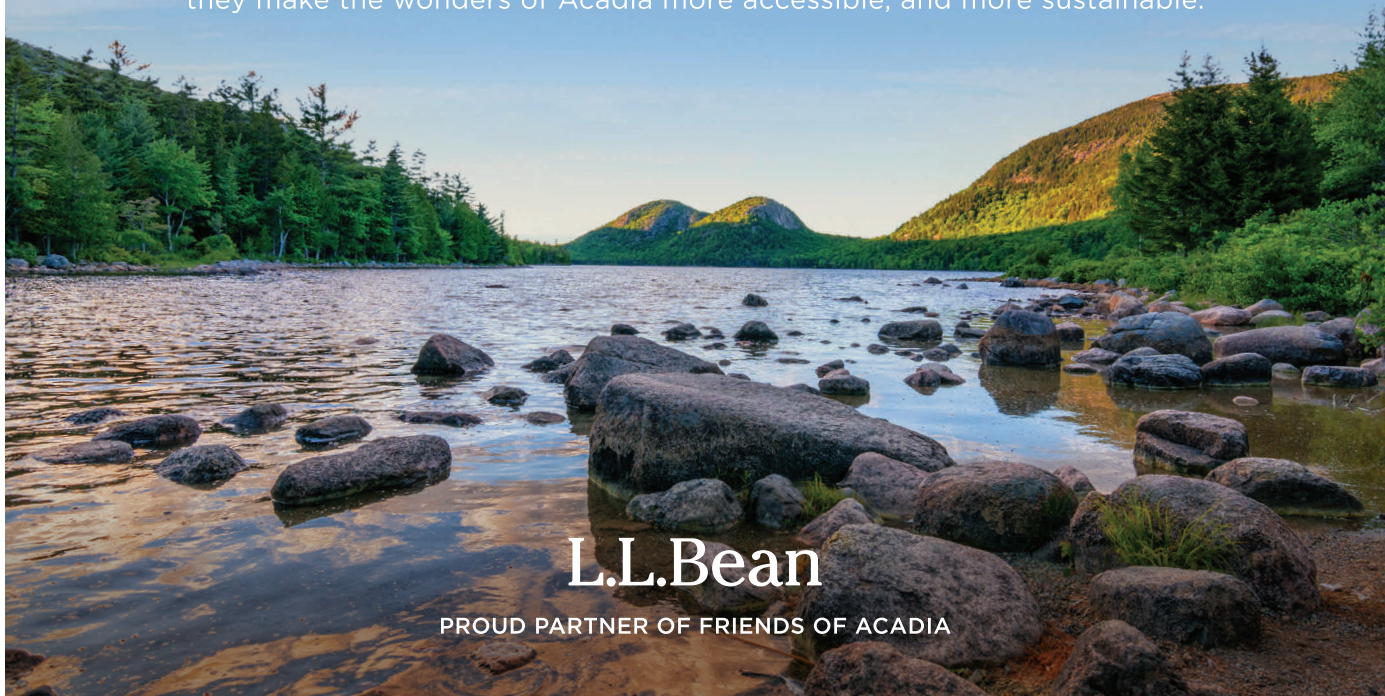
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ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

FALL 2023

Volume 28 No.3

*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.

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Peak foliage is seen from Schooner Head Road in Acadia.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

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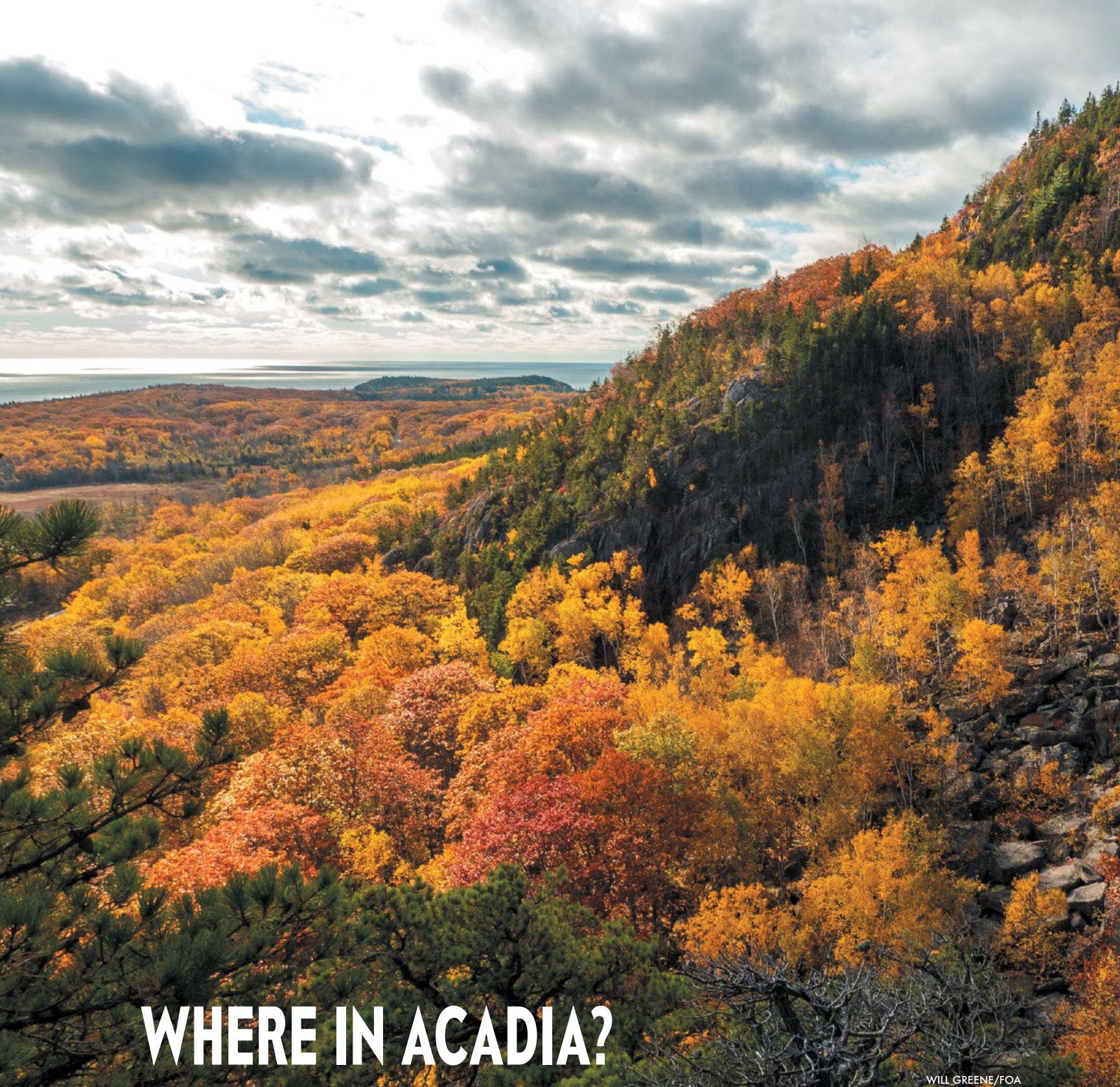
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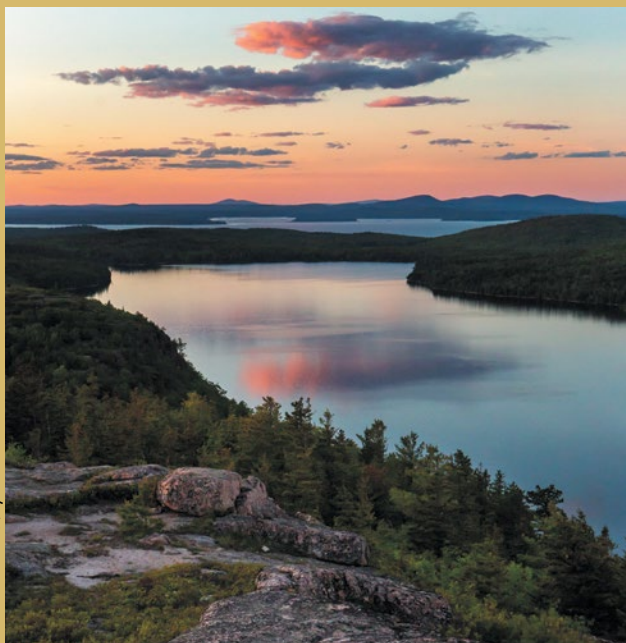
WHERE IN ACADIA?

WILL GREENE/FOA

This is a rarely seen vantage point from the "stony face" of one of Acadia's most famous marooned historical figures. We think you'll really need to harness some serious brainpower for this one!

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

READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IN ACADIA?"



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Eagle Lake from Bubbles Trail

Thanks to the readers who responded to our "Where in Acadia?" question in the summer magazine and correctly identified the location as Eagle Lake as seen from the Bubbles Trail in between North Bubble and Conners Nubble.

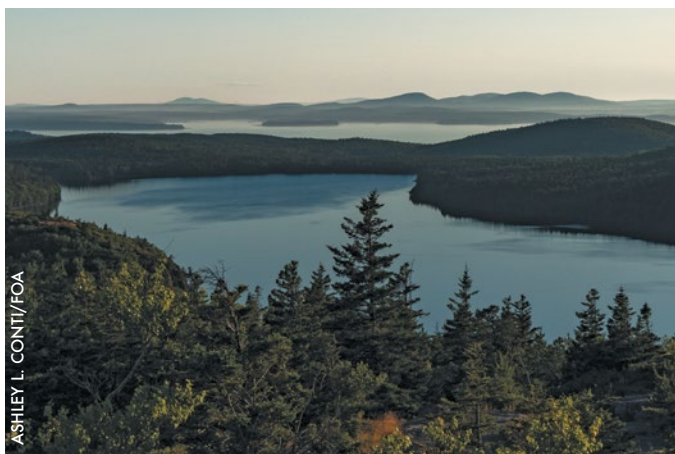
That image proved to be more of a challenge, with a number of members guessing it was a view of Jordan Pond from South Bubble. The views are quite similar—and similarly splendid—so it's a logical guess!

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

In each issue of Acadia magazine, we post a photo and clues to help readers identify the location. If you think you can correctly identify the location of the photo, email editor@friendsofacadia.org.

We'll run a few of the correct responses in the forthcoming issue, and we love it when you send photos and stories to accompany your answers. Thanks to all of our readers who play along!

SIMILAR BUT NOT THE SAME



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA

LEFT: Depicted here is a similar view of Eagle Lake from the Bubbles Trail with Frenchman Bay and Schoodic Mountain and other inland mountains in the distance. **RIGHT:** A different but equally splendid view of Jordan Pond from South Bubble. It is clear that this view of Jordan Pond has similar features to the view of Eagle Lake but without the mountains in the distance.

"Looks like Eagle Lake from Conners Nubble. One of my favorite spots when we run or bike Eagle Lake."

— Ron Newman, Pittsford, NY

"I'm pretty sure that the summer 2023 "Where in Acadia" photo is taken on or near Conners Nubble overlooking Eagle Lake with Schoodic Mountain in the distance. We've been coming up in the autumn for more than thirty years and always hiked with a couple of leashed dogs. We've done several hikes to the Bubbles but always add on Conners Nubble to take advantage of the less crowded trail and summit. It's great to linger on Connor's Nubble in the late afternoon sun and then enjoy the peaceful walk back along Eagle Lake!"

— John Celenza, Bedford, MA

Thanks for Sharing Your Passion and Your Input

One of the best things about my job is the opportunity to connect with members and Friends whose investments help deliver on Friends of Acadia's mission to preserve and protect Acadia National Park.

This past summer and fall, I've had the pleasure of meeting and talking with so many of you at Friends of Acadia and community events—some of us have even hiked the trails and carriage roads together.

Through every conversation, I'm continually struck by how much passion we all share for this park and Friends of Acadia's work. It makes me proud and incredibly hopeful for our future.

Your feedback is critical to our ongoing success, and your input helps shape our thinking around many key issues. That's why I was so excited to see how many of you participated in the Friends of Acadia survey we sent by email this June, and in our focus groups in July.

All in, about 2,200 of you provided feedback on a host of topics—including how we're supporting the park and achieving our mission, in your view. We were thrilled to learn that 95% of you who responded are satisfied with your relationship with Friends of Acadia! Even more exciting is the high trust you put in Friends of Acadia to make the right investments in the park and to be good stewards of your money.

I want you to know that we don't take that trust for granted, which is why asking for feedback on a regular basis is so important to us.

One of my favorite comments—and there were nearly 3,000 to choose from—was the millennial supporter who in a focus group said: "I couldn't wait until I had 'adult money' and could contribute to Friends of Acadia!"

Well, we're delighted that you're investing your "adult money" in Acadia and Friends of Acadia, and we hope to attract more of the next generation like you to join us. Thank you.

Here are some top takeaways from our research:

- **High visitation and traffic congestion in the park remains the top concern.** There were many comments thanking Friends of Acadia for helping the park make progress on this issue—including taking its first steps to implement the Transportation Plan, investing in the Cadillac Summit Road reservation system, partnering in the Acadia Gateway Center—which had its groundbreaking this year, and continued investments in the Island Explorer bus system.

Resource protection and climate change was a close second area of concern—many of you recognized our key investments in Wild Acadia and helping Acadia lead nationally on climate-smart restoration.

- **Many members expressed confusion over when their Friends of Acadia membership lapses and requested an auto-renew option.** Our Trailblazer program enables members to establish a recurring gift that auto-renews at the amount and pace of your choosing, be that monthly, quarterly, or annually. That's great feedback, and we'll be promoting this option more moving forward.
- **Friends of Acadia's membership base is mature,** thus we'll be focusing on diversification in the coming years—bringing in the next generation and more diverse members to help us create tomorrow's stewards. I want to personally thank the millennial supporters who participated in our focus groups for their valuable feedback and insights.

Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider likes to say we're in the "forever business"—and forever means honoring those who came before and growing to better engage millennials and Gen Z as supporters and volunteers.

THANK YOU for sharing your feedback and for trusting Friends of Acadia with your social investments to protect and preserve our beloved park for future generations.



—Eric Stiles

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"It's exciting the high trust our supporters put in Friends of Acadia to make the right investments in the park and to be good stewards of their money."



EMMA FORTHOFER/FOA

PHOTOGRAPHERS capture the fall scenery from the summit of The Beehive.

Two Acadia Staff Recognized with Awards from National Park Service

Rebecca Cole-Will, Chief of Resource Management, and Keith Johnston, Chief of Maintenance, were both recognized by the National Park Service this summer for their stand-out contributions to Acadia National Park.

Rebecca Cole-Will received the National Appleman-Judd-Lewis Award for Cultural Resource Management. This is the most prestigious award for cultural resource managers in the National Park Service, and it recognizes Rebecca's expertise and outstanding contributions to cultural resource stewardship in Acadia.



Rebecca has led the development and implementation of co-stewardship of cultural and natural resources in Acadia National Park with Wabanaki people, which include four federally recognized tribes—Maliseet, Micmac, Penobscot, and Passamaquoddy. Projects Rebecca led in collaboration with the Tribes include the restoration of access for traditional sweetgrass gathering, Indigenous-led study and reinterpretation of archeological sites and material culture, and the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in the development of the park's Resource Stewardship Strategy.

Rebecca's work has established Acadia as a model for co-stewardship in national parks nationwide. Acadia has been highlighted in White House, Department of Interior (DOI), and NPS guidance on co-stewardship and incorporating Indigenous knowledge into decision making. Rebecca's accomplishments are significant because they represent a giant step toward co-stewardship with Tribes through the restoration of Indigenous relationships with Acadia's landscape and cultural and natural resources. And they represent a huge change in approach for resource management in national parks.



Keith Johnston received the National Facilities Manager of the Year Award. This award recognizes an outstanding Facility Manager who embodies the full range of competencies,

including supervision and leadership, business, project and asset management, operation and maintenance, and resource stewardship.

Acadia has one of the largest fee programs in the region, and Keith has worked seamlessly with the region's fee team to ensure that projects are approved and then successfully executed. He has worked masterfully with the park leadership team to incorporate the other divisions' priorities into the park's fee projects.

His leadership also helped make the Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System possible. He led the re-design of the intersection at the base of the mountain, allowing for the installation of entry booths to facilitate the validation of reservations and payment of entrance fees.

In 2022, Acadia's 117-mile hiking trail system was listed on the National Register of Historic Places, making it the most extensive trail system listed on the Register. This recognition is a testament to the stewardship that Keith has provided to the trail system over his career.

Congratulations to both Rebecca and Keith! The entire Friends of Acadia community is grateful for your leadership and your outstanding dedication and contributions to Acadia National Park. ■



LEFT TO RIGHT: Acadia National Park staff Keith Johnston, Rebecca Cole-Will, Jesse Wheeler, National Park Service Director Charles F. Sams III, and Kevin Schneider pose after a press conference near Great Meadow.

Acadia's Most Important Resource: Our People

I truly believe that the most valuable resource at Acadia National Park is not our beautiful forests, crystal clear lakes and ponds, or our mountaintops—it is our people.

As I write this column, I can't help but reflect on how busy this summer has been at Acadia. We have had our share of significant incidents: Hurricane Lee, a small wildfire at St. Sauveur, and a visit from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, alongside a daily stream of park operational incidents.

Just this week, our team also responded to multiple rescues—including a visitor who broke a leg while hiking, two other visitors with ankle injuries requiring that they be carried out, and a visitor with vertigo.

Meanwhile, our facility management team has been troubleshooting a myriad of challenges “du jour.” They hastily removed the ramp on the dock at Duck Harbor at Isle au Haut in preparation for Hurricane Lee. They have been fixing exhaust fans on vault toilets, diagnosing and repairing a clogged wastewater line, taking water quality samples to maintain about 20 public drinking water systems, replacing a roof and siding on a historic building, and daily cleaning of dozens of toilets and restrooms throughout the park.

This week the Schoodic Education Adventure program also restarted for the season, giving kids an immersive experience of staying on the Schoodic Peninsula and learning in an incredible outdoor classroom with our education rangers. Acadia's rangers at visitor centers have been busy helping visitors plan their hikes and swearing in young junior rangers. Behind the scenes, our exotic plant management team is helping remove invasive plants, keeping Acadia “unimpaired.”

I'm so proud of the work of our entire team and all they do to make it possible to welcome visitors

to Acadia National Park every day. After 26 years of living and working in national parks across this nation, I know how fortunate I am to work with these incredible people, who are exceptionally committed to our mission. These are the people who keep Acadia up and running.

I am grateful to Friends of Acadia for supporting the workforce of Acadia National Park. We are celebrating our first employees living in the Kingsleigh Inn. Thanks to Friends of Acadia's bold leadership, we now have Kingsleigh's 10 bedrooms available to house our employees. Add to that another eight bedrooms that Friends of Acadia is building for seasonal employees at Dane Farm on Jordan Pond Road in Seal Harbor. Without park housing, we simply will not be able to hire seasonal employees—it is a critical part of the equation for someone to come work here.

Friends of Acadia is also helping us recruit and retain the best possible workforce—something that is extremely important in a very tight labor market. Friends of Acadia has also provided funds for training our workforce and paid for employees to attend professional conferences where they can learn from their peers around the country.

Thanks to this summer's Paddle Raise, Friends of Acadia is purchasing a new boat for the park, which will make it safer and more efficient for our employees to access outlying islands in Acadia. And Friends of Acadia has also provided equipment including a lift to help maintain the park's historic stone bridges to electric chainsaws.

So, a very hearty thank you to all of you who help support the National Park Service and our employees who wear the green and gray uniform—we sincerely appreciate it! And know it makes a world of difference to our incredible Acadia National Park employees.



—Kevin Schneider

SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



“A very hearty thank you to all of you who help support the National Park Service and our employees who wear the green and gray uniform—we sincerely appreciate it!”



FALL FOLIAGE surrounds the Jesup Path.



SAM MALLON/FOA

Heavy Lifting

Moving heavy rock is a big part of building and maintaining trails in Acadia National Park. But there's so much more to it.

BY SHANNON BRYAN

On a humid August day on the north ridge of Cadillac Mountain, a voice calls out from the trees not far off the trail: “Up and out!”

A few moments later, a rectangular hunk of pink granite—weighing somewhere in the ballpark of 800 pounds—moves into view, hovering a few feet above the forest floor like a magic carpet. Wrapped in heavy chain, it continues its slow drift forward along a braided steel cable, nudging aside the birch, oak, and spruce branches as it passes.

Acadia Trail Crew Member Zach Dixon stands nearby on the trail amid similarly sized rocks—some in small piles at the trailside and others already assuming their place as part of the trail's granite staircase. Dixon watches the floating granite block approach and reaches his hands out to receive it, calling out to the person in the trees to halt.

“Down when ready!” Dixon shouts.

“Coming down!” is heard in return.

As the granite comes down for its slow-motion landing, Dixon gives it a push and guides it down so it will come to rest where he wants it. Highlines and chains and grip hoists are supremely helpful for moving heavy rock, but human hands are still necessary for fine-tuning.

Granite comprises many of the park's prolific onward-and-upward staircases as well as rock walls, steppingstones, and bridge abutments. Moving that granite is physical and challenging.

But well before that granite is lifted from a nearby natural quarry or hefted into place by human hands, the trail crew does a great deal of planning. That planning begins years in advance, said Acadia National Park Trails Foreman Dave Schlag, upwards of a decade sometimes.

“We get out there and we look at what is going on, whether it's damage from people, damage from weather, climate change or old age,” said Schlag. “Or is it just like the first step that was

ever set in Acadia and it's starting to wiggle. We take a look at all of that, and we start formulating."

All Things Considered

Acadia's Trail Crew is tasked with keeping Acadia's trails safe and looking sharp. Simultaneously, they need to maintain the trails' historic integrity while likewise accommodating for increased visitation that puts added pressure on every trail. They consider water flow and how best to mediate the effects of erosion, and they work in ways that are least disruptive to the area's wildlife and vegetation.

It's a lot to consider. But they find an impressive balance between preserving nature and park history while having to make adjustments to both.

"This is a big balance. You don't want to change the historical aspects of a trail, but you've got to build for what's going on now," said Schlag. "One of the biggest things we deal with is visitor use. It's increased a lot."

In the early 1900s, Acadia's trails and stone paths saw use from June to August from decidedly fewer visitors than come to the park today. The season is longer now, extending right through the winter for some hikers.

But there is no one-size-fits-all approach. For each project, Schlag and his crew look to the expertise of park staff in multiple departments, including wildlife, natural resources, and cultural history.

"We'll go out with Gail Gladstone, the park's cultural historian, a couple of seasons in advance and during a project," said Schlag. "We'll get her input on things like maintaining the historical aspects and the feel of the trail or the landscape we're working in."

"Each trail has a different historic feel, so the stonework might look different," Schlag said. "A staircase over on Beech

Mountain is going to look different than a traditional staircase on Dorr Mountain."

They collaborate with others, like Acadia National Park Vegetation Manager Jesse Wheeler, Wildlife Biologist Bik Wheeler, and Wildlife Biological Technician Morgan Ingalls, who's particularly well versed on Acadia's bats and where they roost.

"We get out 12-18 months in advance and look at these areas and say, what do you guys think? Are there bats living in these areas? Are there vernal pools? Any kind of frog or salamander habitat?" said Schlag. "We look at every individual tree before we cut it, and if they say 'no,' then okay, that means we've got to bend the trail this way a little bit."

After brainstorming all the possible ideas, they zero in on the best one.

Built to Last

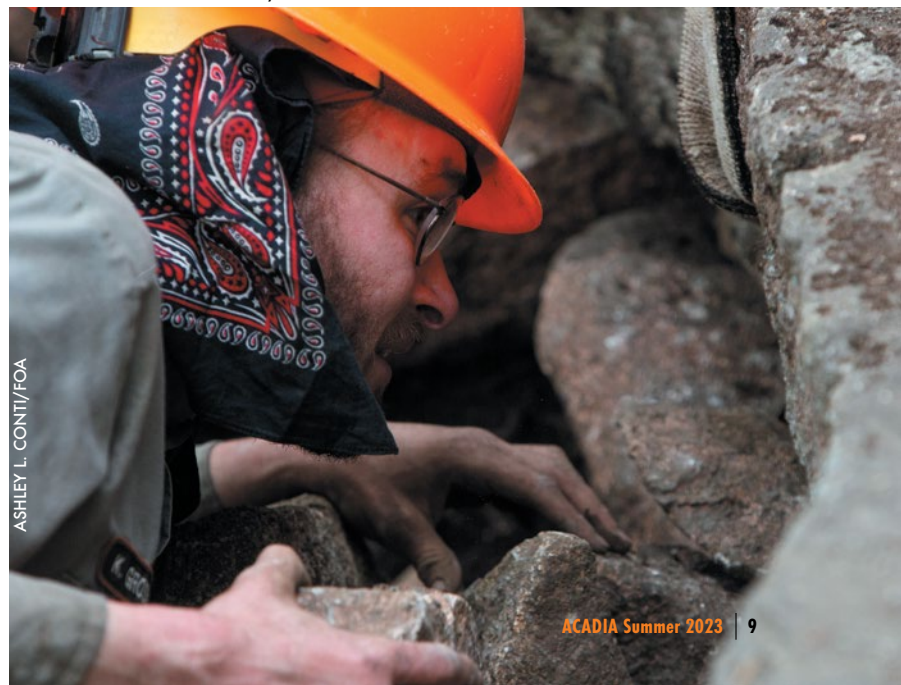
Maine's granite comes in heavy and handy.

"A 3-by-3-foot block could be 600 to 1,000 pounds," said Schlag. Moving it takes time, effort, and equipment.

When possible, that rock is sourced from natural granite quarries not far from the trail. It's transported from the quarry to the trailside with a highline—a braided steel cable with a rope core, which allows it to have a little bit of flex.

That cable is anchored on each end, sometimes to an anchor

OPPOSITE PAGE: Zach Dixon of the Acadia National Park trail crew uses a highline system to move pieces of granite to build steps during maintenance on Cadillac North Ridge Trail. **BELOW LEFT:** Trail crew member Kyle Grossman breaks up rocks to fill under a walkway while repairing part of Kurt Diederich's Climb. **BELOW RIGHT:** Grossman uses the broken rocks to level and stabilize the walkway.





LILLY LAREGINA/FOA



SAM MALTON/FOA



LILLY LAREGINA/FOA

TOP: Cooper Dees with the American Conservation Experience, Acadia Trails Foreman Dave Schlag, and crew member Kyle Sainio work to reroute a section of Giant Slide Trail that washed out after flooding in 2021.

MIDDLE: Trail crew member Amy Brown breaks up larger rocks along the Long Pond (Great Pond) Trail, in order to make the trail easier to walk on.

BOTTOM: Dees, left, and Sainio, pack gravel down on a section of newly constructed trail on Great Head.

stone or really robust tree. They use tall steel tripods, too, which are built in house. “Acadia is unique, and the normal landscape or forestry tools don’t always apply to us,” said Schlag. “We’ve got some cool custom stuff.”

The upside to that weighty stone, though, is that it lasts.

“That material allows it to stand up to the weather,” said Schlag. “You put that 1,000-pound rock in the ground and it’s not going anywhere.” Although, Schlag notes, if you just stick it in the ground, it will sink.

“A lot of the old staircases were built right in the dirt. They’d dig a hole in the ground and put a rock in there and start stacking up stairs. Over time, 50, 60, or 100 years, the steps start to sink into the ground, they start to tilt out of level.”

The modern-day approach uses crushed stone to allow water to drain under the stairs and keeps the granite slabs in place.

“We like to build the drainage right into it. We’ll lay a crushed stone foundation under the whole thing. We quarry rocks right out of the woods, we crush them by hand, and the stones get reset right on top of that bed of crush.”

Other useful tools for moving heavy rock: rugs and duct tape.

To protect nearby trees as heavy rocks are being highlined by, trail crews duct tape small rugs around the trunks to protect the bark from any gouges. They also transplant native vegetation to fill in any holes made from quarrying granite or to fill in around a recently built trail.

They’re seemingly simple but thoughtful ways the trail crew takes care of the land.

“The trails are in these areas for a reason,” said Schlag. Damaged trees and upturned earth change the landscape and visitors’ experiences.

The goal is to keep the trails as beautiful as they’ve been.

If done well, said Dixon, “These rocks will sit here for another hundred years.”

Camaraderie of the Crew

Historically, the average trail crew is 20 strong. This year they have only nine. “It’s not for a lack of trying,” said Schlag. Both the tight labor market and lack of workforce housing are factors.

Fortunately, the dedicated crew gets support from a range of volunteer groups, including the Appalachian Mountain Club’s Roving Conservation Crew (RCC), Sierra Club volunteers, as well as the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps and Friends of Acadia’s stewardship volunteers and service groups.

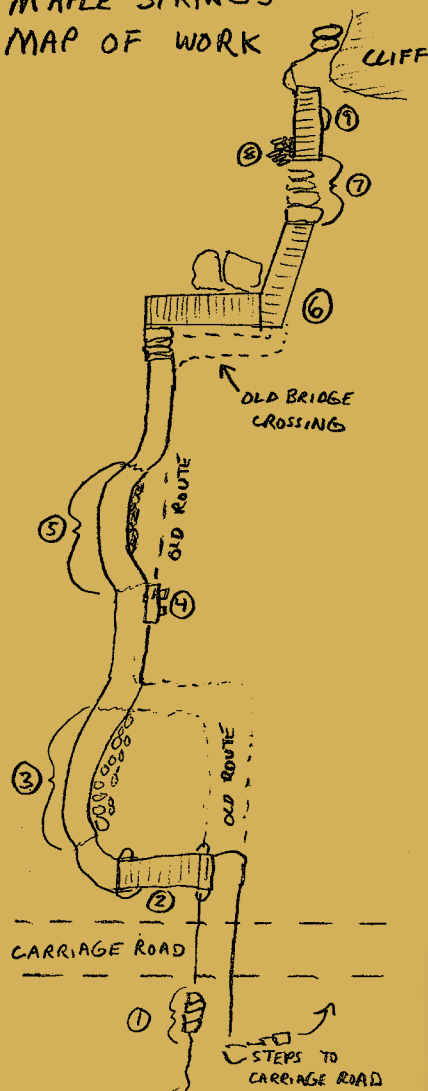
Schlag has been working on the trail crew for 14 years, initially hired as a seasonal in 2010, and he digs the work for the same reasons his crew does.

“I love the crew and the camaraderie. I really like the variety of work we do here. It’s not the same thing every day,” he said. “Some days you’re building a stone staircase, some days you’re building a log structure. Some days you’re building a gravel trail, running equipment, doing carpentry or tree work.”

“The crew takes a lot of pride in their work,” said Schlag. And it feels good, he added, “knowing that you built something and someone else is going to enjoy it.” ■

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

MAPLE SPRINGS MAP OF WORK



GAIL GLADSTONE/NPS



HOW DO YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM LIKE MAPLE SPRING TRAIL?

LEFT: Hand drawn diagram of proposed work to repair Maple Spring Trail. **ABOVE:** Trail crew install the new bridge over Maple Spring.

ACADIA'S TRAIL CREW FINDS BALANCE BETWEEN HISTORIC PRESERVATION AND A CHANGING CLIMATE AS THEY REBUILD THE MAPLE SPRING TRAIL

BY GAIL GLADSTONE AND CHRIS BARTER

More than two years ago, heavy rains fell on a June day in Acadia National Park. On Sargent Mountain's South Ridge, the rain rushed down the bare granite, gathering force as it funneled into the narrow gorge below—and through Maple Spring Trail.

The water tore up stone steps and paving, bulldozed retaining walls, and swept away soil, destroying a quarter-mile section of the historic trail—from the Hemlock Bridge to the intersection of the Giant Slide Trail.

Due to the extent of damage, the trail was closed for nearly two years while the park determined the trail's future. And

this summer, Acadia's trail crew has been hard at work putting the Maple Spring Trail back together.

Navigating exactly how to accomplish that feat is the work of an interdisciplinary team of park staff. Their approach to trail rehabilitation incorporates adaptive management and uses the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) Framework, which serves as a guide to adaptive responses to different possible climate-change scenarios.

Originally built in 1871 as an ascent up Sargent's South Ridge, the Maple Spring Trail follows along a stream and through the gorge between Gilmore Peak and Sargent



DAMAGED SECTION of Maple Spring Trail near the Hemlock Bridge after an early June 2021 rainstorm that caused massive flooding and washed out a portion of the trail.

Mountain. The trail gives its hikers the unique experience of tracking the floor of a steep stone gorge, conveying the presence and power of local geologic history, and it offers access to a diversity of natural features, including views of cascades through the gorge and Pulpit Rock.

The stone steps, rubble retaining walls, and patio stone paving are important historic features of Maple Spring Trail, making it a valuable part of the larger historic trail system on Mount Desert Island, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

During a workshop in November 2021, park staff, partners, and stakeholders discussed a range of management options for the Maple Spring Trail in the context of a changing environment.

The Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework asks resource managers to assess a range of possible options: resisting change with concerted intervention, accepting change and allowing “nature to take its course,” or directing change with management that works in tandem with predicted environmental changes. RAD also takes into account each approach’s feasibility, cost, and longevity.

For the Maple Spring Trail, planning for a full restoration of the destroyed stonework would resist the predicted climate—namely, more high-intensity storms. It would be extremely labor intensive with the potential for more heartbreak should all be lost again in a similar storm.

To reroute the trail out of the stream corridor is a response at the other extreme; it would preserve the existence of the trail, but the historic context would be completely lost.

Following that initial workshop, Acadia’s trail crew made several site visits to hash out the practical solutions and decide on a specific plan. As thoughts evolved from theory to design, trail staff met with the rest of the park team to discuss the important goals that were not always simultaneously achievable: construction sustainability, protection of water quality, protection of the natural environs, visitor enjoyment (i.e., the “hike-ability” of the trail), and preservation or reconstruction of historical features. These discussions continued nearly up until the start of work in August 2023.

CROSSING MAPLE SPRING TRAIL: Visitor Jeff Forthofer hikes the Maple Spring Trail up Sargent Mountain, a carriage road bridge visible behind him.



FINDING SOLUTIONS FEATURE-BY-FEATURE

Landing on a rehabilitation approach that worked well for the entire quarter-mile section proved understandably challenging. But as the trail crew focused on specific trail features, solutions became more obvious. For instance, an intact section of historic stonework still led to the site of an historic bridge crossing. The challenge became figuring out how the trail could pass through this intact section.

Design iterations of the bridge led to the replacement of the historic crossing with a taller, stouter bridge to allow increased water flows to pass under it, while protecting the stream bank from scour where its abutments would be built. Leading up to the bigger bridge is now a combination of stone and rustic wood steps, and a section of elevated boardwalk connects the new bridge to a stable area on the old route where new stone paving can be trusted to last.

Other solutions were applied using this feature-by-feature approach. A new short bridge now connects intact pieces of historic stone paving. In an area 50 feet downstream of the original crossing, a new section of stepping stones is planned that utilizes two large stones in the stream that have already withstood previous storm events.

In another area where the stream bank and trail have been completely undermined, the trail moves about twenty feet up the bank where it is built as a cut-in slope on more secure ground. It then reconnects to the existing trail a hundred feet further on. In still another area, a section of destroyed stone paving was abandoned and a steel handrail is added along a cliff to give hikers sure passage on the narrow piece of bedrock that remains.

In rebuilding the trail in a way that we hope will last, Acadia's trail crew was able to use nearly every piece of remaining historic trail, avoid lengthy reroutes, and provide the same overall dramatic visitor experience.

These decisions embrace the complexity of the RAD framework—resisting, accepting, and directing change for specific trail features—all within one small section of trail. Where the stream's power seemed less destructive, the park chose to rebuild. Where total restoration was too risky for catastrophic loss, the park accepted and moved the trail or changed techniques. Building with wood accepts that whatever is built may periodically be damaged from storm events and need to be replaced.

Ultimately, the park made decisions towards a future, more stable state.

When the Maple Spring Trail work is complete, those looking closely will find a host of trail solutions on display: stonework, woodwork, cut-in slope bench cuts, riprap, and steel rail.

There is no perfect solution in the era of climate change, but on the Maple Spring Trail, those seeking the experience of hiking through a dramatic gorge on hand-crafted stonework and rustic wooden bridges will find that the Acadia style endures. ■

CHRIS BARTER is Acadia National Park's Trail Crew Supervisor and GAIL GLADSTONE is its Cultural Resource Program Manager.

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK TRAILS FOREMAN Dave Schlag removes the strapping from the highline cable hook used to carry poles to the worksite during the construction of a new footbridge over Maple Spring.



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

ACADIA FROM AFAR

Three Painters Bridge the Distance

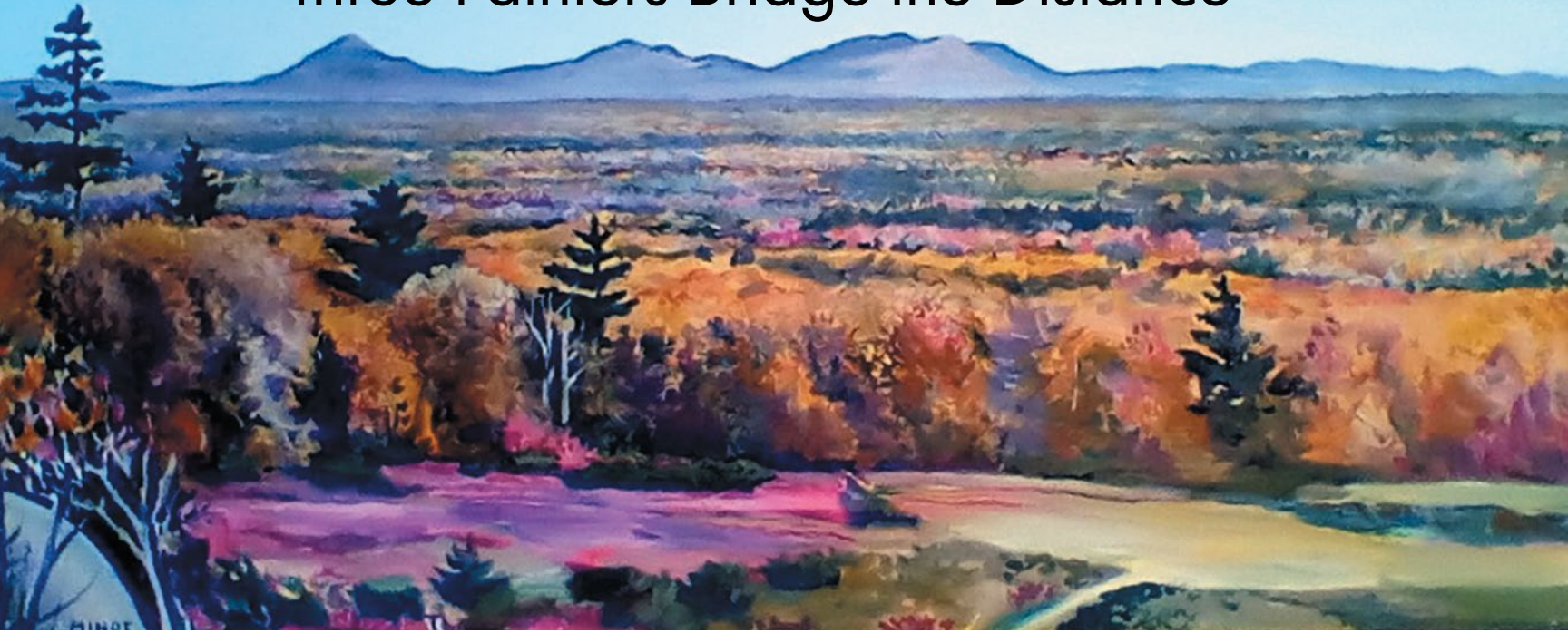


PHOTO COURTESY SAM MINOT

BY CARL LITTLE

When you are in Acadia National Park, you get glimpses of its grandeur from the road, the hiking trails, the summits. Eagle Lake flashes by, the Western Mountains rise beyond Bass Harbor Marsh, the Porcupine Islands form a bristling armada in Frenchman Bay. There is beauty everywhere at every turn.

That said, it can be argued that some of the finest views of the park are found from afar. Folks in Blue Hill, Surry, and even farther south look northwards toward a dream-like range of mountains; Schoodic Peninsula residents relish the over-the-water sight of Cadillac; and Cranberry Islanders brag about their “million-dollar views.”

Many a painter has been compelled to take up the brush in these off-island places. Indeed, for some artists, distance makes the paint grow stronger.

SAM MINOT: THE VIEW FROM BLUE HILL MOUNTAIN

A year-round resident of Bucksport, Sam Minot is always ready to travel to find a view to paint. His eyes often range toward Acadia.

On a mild mid-October day in 2004, Minot found a perch off the path that climbs Blue Hill Mountain and proceeded to paint the autumn vista. He had previously worked from this spot, but this was the first time he looked easterly toward Schoodic.

“With the fall foliage below,” Minot recounts, “the view opened up to the far-off profile of Schoodic Mountain.” He painted for a couple of hours then brought the painting home to complete in the studio.

For good reason, the painter explains: “Keeping one’s wet oil-painted canvas free from debris, bugs, or smudges while transporting is a challenge.” He has also had paintings swept off by a stiff wind, “airborne like a kite—and ruined.”

No such problem on that fall day on Blue Hill Mountain. Beneath a pale blue sky, Minot created a vibrant vista.

CAREN-MARIE MICHEL: PLEIN AIR SCHOODIC

On a seemingly rare sunny day this past August, Caren-Marie Michel returned to a favorite outlook on Schoodic. “We are lucky to have a scenic pull-off here,” she writes about the spot from which she painted *Cadillac from the Schoodic Loop Road 3*. The back of her car—her portable studio—provided shelter from sun and wind.

The painting features the Winter Harbor Light on Mark Island, with Ned and Turtle islands helping to frame the view of Acadia. A lobster boat makes its way across Mount Desert Narrows.

As it’s a public spot, Michel talked with a number of passersby while applying paint to canvas. “I’m used to that,” she reports,

having taught landscape painting and done many demonstrations.

The Westbrook-based artist has been visiting Schoodic since 2015. She prefers being on location over working from photographs. What is more, she appreciates the pressure of time: to finish the painting before the light and scene completely change.

Michel also simply loves being outdoors.

SUSAN AMONS: ACADIA FROM GREAT CRANBERRY ISLAND

Biddeford resident Susan Amons loves color—it's the most important element in her work—and watercolor offers the most direct application.

Amons turned to watercolor during her residency at the Heliker-LaHotan Foundation on Great Cranberry Island in 2013. She began to think about subjects on the mailboat crossing from Northeast Harbor. Towering cumulous clouds hovered in a cobalt sky and brisk winds drove sailboats across the water, bright against the dark sea. It was, she recalls, one of the most beautiful places she had ever seen.

Amons tries to paint a scene on her first go, to keep it fresh. Later, she will add or darken some colors in the studio and try not to overwork it. *Acadian Harbor, Yellow Hereshoff* was painted from the island's town dock, the sailboat placed in the picture last.

"Great Cranberry Island is a painter's paradise," writes Amons. Her challenge was to bring that "awesome beauty" back to the studio and transition from watercolors to printer's inks (she is best known as a printmaker). Her Acadia artwork testifies to her success.

Here, then, is the lay of the island: a world surrounded by water, spreading across the sky, sublime yet grounded, manifold and magnificent, where the artist feels at once at home and away—Acadia. ■

CARL LITTLE of Somesville in 2021 received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his art writing from the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation. He and his brother David Little's *Art of Acadia* came out in paperback this year. Their *Art of Penobscot Bay* is forthcoming from Islandport Press.



PHOTO COURTESY LITTLEFIELD GALLERY



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN AMONS AND COURTHOUSE GALLERY FINE ART

OPPOSITE PAGE: Sam Minot, *Schoodic from Blue Hill*, 2004.

TOP: Caren-Marie Michel, *Cadillac from the Schoodic Loop Road 3*, 2023.

BOTTOM: Susan Amons, *Acadian Harbor, Yellow Hereshoff*, 2013.

Acadia National Park Testing New BATTERY-ELECTRIC Buses

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

When the Island Explorer began service in 1999, it was important to the project partners that the bus system help protect Acadia's natural resources, provide a high-quality visitor experience, and relieve roadway and parking congestion.

Propane was selected as the most viable alternative fuel that would help reduce air pollution emissions, and more than 9.1 million passengers have been served by the Island Explorer since the bus system's founding.

Technology has changed significantly over the last two decades, and electric and hybrid buses are being incorporated into fleets across the globe. In 2022, the National Park Service identified 81 operating transit systems in 52 national park units. These systems, which include ferries, trolleys, trams, shuttle buses, and aircraft, carried over 26.6 million people last year. The recapitalization cost over the next decade for these transit systems is estimated at \$151 million.

The Island Explorer has an active fleet size of 32. Most of the current buses are scheduled to be replaced by the end of the decade. The Acadia National Park Transportation Plan emphasizes that growth will also be needed in the Island Explorer, as visitors start to use the Acadia Gateway Center in 2025 and as new timed entry reservation systems are established in congested areas of the park.

National Park Service (NPS) Landscape Architect and Project Manager BriAnna Weldon pointed to President Biden's Executive Orders 14008 and 14057 as the basis for why the NPS is testing new battery-electric buses in national parks such as Acadia and the Grand Canyon this summer. These Executive Orders set a goal for procuring and incorporating clean and zero-emission vehicles into federal, state, local, and Tribal government fleets by 2035 to combat the climate crisis.

Two companies, Gillig and BYD USA, each ran one of their battery-electric bus models for one week from September 17th to October 1st on



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

designated Island Explorer routes and up Cadillac Mountain.

Apart from any service to Cadillac, the electric buses were available for the public to ride as part of regular Island Explorer operations. Representatives from the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) were on hand to collect performance data on the buses during the tests.

“The data will be used by national parks to best assess how to electrify their transit systems, given the mandate for zero emissions,” said Andrew Kotz, senior research engineer for Commercial Vehicles at NREL. “Glacier is different from the Grand Canyon and from Acadia, so there will be different factors for each park to consider.” Kotz had previously co-authored a study on considerations for electrifying fleets at Zion, Bryce Canyon, and Yosemite National Parks.

Kotz also pointed out that national park transit systems are very different than city transit systems: “National parks are frequently remote, so there may be challenges with getting adequate electricity infrastructure and service to the area. The terrain is also different in each park.” Kotz mentioned that changes in elevational grade and heating/air conditioning can affect the range that electric buses can travel. He added that there have been great advancements in battery design that have improved the capabilities of electric buses.

Paul Murphy, Executive Director of Downeast Transportation, the non-profit organization that runs the Island Explorer, pointed to the bus system’s history of incorporating alternative fuels and said, “Downeast Transportation/Island Explorer is certainly moving away from fossil fuels at some point in the future. At this time, battery-electric [technology] seems like the leading candidate for our next fuel source.”

Murphy pointed to a few factors that present challenges, such as range limitations (especially in hilly terrain and cold weather), the cost of charging infrastructure, the manufacturers’ ability to perform warranty work in Maine, and the higher cost of electric buses,

estimated at more than three times the cost of the current propane buses. Maintenance costs are lower since battery-electric vehicles do not need oil changes, new transmissions, spark plugs, and more.

Data that were collected at Acadia during the battery-electric bus tests included average bus speed, energy usage per trip, daily distance traveled, peak energy demand, and the use of heating, ventilating, and air conditioning. Kotz mentioned that even if the buses tested at Acadia end up not being the right bus models for the park, the data collected will point to things like the size of battery that may be needed at Acadia, locations for

installation of charging infrastructure, and potential changes in route/service design.

When asked what the bus companies gain from these tests, Kotz replied that the data can help spur advancements in technology and design. Because transit in national parks is different than in cities, bus companies may learn how to better adapt their batteries and refine their bus models to serve rural and national park environments. Kotz concluded, “We’re learning together, and that’s exciting.” ■

STEPHANIE CLEMENT is Friends of Acadia’s Vice President of Conservation.



OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: The GILLIG Battery-Electric Bus during a battery capacity test in Acadia National Park this fall.

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: Battery bank at the rear of the BYD USA 100% Battery-Electric Bus.

BELOW LEFT: Acadia National Park staff John Kelly, management assistant, and Jay Elhard, interpretive media specialist, and Stephanie Celement, Friends of Acadia vice president of conservation, ride the BYD USA bus during its pilot run in Acadia National Park this fall.

BELOW RIGHT: Schoodic Institute Science Information Specialist Emma Albee exits the BYD USA bus at the Bar Harbor village green during its pilot run in Acadia National Park this fall.





BORDER CROSSING

COLLABORATION IS A
SMART STRATEGY TO
ADDRESS THE THREATS
OF INVASIVE PLANTS
AND INSECTS

BY LYNN FANTOM

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Colleen Teerling, entomologist with the Maine Forest Service, and Jesse Wheeler, National Park Service vegetation program manager and biologist, cross a footbridge across Jordan Stream near the Cobblestone Bridge to release *Laricobius osakensis* beetles that feed exclusively on hemlock woolly adelgid.

On a fall walk along Jordan Stream Path, small waterfalls, thick spruce forests, and mounds of moss are bound to get your attention. If you decide to continue south to Little Long Pond and the ocean, what you probably won't notice is that you've crossed the boundary between Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve.

Invasive plants and insects aren't aware of such boundaries either.

And that's why environmental managers on Mount Desert Island (MDI) are bonding together to fight the threats of invasive plants and insects, which are intensifying due to climate change. Driven by a shared purpose, their cross-organizational leadership is a role model of the kind of collaboration experts say is necessary to address today's onslaught of ecological challenges.

Mount Desert Island is as complex as it is beautiful. With its mountains, glacially carved lakes and ponds, wetlands, boreal forests, and areas open to the ocean, it is home not only to Acadia National Park but also the Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve, Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary, and four towns with active conservation groups. Collaboration among these organizations has extended to state agencies and off-island environmental specialists, as well as Friends of Acadia and community members.

"When put together, what results is far greater than what any one individual organization could possibly do," said David MacDonald, the former CEO of Friends of Acadia, a past board member of the Land & Garden Preserve, and a current board member of the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary.

AN EVOLUTION IN HOW TO ADDRESS INVASIVES

"Back in 2015 or 2016, it occurred to us—in some happenstance discussions with folks doing work on trails and the carriage roads—that we should collaborate on how to tackle things to work for the whole ecosystem," said Jesse Wheeler, vegetation program manager for Acadia National Park. Teams at the park and the Land & Garden Preserve began exchanging information on the invasive species they found and treatment efforts.

Tate Bushell joined the preserve's staff in 2018 as its first natural lands director. He became Wheeler's point person—"somebody on this side of the line that he could talk to," Bushell said.

Today, they have meetings two or three times a year. "And we're just a phone call or email away. We bump into each other all the time swimming at Somes Pond or Long Pond. We both have kids now," Bushell said. "It's almost like we're working for the same company."

"When Tate came, that really amplified a lot of what we were



JULY LAREGINA/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



JULY LAREGINA/FOA

doing and evolved into more sharing of resources and knowledge and taking that into the community to raise awareness,” Wheeler said.

In 2018 and 2019, Invasive Species Workshops were held at the Neighborhood House in Northeast Harbor, sponsored by not only Acadia and the Land & Garden Preserve but also Somes-Meynell and the Town of Mount Desert Sustainability Committee. After COVID, such presentations continued, just online.

Sharing data on maps with the same software has also been fundamentally important. “I can put a (location) point (of an invasive species) on my phone and then it’ll show up on one of Jesse’s maps,” said Bushell. “So, we’re linked also through technology.” Notes about treatment actions are also logged in the app.

For example, to manage glossy buckthorn, an aggressive invader that forms dense thickets that shade and ultimately displace native plants, teams pull by hand, saw, and use herbicides. Then repeat. “Persistence is the key treatment,” Wheeler joked. But sharing information—what’s worked, what hasn’t, how often, and where—takes the management process to a new level and allows both organizations to plan more effectively.

Plus, to suppress buckthorn with strong native plants, the park has been working with Cassie Banning, the Land & Garden Preserve’s director of farm and gardens. In the preserve’s state-of-the-art facilities, she is propagating plants from seed collected in Acadia. “It’s been a resounding success and fills a big gap for Acadia,” said Wheeler.

BRIDGING OUR BOUNDARIES—LITERALLY

Hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA) is an aphid-like insect native to Asia which damages Eastern hemlocks when its crawlers suck the trees’ sap, eventually causing death.

Last fall Bushell was leading a field walk in the preserve near the Cobblestone Bridge, the site of many hemlocks. He remarked to the only participant, who happened to be a forester, “This location could be ravaged in the future.” The forester examined a branch and said, “I think that’s hemlock woolly adelgid right there.” Together, they confirmed more patches. Shortly afterwards, Bushell called Wheeler and they went back the next day.

This incident demonstrates the power of engaged and knowledgeable community members. A few months later, Bushell and Wheeler hosted a public webinar that included Billy Helprin, the director of Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary, and Colleen Teerling, a Maine state forest entomologist. “I feel more optimistic about (managing) hemlock woolly adelgids on MDI than any other

TOP TO BOTTOM: Jesse Wheeler, uses a scope to identify trees with hemlock woolly adelgid near Cobblestone Bridge. • Wheeler removes invasive glossy buckthorn off the Jesup Path near Hemlock Road. • Wheeler works to manage an infestation of glossy buckthorn in the Bass Harbor Marsh. • Colleen Teerling, entomologist with the Maine Forest Service; Billy Helprin, Director of the Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary; and Wheeler talk after releasing *Laricobius osakensis* beetles in an effort to battle the hemlock woolly adelgid.



LILY LAREGINA/FOA

LILY LAREGINA/FOA

ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

ABOVE: Wheeler releases *Laricobius osakensis*, a type of beetle that preys exclusively on hemlock woolly adelgid, in an effort to control hemlock woolly adelgid's impact.

RIGHT TOP: Wheeler shows members of the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps how to identify glossy buckthorn. **RIGHT BOTTOM:** Tate Bushell, Natural Lands Director at Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve, and Wheeler search for signs of hemlock woolly adelgid on trees along the Jordan Stream near the Cobblestone Bridge.

place in the state," said Teerling. "That's partly because they've been doing the monitoring here, we found it early on, and there are a lot of people and institutions passionate about doing something...we've got options."

The action the Land & Garden Preserve chose was to release predator *Laricobius* beetles along Jordan Stream in an area bordering Acadia National Park. "It would take me years to research all this stuff and really know with confidence what to do. Colleen brought us up to speed very quickly," Bushell said. She also assisted with the acquisition of the beetles. And without the rules that can slow decision-making in federal bureaucracies, the preserve was able to act fast—just three months after the discovery.

HOW COLLABORATION WORKS

"Knowing our own strengths, blind spots, and focus areas, as well as those of partners" contributes to successful collaboration, said David MacDonald. "There's a fine line between collaborating and duplicating effort." Communication is key, but so is respect for time and resource limitations.

"You've heard [Acadia Superintendent] Kevin Schneider say 'This is a partnership park. This is the way Acadia works,'" MacDonald said. "That's not true for all parks."

With Acadia's openness, a greater capacity—in terms of staff, expertise, technology, funding, and more—has emerged to address complex problems. And with the risks posed by government shutdowns and retirement of key personnel, collaboration can be a buffer, Helprin adds.

Asked for one of his favorite examples of collaboration, Helprin, who was formerly Maine Coast Heritage Trust's MDI regional steward, talks about the survey of MDI's lakes that occurred from 2016 to 2018 to search for possible aquatic invasive species. He and Wheeler recruited expert aquatic surveyors from throughout the state. They had a strategic plan and provided housing (which was no small challenge).

The "huge undertaking" found no invasive species. This triumph was especially joyful in the context that, in some states, paths must be mowed through dense invasive plants to move around on certain lakes.

In 2018, Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary and Acadia National Park received the Invasive Aquatic Plant Prevention Award from Auburn-based Lake Stewards of Maine. Of course, seeing our island's crystal-clear waters, prosperous native plants, and towering evergreens is its own reward, isn't it? ■

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



WHATEVER THE WEATHER

Observations of Acadia from
Summit Steward Ellie Jackson

BY ELLIE JACKSON

EDITOR'S NOTE: There was rain and fog—lots of fog, in fact—and mornings that started before sunrise this season. But Friends of Acadia Summit Steward Ellie Jackson soaked in the park with every sense. Here she shares her sketches and journaled observations of nature in inclement weather, which many park visitors never see.

July 17, 2023—Canon Brook

Occasionally I find myself thinking that Acadia has been domesticated by years of careful management. But the land always finds ways to reassure me that it is as wild as ever.

On the first sunny day after a week of rain, I chase waterfalls down the side of Cadillac Mountain. At the Featherbed, a small pond on the South Ridge, I turn east down Canon Brook Trail. After easy walking on quick-drying pink granite, the brook quickly reminds me that it is in control. Water rushes over the trail, pouring down each stone step and across smooth slabs of rock.

The forest around me is wet and alive. Red wax-capped mushrooms pop through the browns and grays of decaying leaf litter. Ghost pipe (*Monotropa uniflora*), bedazzled with dew drops and cloaked in last fall's leaves, droops white and shining under the dark canopy.

Slowly, a snail creeps up the exposed root of a striped maple. Water invites life out to play. And it makes each of my footsteps treacherous. The spring floods washed away many of the blue trail blazes, so I am navigating across slippery stones with intuition and common sense. Visitors with wet boots warn me not to take this trail. But my feet are already squelching gloriously in my socks. This trail is dangerous and amazing when it rains; I have to test my feet to watch the rain carry the mountain to the sea.





July 18, 2023 —Champlain Mountain

When I was little, I dreamt of bouncing and playing on puffy silver clouds. Today on Champlain Mountain, I abandoned that dream and walked into a real cloud. Here, the world is awash in mist and blueberries.

From a nearby stand of pitch pine, crows eye my progress. Every few minutes I get too close, and the crows erupt in croaking and leap to a new tree just up the trail from me. Their pitch-black feathers punch a hole in the monochrome gray sky. They too are enjoying the mist, catching it on their feathers and arcing through the air on their trips from refuge to refuge. They dart into a stand of sheltered pines only feet from me. One crow stares at me, jitterbugging at each of my careful steps. I stoop to pick a blueberry, and my nervous avian companion is gone, leaving me to my trail maintenance.

Sunny days provide good visitor interactions and even better views, but wind and fog are comforting. The wind blows sweat from the back of my shirt. The cloud invites me in by collecting sparkling droplets on the curling hairs around my face. When I hike in a blustering cloud, I can only see the steps immediately in front of me, which makes the trail seem to stretch endlessly. In this sublime space, I focus on each step toward the next blue trail blaze or silhouette of a Bates cairn.



Why do they
fly further
up the trail
instead of
away?

July 29, 2023—Sargent Mountain

Although I spend my weekdays asking visitors to protect plants and wildlife by staying on trails, I spend my weekends going off trail to protect plants and wildlife. This weekend in late July is no exception.

Yesterday evening, a team including myself, led by Dr. Brittany Slabach, opened little boxes (Sherman live traps) on the summit of Sargent and tossed small mammal bait made of peanut butter, bird seed, and mealworms inside. We set traps in the evening to minimize the time any creature might be in one. An orange sunset rewards our patience.

The next morning, I crawl out of bed at 2:00 a.m. to summit by 4:45 a.m., reaching the top just before the pink sunrise. Happily munching, the mammals await our arrival. We gingerly carry traps with captures across the summit to Dr. Slabach. She pulls

a female wild mouse, snacks in hand, out of one box. The mouse

is pregnant and annoyed by our disturbance, so we quickly measure and tag her before returning her to where she was caught. As she scampers beneath a wood lily, we scamper on to the next trap.

Mice and voles are

vital summit community members. The Wild Acadia

Summit Restoration Project will

fill trampled social trails with soil to encourage growth of native plants. This

restoration should help plant communities

to be more resistant to erosion caused by

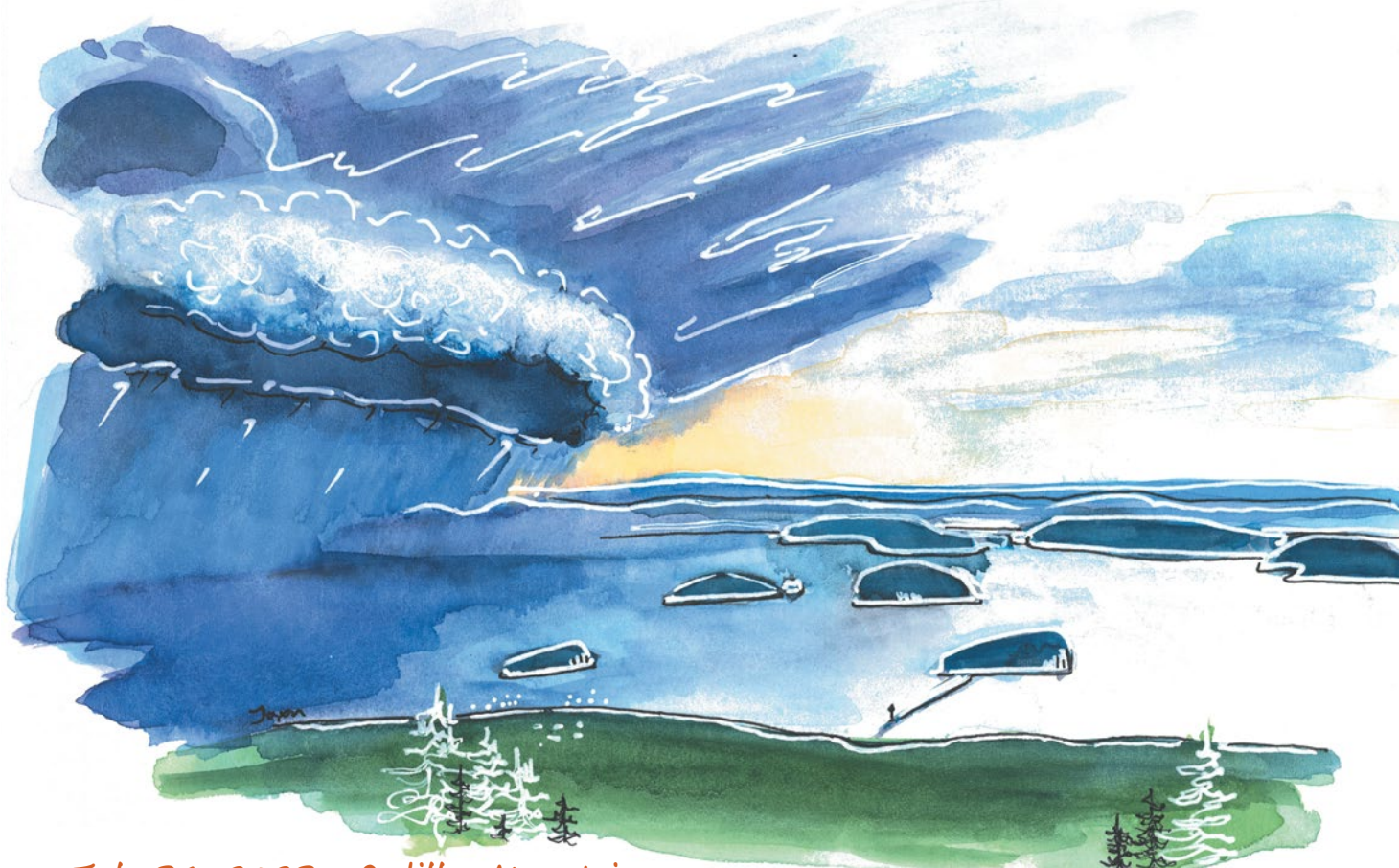
careless explorers and intense rain, but we

want to know how it will affect the whole

summit community. As this project progresses, we

will continue to study small mammals to understand all our impacts on the summit.





July 31, 2023—Cadillac Mountain

Standing on the sun-soaked summit of Cadillac Mountain, I notice a shadow crossing the corner of my view. Gray rain squalls dance over the Schoodic Peninsula. I look away to speak with a visitor; turning back, a marching storm front has replaced the dancing squalls. Soft blue-and-purple clouds lead a charge across the sky, towing a line of churned rainclouds, followed by a dense curtain of rain.

From the shelter of my car, I watch lightning streak and flash across the distant wall of rain. Dark clouds consume the sky. Each time the horizon turns pure white, I am struck with awe and gratitude. When the first drops of rain finally hit my roof, I roll up my windows and watch the downpour chase visitors back to their vehicles.

As the rain eases, the mist on the edge of the storm collides with the light, stringing a rainbow between the mountain and the clouds. The horizon fills back up with white clouds as the parking lot on the summit fills back up with cars.

Visitors to Acadia purchase a Cadillac Summit Road vehicle reservation to see the amazing views from the summit, but the beauty of the mountain is not just in the birds-eye-view of Bar Harbor or the offshore islands to the west. Most visitors leave for fog or storms, but for me, the mountain comes alive in inclement weather. ■

ELLIE JACKSON is a member of Friends of Acadia's Summit Stewards seasonal team. She is a third-year student at College of the Atlantic focusing on writing and science communication.



COURTESY ELLIE JACKSON

FOR YOUR SAFETY: Acadia's trails, particularly its eastern and western mountain approaches, often have water running down the trail tread after rain. The granite slabs become slick and can catch even the most seasoned hiker off guard. Incidents along these trails can be serious and require technical search and rescue due to the trail conditions. Please exercise caution when hiking Acadia's mountains after the rain by wearing footwear with good traction and maintaining well-balanced footing.

CLIMB *Every* MOUNTAIN

For her 75th birthday, Ann Bradford decided to hike every named peak in Acadia. More than a dozen years later, it's become a joyful annual tradition.

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Ann Bradford has always been at home in the mountains. She was born in pre-World War II Singapore to missionary parents and spent most of her childhood there and in Malaya and India. She remembers fleeing from Singapore just before the Japanese invasion. Ann attended a boarding school on a jungle mountaintop and graduated from a high school in the Himalayan Mountains of India.

In 1966, while living in Washington, D.C. after college, she, her first husband, and their children visited Acadia during a family vacation. The park "captured their hearts," and soon after returning from vacation, they packed up their lives in D.C. and bought a house in Southwest Harbor.

Ann spent the next few decades enjoying raising her three children on Mount Desert Island and later converting her family home into a bed and breakfast, where she shared her love of the island and Acadia National Park with visitors from around the world for 29 years.

For her 75th birthday, Ann decided to hike every peak in Acadia. "I was sitting in my home, looking at the view, and I thought, what can I give myself for my birthday? I know what I'll do; I'll climb all the mountains—it just popped into my mind to do that, and I've been doing it ever since." It's since become a massive part of Ann's life; she says if she didn't have the park and the mountains, "I don't know what I would do."

For Ann, hiking has never been about reaching a summit. "For me, it's not about reaching the goal; it's the journey and the joy you find along the way."

Ann, who now lives in a cottage in Birch Bay, begins hiking Acadia as soon as the ice is out and continues until the fall. "I try to go hiking every day. If I can't do a trail, I try to walk on the carriage road."



COURTESY JEAN OWEN

Ann doesn't only hike here in Maine. Last year she walked the last 100 kilometers of the Camino de Santiago in Spain with her daughter, son-in-law, and a good friend. During the walk, Ann's thoughts wandered, too. "I was hoping the universe would send me a message about what I would do with the rest of my years," she said. "The answer was very, very simple. Love one another, be kind, listen, and inspire people to walk. If you can only take one or two steps, that's ok. It's not a matter of finishing a huge marathon—it's just about taking the first step and then the next step and the next."

She describes the experience on the Camino as "life-changing" and looks forward to another international hiking adventure soon—using Acadia as her training ground, of course.

One highlight this year was hiking up Cadillac via the North Ridge Trail as part of her Easter Sunday celebration, one of her earliest season climbs of Acadia's tallest mountain.

She plans to end her annual hike of all 28 named peaks in Acadia this year with Pemetic, her favorite mountain. "I love it up there; the view is just to die for," she said. "There's so much variation in the climb. It starts with the brook and the stream in very shady areas, and then you get up to a wonderful coniferous forest, and then you are right out on these huge boulders, which I love, out in the wide open. It

also has some technical places that are a little difficult."

Ann says she takes it easy with frequent stops to appreciate the small things, like studying a patch of moss, lichen, or bark, making even the more challenging hikes doable and enjoyable.

Her favorite aspect of hiking is noticing the little things, observing bits of the natural world along the way, but she also finds joy in the new people she meets.

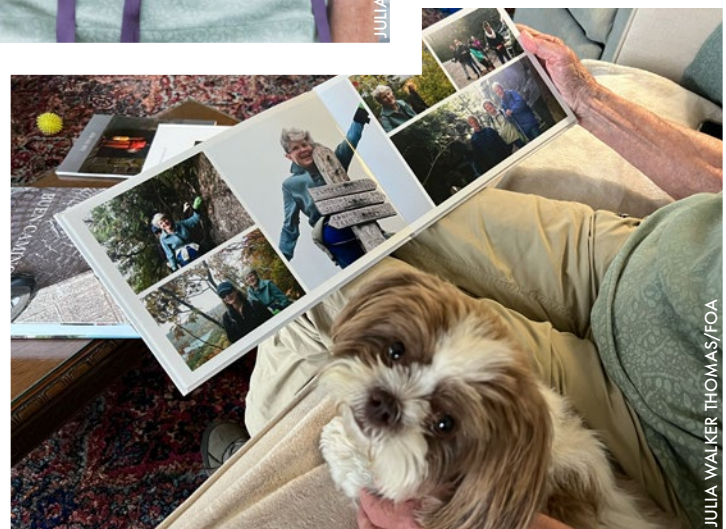
"Part of the beauty of hiking is seeing people; even though you don't know them, there is oneness. You're all the same underneath: you're all one," she said. "On a hike, you're all on the same journey, the same path, even though you may have different goals. There's something very beautiful about that."

Ann will be 88 in January of next year and has no plans to stop hiking.

"I'm having trouble remembering things, but physically I'm fine. I joke with some of my hiking companions: 20 years from now, I'll still be on the trail, and you'll be leading me by the hand, telling me, 'No, it's this way, deeah.'" ■

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is Friends of Acadia's Visual Storytelling and Creative Projects Manager.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Ann Bradford takes in the view on Cadillac, South Ridge. **RIGHT AND CLOCKWISE:** Bradford in her hiking gear. • Bradford celebrating hiking to Cadillac summit. • Bradford's daypack displays a patch from the Camino de Santiago and a button featuring a graphic representing Mount Desert Island hiking. • Bradford and her dog Mollie look at a photo book given to her by one of her hiking companions. • Bradford at the summit of Sargent Mountain.



A group of people in a forest. On the left, a park ranger in a grey uniform and cap points upwards. In the center, a woman in a wide-brimmed hat holds binoculars. To her right, another woman points towards the camera. In the background, a man in a blue shirt looks on. The scene is set in a sun-dappled forest.

ACADIA'S SEASONAL STAFF ARE **MISSION CRITICAL**

YEHYUN KIM/FOA

AND GETTING HARDER TO ATTRACT

BY AMANDA POLLOCK

As the sun rises over the Maple Spring Trail in Acadia National Park, trail crew members operate a high-line system to move granite stairs into place. Vegetation biologists work to eradicate glossy buckthorn in Bass Harbor Marsh. And Interpretive park rangers don their flat hats and head off to engage and educate visitors.

Anyone who visits Acadia knows immediately how special it is. But what park visitors may not realize is how many people are at work behind the scenes to manage the park's stunning landscapes, vistas, and trails. Many of those employees are seasonal, working from May through October when the park is at its busiest, to provide a safe and memorable experience for visitors.

The benefits of working for the National Park Service (NPS) are many, starting with the fact that your office is a national park! Seasonal staff also have a unique opportunity to learn professional skills and gain experience from experts in the field. These skills serve them for the rest of their careers, whether they continue to work for the NPS or explore other opportunities. Many NPS employees attest that they have the best job in the world.

Historically, this has meant that the NPS didn't need to actively recruit. But this year, a tight labor market combined with Mount Desert Island's housing crisis, meant we were only able to hire 115 of the 175 seasonal staff needed. We had similar hiring challenges last season.

Several other factors affect Acadia's ability to recruit: government salaries have not kept up with inflation and the federal hiring process can be long and arduous.

By the time you read this, several of Acadia's seasonal job announcements will have opened and closed. Those resumes will undergo an initial review at the regional or national level, before being forwarded to the hiring managers at Acadia. In fact, the park likely won't get those resumes until early 2024. While we cannot control these factors, there are steps we can take to be more successful in recruiting and hiring seasonal positions.

Working in partnership with Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park has initiated a multi-faceted plan to advertise job opportunities at the park and give people the tools to submit a successful application.

Federal Resume Workshops

The federal hiring process is unique, something many aspiring park rangers don't realize.

For example, the federal resume is formatted very differently than a traditional resume. There is no preferred length, but the resume should capture, in detail, any experience that makes you qualified for the job. The federal resume for entry-level seasonal positions may be as long as five to seven pages.

To make the federal hiring process more understandable, Acadia is hosting several Federal Resume Workshops both in person and online, in partnership with Mount Desert Island Adult Education and Ellsworth Adult and Community Education. To learn more, visit go.nps.gov/AcadiaJobs.

Finding the Right People

There is great diversity in the types of career opportunities with the NPS, and every seasonal position has varying education and experience requirements. Targeting our communications and outreach to specific audiences that fit those requirements is a key factor to recruiting success.

For example, some difficult-to-fill positions require an EMT license. Thus, we plan to reach out to EMT license programs to make them aware of the career opportunities available in Acadia.

Youth volunteers in the park, including participants in the Wabanaki Youth and Science Corps (WaYS) and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC), have had experiences that piqued their interest in working for the NPS. By facilitating these

experiences, we are also helping curate the next generation of park staff.

Although the range and types of positions at Acadia are diverse, one quality ties NPS staff together: our passion. We want to find people who are excited about the NPS's mission and the role they could play in fulfilling it.

The Power of Partnership

Recruiting seasonal staff in the current environment is a challenge, and Acadia is fortunate to have such a supportive group of partners, like Friends of Acadia, who are willing to help think strategically about seasonal staff recruitment.

This next year, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia will be partnering to explore new and innovative ways to attract the best and brightest seasonal staff the NPS could ask for.

Looking for Ways You Can Help?

Check out current job opportunities at go.nps.gov/AcadiaJobs and share job postings with those you think might be a good fit—or apply yourself! Refer anyone interested to our Federal Resume Workshops, so they'll be best prepared to apply. Check our websites—nps.gov/acadia and friendsofacadia.org—and social media pages for more information on the 2024 recruitment campaign. ■

AMANDA POLLOCK is the Public Affairs Officer at Acadia National Park.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Interpretive Ranger Patrick Kark guides visitors during a bird watch program at Sieur de Monts. **BELOW LEFT:** Jake McCamic, engineering equipment operator, uses a machine to blow leaves out of a drainage ditch on the Carriage Road near Eagle Lake. **BELOW RIGHT:** Trail Crew Leader Vince Sproul teaches Christina Trimmingham, an ACE EPIC (American Conversation Experience, Emerging Professionals in Conservation) intern, about splitting stone to be used in the path over The Tarn's dam.



FRONT & CENTER

In this series, we're spotlighting the talented and dedicated staff of Acadia National Park who deliver an incredible visitor experience day after day. Whether working directly with park visitors or behind the scenes, seasonally or year-round, these are the people who make the park hum. They work hard and wear many hats, keeping the park in incredible shape, keeping park visitors safe, and rising to the occasion as visitation has reached peak levels in recent years. We at Friends of Acadia appreciate them and the work they do. Thank you!



MEET JONATHAN POOLER GENERAL RANGER AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

BY SHANNON BRYAN

General Ranger Jonathan Pooler spent this season—his first in Acadia National Park—striking up conversations with visitors.

“I get to rove the park—pretty much wherever I want to go,” Pooler said. Where he wants to go is where the people are: Sand Beach, Cadillac Mountain, Thunder Hole, Jordan Pond. “That’s where you can make the most impact,” he said.

Pooler is one of four general rangers who worked in Acadia National Park this season. As the title suggests, general rangers wear many hats. They assist visitors with park resources, provide emergency medical services (general rangers are all EMT certified), and they rove the park to enforce rules and regulations.

It sounds like straightforward work, ideal for this gregarious park ranger, but the role is also an effective way to help visitors safely navigate the park, be conscientious stewards, and have an excellent time while they’re at it. Balancing these tasks well is an art.

“The uniform comes with a big responsibility,” he said. “A lot of people see the green and gray, they see the badge, they see the flat cap and they automatically assume you are an authority. They think, ‘I don’t want to get in trouble; you’re a ranger!’”

Pooler says he’s mindful to engage with visitors in a friendly and welcoming way. Often that begins with a

smile and a “Hello” or “How’s your visit?”

General rangers also do preventative search and rescue, or PSAR, which involves engaging with visitors before there’s a potential emergency. That might include talking with hikers at a trailhead about slippery trail conditions or whether they’ve brought water with them for a hike on a hot and humid day.

Those conversations can help visitors better understand what they’re in for and assess whether they’re prepared—which makes for a decidedly more pleasant experience for them—but it also aims to prevent emergency calls later.

Pooler says visitors seem to appreciate his recommendations and the chance to have a conversation with a ranger—both of which add to a great experience in the park.

And that has ongoing impact, too.

“The better time people have at a park, the more likely they are to be stewards of that area,” he said. “I love promoting stewardship by leading by example.”

Before donning the green-and-gray uniform in his role as park ranger, Pooler was more likely to be spotted in a chef’s coat. He worked as a chef for 13 years, then taught in a culinary program at a charter school.

But he’s always been drawn to the outdoors. “I grew up camping, hiking, and just wandering the woods

[in Michigan],” he said. As an adult, he went on a backpacking trip to Isle Royale National Park in Michigan. “It was such an amazing experience—it’s one of my favorite parks,” he said. “I got to talk to the rangers there, and I was like, if I didn’t cook, I’d want to be a park ranger.”

It wasn’t until some years later when Pooler and his then-fiancée were driving through Pennsylvania and spotted a billboard advertising “America’s Largest RV Show” that his path to the park service began to take shape.

That billboard inspired the couple to save up some money and take to the road in an RV. For the last several years they’ve traveled the country, volunteering and working seasonal jobs in state and national parks and then travelling in the off season.

Pooler spent time volunteering at Aztec Ruins National Monument and with the Department of Fish and Wildlife in Florida. He’s worked at Chaco Culture National Historic Park, Big Horn National Recreation Area, and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park—the change of season there still lingers in his memory.

He gets why people are drawn to the outdoors, whether for a lifetime or their first time.

“Outdoor recreating has become huge in the U.S. The pandemic pushed even more people outside,” he said. “So often, you’re meeting people who have never outdoor recreated in their life, and they’re hiking for the first time.”

Pooler’s intent is to help make sure they’re safe and prepared, but without making anyone feel bad.

“Being that positive influence, that positive representation of Acadia National Park and of the park service in general, that will help people have a really great experience,” said Pooler. “So when they look back, they’ll think, ‘Oh wow, I had such a good time in Acadia. That park ranger really helped me out—that place is the best.’” ■

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



5 WAYS PARK VISITORS CAN EASE THE BURDEN ON HARDWORKING PARK STAFF

1 Do Some Research in Advance

Take a little time to go onto the park’s website. Look up the hikes you might want to do and see how long or challenging they are. People often just see an image on social media and decide they want to go to that spot, without looking into what it takes to get there.

2 Be Okay with NOT Doing the Thing You Really Wanted to Do

Sometimes the weather doesn’t cooperate, or a trailhead is extremely busy. Be open-minded about changing plans when a hike might not be safe, or an area of the park is congested. There’s so much to see and do in Acadia—alternative options abound!

3 Carry a Backpack with Essentials

You don’t need to be a survivalist, but it’s wise to have extra water, warm layers, and some snack foods with you while exploring the park. A short hike can get serious fast—a slip on wet rock or a humid day that dehydrates you quickly could mean bad news. Besides, no one wants to be hangry on vacation.

4 Be Aware the Free Brochure is Not a Trail Map

The free brochure handed out at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center and park entrance gates will give you the lay of the land, but if you’re hiking the trails in Acadia, buy a trail map that has all the trails on it.

5 Take the Island Explorer Shuttle!

It’s free and it goes all around Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park—the Schoodic Peninsula, too. No need to fight for parking—just leave your vehicle for the day and ride the bus!

LEFT: Acadia National Park General Ranger Jonathan Pooler talks with park visitors near Jordan Pond House.

ACADIA'S STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER CREW LEADERS

BY NIKKI BURTIS

Volunteer Crew Leaders (VCLs) are the backbone of the Drop-In Trails and Carriage Roads Stewardship Volunteer Program, a collaboration between Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia. From driving crews to work sites and training new volunteers on how to use a tool for the job at hand, to keeping up hydration and team morale...they do it all!

They're the smiling faces in green-and-blue "Volunteer" shirts who greet you upon arrival, describe the day's possible projects, get you set up with gloves and tools (and some dense but important government paperwork if it's your first time) and lead you through the morning's work. VCLs are people who have volunteered more than 10 times and decided to go the extra mile and get trained to be a volunteer leader.

Keep reading to learn more about our 13 active VCLs and find out how you can get out and do some work in the park with them or even become one yourself!

Meet our VCLs



Lee Allen

Years as a VCL: 1

Favorite Trail in Acadia: South Ridge Penobscot (views) or Beech Valley Trail (peaceful)

Favorite Project You've Done: I would say the Schooner Head path project. Schooner Head required the team to perform several tasks to complete a section of the trail each day. From clearing out the vegetation, hauling gravel, raking and tamping – it was a team effort.

Why you are a VCL? Great opportunity to give back to the natural resource which makes living on MDI so wonderful! In addition, this experience gives the visitors a perspective on how much work it takes to maintain Acadia's trails/carriage roads in pristine condition.



JC Camelio

Years as a VCL: 9

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Tie—Maple Spring, Gorge Path, South Ridge Cadillac... really, all of the trails!

Favorite Project You've Done: Islesford Historical Museum

Why you are a VCL? Satisfaction gained through friendship, interest in nature, and giving back.



Joey & Mike Engling

Years as VCLs: 9

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Seven Bridges Carriage Road—Intersection 11 to 10 (If it MUST be a trail, We'll take ... The Gorge or Hemlock Path).

Favorite Project You've Done: "The next one," also Take Pride in Acadia Day!

Why are you VCLs? It's a way to re-invest in the park, a treasure that is often taken for granted.



Randy

Randy Ewins Years as a VCL: 13

Favorite Trail in Acadia: The Gorge Path (spring or early summer, when the water is running).

Favorite Project You've Done: Jordan Pond Bogwalk

Why you are a VCL? I had been a drop-in volunteer for a few years and was asked if I would like to be a crew leader. Pretty simple story.



Peter

Peter Fleisher Years as a VCL: 2

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Maple Spring to Sargent South Ridge and then down Grandgent.

Favorite Project You've Done: Bogwalk is always up there as you get tangible results, but brushing on any southern ridge hike is always a great project.

Why you are a VCL? It's a great way to give back with other people who also have a love of Acadia.



Doug

Doug Heden

Years as a VCL: 10
Favorite Trail in

Acadia: Valley Trail by Beech Mt. for the moss, ferns, rock formations, and silence.

Favorite Project You've Done: My favorite projects are bogwalks. They require various levels of skill for different tasks. Newcomers can work with an experienced person and build a crib or two in three hours. There is no question that the effort improves the visitors' experience. And most importantly, one can return years later and remember the particular challenges overcome in construction.

Why you are a VCL? Typical reason is to give back to something I love. As you get older and retire from a traditional job you start to think about what you are going to leave your children and grandchildren. Your former colleagues have moved on. Your past accomplishments have been largely forgotten. Working to improve something that is permanent, like a National Park, is very satisfying.



Jim

Jim Lemmon Years as a VCL: 3

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Beech Mountain South Ridge Loop

Favorite Project You've Done: Tie - Jordan Pond bogwalk & Bass Harbor Head fence

Why you are a VCL? To lead groups to maintain & improve the best National Park in the USA!



JIM

Jim Linnane Years as a VCL: +/- 12

Favorite Trail in Acadia: It depends, but usually the one I am on at the time.

Favorite Project You've Done: Favorite project worked on for me would have to include volunteer projects that have been a sort of extension of the trails and carriage roads stewardship project such as shoreline clean ups and making carriage road signs and ultimately, I enjoyed almost every project that I have worked on.

continued on next page

Jim Linnane *continued* **Why you are a VCL?** In general, the people are a great part of being a VCL. Most of the friends we made after moving to MDI were people I volunteered with. I am happy working together on a project even if it was just raking leaves on a cold and blustery day.



Mark



Barb



DAVID



Ruth

Mark Nadel

Years as a VCL: 2

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Beech Mountain and Beech Cliffs

Favorite Project You've Done: Any projects that go to a mountain summit with my crew, taking in the beauty of Acadia after a strenuous climb and leaving the trail in much better condition than when we started.

Why you are a VCL? The volunteers are wonderful and interesting people and leading them as a VCL is an honor. Working as a team, we are able to complete our assigned task and be proud of visible and tangible accomplishments that preserve, maintain, and improve the Park. The job is manageable thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the Friends of Acadia staff.

Barb Nealon

Years as a VCL: 8

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Maple Spring Trail before the storm. I've spent many hours sitting on a rock in the middle of that trail with my feet in the water and a good book on a hot summer day.

Favorite Project You've Done: I really like the projects where I can go back and visit year after year, such as the bench Jim Linnane and I built at Great Notch or the fence at Jordan Pond. My other favorite projects are the projects where I get to work with young people from all over. The enthusiasm of the young people gives me faith in the future of stewardship in public spaces.

Why you are a VCL? Because I believe that we need to be good stewards of this planet and this program allows us to practice stewardship and make it a part of our daily lives.

David Opdyke

Years as a VCL: 7

Favorite Trail in Acadia: Jordan Pond Path

Favorite Project You've Done: Jordan Pond Path Bogwalk

Why you are a VCL? I like to help others have a positive experience in the park and feel proud of something they did for the park.

Ruth Yeiser

Years as a VCL: 2

Favorite Trail in Acadia: No favorite – love them all!

Favorite Project You've Done: Brushing Norumbega when my son was still “little” – my son and Bob Hartley (an emeritus VCL) were telling jokes the whole time.

Why you are a VCL? Since I'm lucky enough to be able to spend lots of time in Acadia, I feel it's important to give back to the park.

Thanks to this this wonderful team for a great 2023 Stewardship Volunteer Program season. For more information on Friends of Acadia's Stewardship Volunteer Program or if you'd like to join us next year, scan the QR code or visit friendsofacadia.org. ■



Acadia VCLs

NIKKI BURTIS is Friends of Acadia's Stewardship Coordinator.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Be a Citizen Scientist in Acadia National Park



SAM MALLON/FOA

Help Acadia's Scientists Better Understand The Landscape And How It's Changing

BY SHANNON BRYAN

Nature captures our attention.

Whether we're crouching down to peer at the petals of a pink lady slipper or tilting our heads back to admire the bird sounds from the forest canopy, it feels good to soak in the sights and sounds of the outdoors.

We're also quick to snap a few photos of what we see, perhaps sharing them on social media for our friends to appreciate, too. But our casual observations can also serve a scientific purpose.

By uploading our photos to phone apps such as iNaturalist or eBird, we're contributing to a growing cache of data that's used by scientists in Acadia National Park and around the world.

"We need all the eyes that we can get on the landscape," said Abe Miller-Rushing, science coordinator at Acadia National Park. Those eyes help Acadia's resource managers, "see how things are changing and how effective our management practices are at helping to keep the park healthy."

To help park scientists stay apprised of timely real-world observations, Schoodic Institute developed an Acadia National Park Citizen Science Report that shares a weekly summary drawn from iNaturalist and eBird.

The report highlights pests and invasive species, like

ABOVE: An Eastern tiger swallowtail collects nectar from a tree outside Sieur de Monts. **INSERT:** Maria Siewers of Bowling Green, KY, and Liz Brennan of Orono, ME, use binoculars to look for birds in the trees from Hemlock Road while participating in the Queer Bird Walk program, part of Acadia National Park's pride month programming.

bittersweet nightshade and glossy buckthorn, as well as threatened or endangered species, such as peregrine falcons and black-crowned night herons.

The report also notes rare species and new species that have recently been spotted in the park, which is critical information to have when working to stay apprised of how the park's ecosystems are changing—or how encroaching species might impact the park in positive or negative ways.

Citizen Science's Role in Restoration Work in Acadia

Much as they might like to be, park scientists can't be everywhere all the time. But citizen scientists serve as valuable extensions of the team—out "in the field" observers throughout the seasons and years.

For identified restoration areas in Acadia, including the Great Meadow Wetland and the summits of Cadillac, Sargent, and Penobscot Mountains, citizen-science observations provide valuable ongoing data.

Both of those sites are part of Wild Acadia, the science-forward collaboration between Acadia National Park, Schoodic Institute, and Friends of Acadia, which aims to help park

ecosystems be resilient to the changes happening within and around them.

A big part of the restoration work taking place in the Great Meadow Wetland centers on hindering the growth of glossy buckthorn, which tends to hold onto its leaves later in the season, unlike most native plants, which gives glossy buckthorn a leg up.

Resource managers in Acadia wonder if bringing up native plants from farther south, which naturally hold on to their leaves longer, will shade out the glossy buckthorn better than local plants.

"It turns out that a bunch of (local) people actually already have these same species that we're thinking about on their properties," said Miller-Rushing. "We can ask [them] to monitor the plants' phenology—when they leaf out and when they shed their leaves—or how fast they're growing, how many flowers they make, and things like that. That would help us decide whether they're appropriate to plant in Great Meadow."

"We also use iNaturalist, and eBird to some degree, to look at climate-change refugia," said Miller-Rushing. Refugia are areas that remain relatively buffered from climate change, allowing valuable ecosystems to endure.

"iNaturalist will help us monitor the kind of indicator species that we're concerned about," said Miller-Rushing. Indicator species are those that have been identified to be able to thrive or not in certain areas as the climate changes.

"It's not that things get really too hot

for species, but the temperature makes it so the diseases that affect them can get here and then drive the species out," Miller-Rushing said. That's basically what happened to Acadia's red pine, he said.

Warmer temperatures didn't kill red pine trees, but those temperatures opened the door to red pine scale, an invasive insect, which took hold and wiped red pines out. It's an example of why it's so valuable to catch invasive species early. "We didn't know that red pine scale was here until it was too late," said Miller-Rushing.

Citizen scientists can help.

That said, species like red pine scale or the more recent hemlock woolly adelgid, which made its entry into Acadia last fall, are really small—it's unlikely the average passerby would spot them.

But Miller-Rushing hopes there could be future opportunities for citizen scientists to get informative alerts related to specific species—what to look for and where to look—and in-the-field volunteers could be trained to spot particular species.

"If we can get more eyes looking for things, then we'll find them earlier," Miller-Rushing said. "We're really lucky here to have the have people who want to help." ■

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



Citizen Science

THE TOOLS OF TODAY'S CITIZEN SCIENTISTS

Both eBird and iNaturalist are Internet-based platforms that can be accessed from a mobile device or desktop computer. At Acadia National Park, your records automatically become accessible to park managers and are available for researchers to answer questions about our changing world.

PLANTS, ANIMALS & FUNGI

iNaturalist is primarily photo-based, and encompasses plants, animals, fungi, etc. Users submit a picture of an organism, along with the date and location of when and where it was seen. Users suggest an identification and other iNaturalist users then refine and confirm the identification, making the observation "research grade" and available to scientists around the world. **Just getting started?** Try the mobile application Seek.

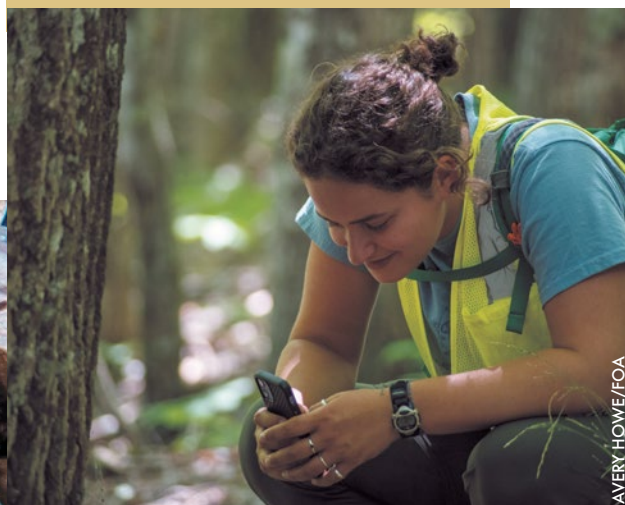
BIRDS

Bird observations can be submitted to iNaturalist, but eBird is specifically for birds. You can track your bird sightings throughout the year and from year to year, learn where and when to find birds, and connect with other bird enthusiasts. **Just getting started?** The mobile application Merlin is a helpful learning tool.

eBird

iNaturalist

BELOW: A wood frog off of the Breakneck trail. **RIGHT:** Schoodic Institute Ecology Field Technician Jess Moskowitz uses the iNaturalist app to record citizen science observations on Hemlock Path.



EVERETT COLLECTION

WILL NEWTON/FOA



EMMA FORTHOFER/FOA

NEW MEMBERS

June 1 - August 31, 2023

Anonymous (9)
Lisa Abohatab
Nancy Abohatab
Hannah Adams
Matt Adler
Joan Aiello
Melissa Allensworth
Chris Amon
Catherine Anderson
Renee and Charlie Anderson
Jessica Anderson
Nicholas Anderson
Pamela Anderson
Julie and Wayne Anderson
Jill Appel
Stephen Arscott
Rebecca Asfour
Denise and Tom Ashby
Laura and Charles Ashford
Sandra Baber
Geoffrey Baekey
Earl Bagley
Chris Baker
Carey Barclay and Theodore Lowen
Paula Barron
Melissa Barsamian
Joanna and Clay Bassett
Carolyn Bauer
Mike Baur
Erin Bayly
Jen Beale
Jaime Bedard
Emily Bernard
Alison and Sam Bernier
Sherri Berridge
Heather and Michael Bichsel
Kate Bielinski
Rebekkah Blashka
Martha and Alan Blume
Paul Bodner
Sherry and Bill Boland
Spencer Bonilla
Doug Boone
Marvin Boritz
Charmaine Bouford
Chloe Bouscaren
Fred Boyd
Landis Braddock
Kaori Brahma
Kelsey Brasseur
Nancy Braun

Herschel Brecher
Sue Ann Brechley
Myrhia Brewer and Blake Foster
Jeffrey Brown
Shams and Dominick Bufalino
Grace Burke
Alyssa and Ryan Bushey
Anthony Byrne
Caroll Campbell
Roseanna Cannizzo
Lindsay Canon
Peter Carignan
Brooke Carleton
Jen and Chris Cartland
Amy and Tom Castillo
Cath Cawley
Charlotte Chilton
Melissa Chiti
Jeff Clapp
Stacey and Paul Clarimundo
Jean Coady
Jessica Cogswell
Barbara Colby
Jodi Coleman
Shari Collins
Julianna Connolly
Priscilla Connolly
Bruce Courtney
Jenna Cox
Theodore Cox
Jeffrey Crandall
Jana Crisafi
Lynne and Russell Crosby
Lindsay Crum
Joseph Cuddy
Eileen Curcio
Hope Currier
Joseph D'Ambrosio
Loren Davica Pombo
Donna and William Davidson
Christopher Davis
Karen Davis
Lisa and Tom DeByle
Karen DeGrandpre
Mike DeMato
Ashley and Daniel DePaolis
Andy, Heidi, Leo, Gus, and Ada Dettman
Linda Dicker
Julie Didelot
Kevin Dilallo and Gavin Authier
John DiLillo
Michael Dobie
Codan Dodson
Cassandra Dorn
Kerri Dowdell

Andrew Dowe
Carol Downing
Patricia Doyle
Alicia Duffy
Jill Duffy and Tim Sarraile
Carla Dumas
Renee Duncan
Susan Duronio
Everal Eaton
Mei Chiu and Amyt Eckstein
Laura Edwards
Sylvia Egelberg
Bob Eiland
Deborah Ellwood
Jacqueline Eng
David Evans
Alfred and Amy Faber
Ryan Falkenham
Peter Fan
Francesca Fay
Stephen Fayette
Carolyn Fefferman
Marcia Ferguson
Alexandra and Joseph Fingerman
Mary Fisher
Amanda and Michael Fitzsimmons
Jane Flythe
Dara Foti
Four Conifer Cove Lane LLC
Adam Fraley
Sydney Francis
Kay and Steve Freeman
Caitlin Frontino
Pat Frontino
Lila and Luis Garcia
Maggie Garfield
Michael Garfinkel
Ellen Garipey
Nicholas Gentile
Judith Giles
Gwendolyn Gleason
Krystyna Glodek
Debra Going
Brian Goldberg
Daniel Goldman
Clarajane Good
Elizabeth and Michael Gordon
Kylie Gray
Matt Greene
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Holli Hepburn
Kimber Herring
Jerry Hicks
Ingrid and Ken Hill
Katherine Hoffmann
Matt Hoffmann
Katherine Humphreys
Thomas Hunt
Matthew Hutchings
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Grace Jones
Veronica Jong and David Britton
Kathleen Jordan
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Kathy and Kevin Kindelan
LaDonna Kirkpatrick
Malini Kizhatil
Alex Klausner
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Nanci Kopecky
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Bradley Lawrence
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Tina Lee

Terramor Outdoor Resort Gives Back to Acadia and Friends of Acadia in Many Creative Ways

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK



"PINTS FOR A PURPOSE" attendees listen to featured speaker, Gary Stellpflug, retired Acadia trails crew foreman.

In January 2021, I received an email from Jenny McCullough, at the time the director of brand marketing for new lodging in Bar Harbor, Terramor Outdoor Resort. She wanted to know about Friends of Acadia business memberships and our involvement in the recycling program, Clynk. Little did I know those modest questions would lead to such a productive partnership between Friends of Acadia and Terramor.

Since that first phone call, Terramor has become a Friends of Acadia business member and proceeds donor, donated in-kind gifts to the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit, volunteered at our community events, and hosted an array of events and activities, including more than 30 fireside conversations at Pints for a Purpose—the Friends of Acadia Thursday night speaker series launched in 2022.

Earlier this year, Terramor Outdoor Resort announced that \$1 from every direct online booking at the resort would come to Friends of Acadia. It was just the latest in a series of generous and creative ways Terramor supports Friends of Acadia's mission to preserve and protect Acadia National Park.

Terramor has consistently been charitable, creative, and an outstanding conservation partner, and we are thankful for all they make possible at Acadia.

"Terramor takes their Corporate Social Responsibility activities seriously," said Stephanie Clement, Friends of Acadia's vice president of conservation. "After all they have already done for us this year, they continued their generosity this fall when they opened the property up for our annual volunteer appreciation event."

Terramor Outdoor Resort's website states: "We are a thoughtful retreat committed to authentic, immersive experiences in nature. The Terramor experience blends the romance of a camping adventure with the amenities of a luxurious getaway. Authentic local experiences and the individual nature of the destination are what make a stay at Terramor so unique and special."

We agree.

"The Terramor brand was founded on the principle of connecting people to the outdoors and each other. Its meaning is 'love of land,'" said Toby O'Rourke, CEO of Kampgrounds of America, Inc., which owns the Terramor brand. "Terramor creates a new type of experience for guests to experience the outdoors with all the comforts of a traditional hospitality resort. We are proud to call the beautiful backdrop of Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park home to our flagship property. By partnering with Friends of Acadia, we are doing our part to ensure that outdoor experiences are preserved and available to all guests for generations to come."

Learn more about this wonderful conservation partner at Terramouroutdoorresort.com.

If you're interested in learning more about business opportunities at Friends of Acadia, visit <https://friendsofacadia.org/membership-giving/business-organizational-support/> or call Lisa Horsch Clark at 207-370-4926. We are putting together programs soon for the 2024 season. ■

LISA HORSCH CLARK is Friends of Acadia's Vice President of Development and Donor Relations.

"PINTS FOR A PURPOSE" featured speaker Dennis Damon who shared "Stories From the Shore."



NEW MEMBERS continued

Nancy Lennert
Diana Leslie
Nathan Levesque
Rebecca Lewandoski
Lisa Lewins
Jia Li
Alexandria Lipton
Angel Lopez
Linh Lopez
David Lucas
Madison Luck
Haddie and Devin Lueddeke
Kit and Paul Lunceford
Ann Luskey
Stuart Lustberg
Matt Mallio
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Lee and Simon Manonian
Regina Manville
Brian Marquis
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Colleen McCarthy
Tess McMains
Katherine Miles Moran
David Miller
Aileen and Mike Miller
Ann and John Moores
Hannah Morrill
Danette Morris
Rebecca Moussa
Megan Mundt
Lili Murad
Harper Najarian
Mike Near
Roberta Nole
Karen Norris
Richard North
Mara Novick
Cheryl Novins
Robin Obelmejias
Donna Oblock
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Terry Smith
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Ella Watson
Monique Watson
Malcolm West
Nancy West
Rachel Wetter
Brendan White
Christopher White
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Katherine Zavestoski
Kim Zdenek
Andrea Zimmermann
Heidi Zirkilton
Ann Zoidis
Mark Zraunig

NEW TRAILBLAZERS

June 1 - August 31, 2023

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Jeff Church
Eileen Curcio
Margaret Fennelly and Brian Richter
Elizabeth Fletcher
Susan Mayn
Cynthia Mignini
Ann and John Moores
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Andrew Newitt
David Shade
Kileen and Robert Stone
Julia Stoumbos
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Claire Varney

WILL NEWTON/FOA

The 34th Annual Benefit was an

All Hands on Deck Success!

BY JEN BYER

FRIENDS OF ACADIA'S 34TH ANNUAL BENEFIT held on August 12 at the Asticou Inn was a tremendous success. With more than 475 attendees, the event featured an impressive live auction and a silent auction with 85 items, including original art, unique experiences, exquisite jewelry, and home décor, followed by a Paddle Raise.

Guests generously contributed funds to help Friends of Acadia acquire a new boat for Acadia National Park. The boat will safeguard 64 miles of coastline and more than 180 conservation easements, many on offshore islands.

Lynne Wheat and Thomas Peterffy of Interactive Brokers spearheaded the Paddle Raise, starting with a \$100,000 bid. Nearly 100 more paddles went up, making the purchase of the new Munson 26' PackMan Landing Craft for Acadia a reality.

"It was incredibly exciting to see so many paddles raised to support the park in the purchase of this important

boat," said Eric Stiles, President and CEO of Friends of Acadia. "The energy and enthusiasm in the room for Acadia was extraordinary and we're incredibly grateful for every single contribution."

Our heartfelt gratitude goes to all who participated, including donors, bidders, and auction winners. The unwavering support of our community for Acadia, its preservation, and protection for future generations is awe inspiring.

A special thank you goes out to the 2023 Benefit Co-Chairs, Laura Clark Katona and Kathleen McIntyre, as well as our Benefit Patrons. We also extend our gratitude to Chilton Trust, our presenting sponsor for an impressive 10 consecutive years. In addition, we had the support of many community businesses. Without the support of all our event sponsors, this remarkable success would not have been possible. ■

JEN BYER is Friends of Acadia's Special Events Coordinator.



ASHLEY ANDERSONS/FOA

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Bob Bell
Allison Bourke
Sharon Bradley
Antionette Brewster
Ellie Buchanan
Charlotte Chilton
Gail Clark
Hannah Clark
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Lynne Williams
Sydney Winthrop
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Anna Woodward

BENEFIT EVENT VOLUNTEERS

Marshall Ginn
Katie Kowski
Dee Lustusky
Diana McDowell
Adrienne Redhair
Judy Rynkiewicz
Lynne Staggs
Lisa Williams
Sara Yeterian
Diane Zito
Frank Zito



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

LEFT: Annual Benefit Co-Chairs Laura Clark Katona and Kathleen McIntyre speak to the crowd before the live auction portion of the 2023 Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit at the Asticou Inn. **ABOVE:** (L-R) Bob Bell, Martha Stewart, Gary Lickie, Betsy Mills, Lynne Wheat, Michele Henry, Tim Harrington, and Gail Clark enjoy the festivities at the 2023 Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit on Saturday, August 12, 2023.

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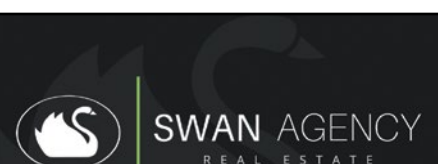
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IN MEMORIAM

This past summer, Friends of Acadia lost two significant local supporters and contributors to our work. We honor them here.

Mike Blaney, Bar Harbor, 1943-2023

Acadia lost one of its most committed defenders when Richard Michael Blaney passed away this summer. Mike began his career with Acadia National Park in 1962 and for the next 47 years delighted in working as a lifeguard, law enforcement ranger, and land resources specialist patrolling the shoreline, roads, trails, boundaries, and far-flung islands of the Acadian archipelago.

For many years, Mike oversaw the conservation easement program at Acadia, working with partner organizations and hundreds of private landowners to encourage voluntary land protection tools to enhance the natural values of the park he loved so much.

Former Friends of Acadia President & CEO David MacDonald spent countless hours together with Blaney out in the park. "It is not a stretch to say that Mike knew every acre of Acadia," says MacDonald. "He shared so much of that knowledge with me when I was getting started in my career at Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and he did the same for many others as well." Acadia will not be the same without him.

George DeWolfe, Southwest Harbor, 1945-2023

George Edward DeWolfe, a photographer, author, and contributor to numerous books and journals on analog and digital photography, passed away in Southwest Harbor at his home in July after a long illness.

DeWolfe came to Mount Desert Island in 1995 to create an archive of landscape photographs for Friends of Acadia. He loved the place so much that he never left.

"George was a wonderfully generous photographer who contributed much to Friends of Acadia in the early years," said Vice President of Development and Donor Relations Lisa Horsch Clark. "Look carefully on the walls of our office at 43 Cottage St. and in the archive of our Journals and you will see his work."

DeWolfe was the first recipient of the Friends of Acadia Award for Artistic Excellence in 2005.

SPECIAL PERSON

Katie Kowski

BY SHANNON BRYAN

This summer at Friends of Acadia, Katie Kowski stuffed a lot of envelopes.

In her role as development intern, she also helped gather and count donations from the Friends of Acadia donation boxes located throughout the park, delivered materials to the Membership Table at Jordan Pond House, applied appeal codes to member correspondence, and assisted Development Coordinator JoAnne Wood during trips to the bank.

And whether she was greeting members at our Annual Meeting, putting together membership packets, or shredding documents, Katie brought her signature enthusiasm, bright spirit, and plenty of dancing.

"Having Katie be part of our staff this summer was such a delight that I didn't know I needed," said Lynn Verill, executive assistant at Friends of Acadia. "Katie was such a great help to all of us in and out of the office, not to mention she was one heck of a dance partner at our Annual Benefit."

Katie's natural talent for meeting people and making them feel welcome came into play at several Friends of Acadia events—and she made fast friends at every one of them.

"It's been fun meeting new people, and I enjoyed helping Friends of Acadia raise more money," Katie said. "I like meeting other people because I say, 'Welcome!' and people get happy. I'm the life of the party."

Outside the office, Katie enjoyed plenty of adventuring around Mount Desert Island (MDI) with JoAnne, who was not only Katie's colleague this summer, but is also her aunt. Together they tackled an impressive 70-item summer bucket list that included riding the Island Explorer bus, playing mini-golf, and making homemade popovers. They also ate a fair amount of ice cream and kept a journal to document which was best (as of this



writing, Pugnuts Ice Cream in Surry was in the lead).

"My favorite thing about working with Katie is her upbeat and positive attitude; she cares so much about others and makes sure everyone feels included and important," Amanda Mogridge, development operations manager. "I loved the days when Katie was in the office."

"Katie brought absolute JOY to our office," said Vice President of Development Lisa Horch Clark. "She was excellent at counting our money from the donation boxes, doing event prep, and welcoming guests to the office and gatherings. I hope we helped Katie gain new skills and made a memorable summer for her. We will miss her!"

Katie's favorite part about working at Friends of Acadia and being on MDI? She couldn't decide. "I liked all of it. It was a good summer," she said. "I'm really excited to go home, but I'm going to miss everyone."

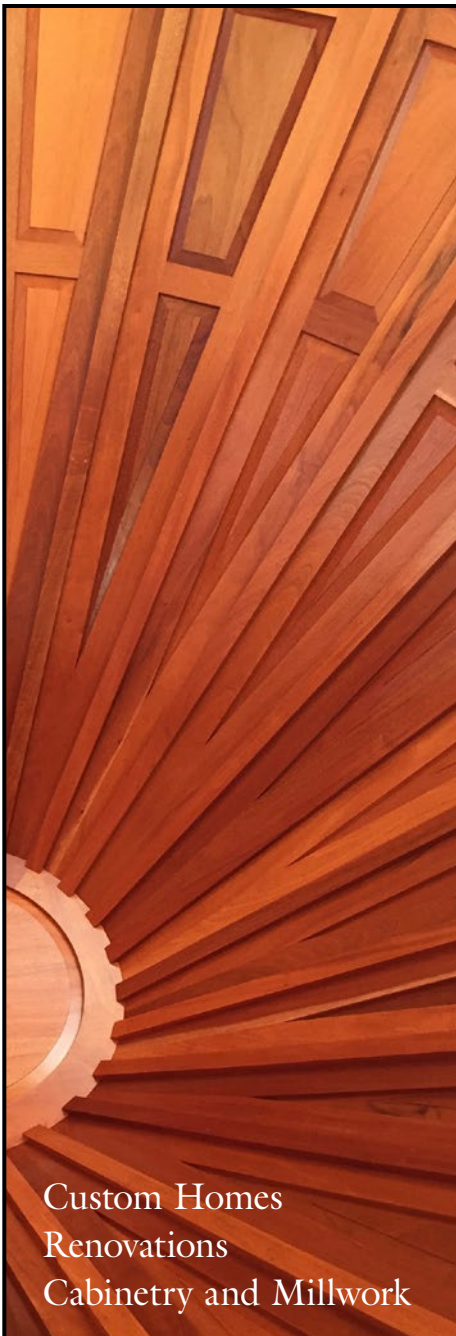
Katie's tenure at Friends of Acadia ended in mid-September and she headed back to her hometown of Angels Camp, CA. But the impact she had on every member of our team will last a long time.

"I will greatly miss the morning greetings down the hall, the many high fives, her baking, and just everything she brought to our team," said Lynn. "Katie is and forever will be part of our Friends of Acadia family. ■"

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



ABOVE: JoAnne and Katie work a special event together. **RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM:** Katie rings the bell announcing the end of the Silent Auction portion of the Annual Benefit. • Katie shows off her official nametag. • Katie celebrated the end of her summer at FOA with a round of mini golf with Friends of Acadia staff.



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3

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Teeth?"



ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

Snapshots from the Season

Updates

As visitation begins to wind down in Acadia, we're celebrating another lively season of dedicated volunteers, hard-working staff, and forward-thinking collaborations—all made possible thanks through Friends of Acadia supporters like you. Thank You!




FRIENDS OF ACADIA VOLUNTEER PAM BOWIE chats with park visitors at the membership table near Jordan Pond House. During weekdays from June to September, membership table volunteers engage with park visitors to spread the word about Friends of Acadia's work and encourage membership.



ZACK LOLA, OF THE WABANAKI YOUTH IN SCIENCE (WAYS) program, works alongside crews from Acadia National Park and Schoodic Institute to plant native plant species in identified restoration areas of Great Meadow. This restoration project—one of the collaborative projects between Schoodic, the park, and Friends of Acadia—is testing how native species might help mitigate the growth of invasive species like glossy buckthorn.




FRIENDS OF ACADIA SUMMIT STEWARD KATE PRISBY, right, talks to hikers about route options at the intersection of The Bowl and The Beehive Trails. Summit Stewards spend thousands of hours each summer and fall on Acadia's summits and trails, answering visitor questions, conducting basic trail maintenance, repairing cairns, and responding to emergencies.



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Updates Human Resources Manager Hannah Adams Joins Team

Hannah Adams joined the Friends of Acadia team in August as Human Resources Manager.

In her role, Hannah supports the employees, teams, and volunteers of Friends of Acadia. She will also help the organization update its employee onboarding and orientation, assist with updates to the employee handbook, and more.



Hannah has worked in the field of Human Resources for more than 20 years. She has a passion for the development of employees and teams and has served as an HR Director for several other non-profits.

As a life-long camper, hiker, and cyclist, Hannah and her husband love living near Acadia National Park and having the opportunity to enjoy the park frequently.

Friends of Acadia is thrilled to welcome Hannah on board.

Thank you...

Friends of Acadia would like to give a special shout out to the 2,200 supporters and friends who completed our email survey in June, and the 25 who attended follow-up focus groups in July.

Your feedback is invaluable as we partner with Acadia National Park to address challenges such as climate change, increased visitation and traffic congestion, the housing crisis, and more! To learn more about the results of our survey, please check out President Eric Stiles' column on page 5. THANK YOU for your continued confidence in, and support of, Friends of Acadia.

IN NOMINE

June 1 - August 31, 2023

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

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Gerry Berlin
Meri and Ken Blanchard
Jen Byer
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IN MEMORIAM

June 1 - August 31, 2023

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Updates

The George B. Dorr Society Goes Wild with Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing



On July 31, 2023, Friends of Acadia hosted the 19th Annual George B. Dorr Society event at Terramor Outdoor Resort. Society members, park staff, and other special guests joined speaker Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing, science coordinator at Acadia National Park, who shared the successes and future plans of Wild Acadia, a key resource protection program at Acadia.

Terramor's chef prepared a delicious buffet of lobster rolls, crab rolls, and chicken salad sandwiches along with Caesar and fruit salads, and lemon cake. Table décor featured vintage carriage road signs and each guest received a signed copy of Sheridan Steele's book, *From Bear Dens to the Oval Office*.

The delicious and informative affair was enjoyed by 66 guests who attended the afternoon's activities and walking and golfcart tours of beautiful Terramor Outdoor Resort.

The George B. Dorr Society for Planned Giving recognizes those members and friends who have documented bequests or other provisions for Friends of Acadia in their estate plans. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, gentleman, scholar, and lover of nature, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park.

The society was established in 2005 with 18 founding members and has grown to over 120 member families. The George B. Dorr Society and the planned and estate giving program at Friends of Acadia are sponsored by William Blair, a global investment banking and wealth management firm based in Chicago.

If you have made provisions for Friends of Acadia in your estate plans or would like information about joining the George B. Dorr Society, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark, vice president of development and donor relations, at 207-370-4926 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

ABE MILLER-RUSHING, Acadia National Park science coordinator, speaks to the attendees at the George B. Dorr Society Luncheon at Terramor.



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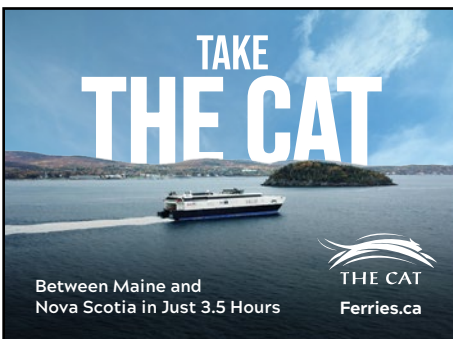


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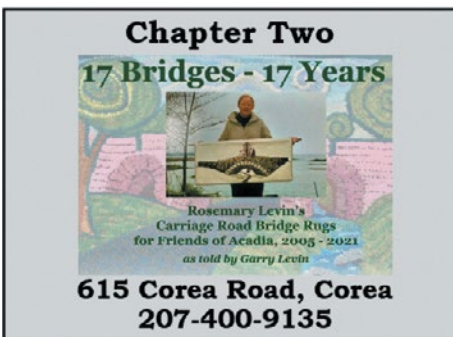
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Rosemary Levin's Carriage Road Bridge Rugs for Friends of Acadia, 2005 - 2021
as told by Garry Levin

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Updates

Friends of Acadia Welcomes New Board Members



A seasoned business executive whose career spanned journalism, marketing, and communications, **Liz Williams** most recently served as acting chief marketing officer at the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

Liz splits her time between Southwest Harbor and Philadelphia where she has served on the boards of the American Cancer Society, Germantown Friends School, the United Way, and the Wilma Theater. Liz has been coming to MDI with her family for more than four decades, joined Friends of Acadia in 1988, and enthusiastically hikes, cycles, and kayaks in Acadia National Park.

Visiting Student Board Members

Friends of Acadia has long benefitted from the talent, energy, and perspective of young people who have served as volunteers, seasonal staff, and interns.

In 2019, Friends of Acadia added two visiting student board positions to its Board of Directors, and we're thrilled to introduce you to the newest of those members.

Originally from Alabama, **Avery Lamb** received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in Environmental Science from Auburn University. Currently, Avery is studying the effects of climate change on historical harmful algal blooms in Maine lakes over the past 200 years. She looks forward to continuing to do lake research that both answers important scientific questions and has important implications for the surrounding community.



Autumn

Pauly is an undergraduate student at the College of the Atlantic interested in field ecology. She spent the past winter studying wintering bird habitats on Mount Desert Island and the past summer conducting colonial seabird research at the Alice Eno Research Station on Great Duck Island. She is passionate about creating opportunities that allow for robust community engagement and environmental education in Acadia National Park that help this park be fully appreciated.



TAYLOR PALMER, a restoration technician at Schoodic Institute, plants native grasses in Great Meadow.



Updates

Thank You Volunteers for a Great Season of Work in Acadia



VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON: Friends of Acadia volunteers were invited to a special luncheon in their honor at Terramor Outdoor Resort in September.

WILD GARDENS OF ACADIA VOLUNTEERS

October 1, 2022 - August 31, 2023

Lili Andrews
Pauline Angione
Stefani Berkey
Unn Boucher
Maureen Brooks
Peter Buchsbaum
Jordan Chalfant
Claire Daniel
Bronwen Day
Thomas Delaittre
Leah Rae Donahue
Roberta Flynn
Ellen Gellerstedt
Julie Havener
Susan Hayward
Tom Hayward
Christiaan van Heerden
Sandra Henderson
Ellie Jackson
Barbara Knowles
Helen Koch
Anne Kozak
Marci Lash
Andrea Lepcio
Jim Linnane

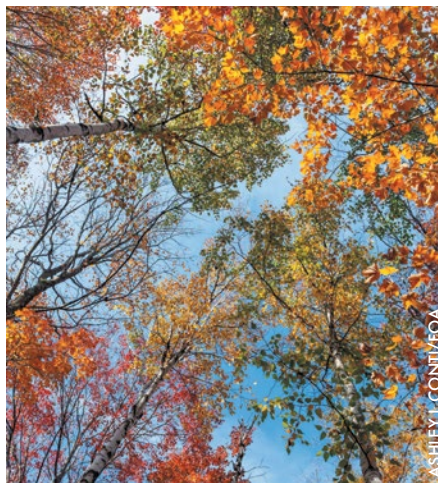
Suzanne Manger
Betty Massie
Chloe Meyer
Larry Mobraaten
Phyllis Mobraaten
Cora Olgay
Kathy Olson
David Opdyke
Mary Opdyke
Carole Puglisi
Jack Putnam
Sam Putnam
Ann Rappaport
Alan Rosenquist
Barbara Roth
Roberta Sharp
Roberta Sprague
Charlotte Stetson
Sandy Swinburne
Barbara Tennent
Sari Thomas
Raymond Turner
Karen Zimmermann
J.C. Camelio

MEMBERSHIP TABLE VOLUNTEERS

June 1 - August 31, 2023

Pamela Bowie
Jill Brown
Todd Brown
Eileen Curcio
Leticia Davis
Peg Emple
Thayer Fanazick
Donna Gaines
Mary Galperin
Phil Galperin
Marshall Ginn
Bob Hartley
Winifred Hentschel
Andrea Miller

Nick Miller
Georgia Munsell
Patricia Pugh
Alan Rosenquist
Barbara Roth
Victor Roth
Judy Rynkiewicz
Tim Schorer
LeRoy Tabb
Marsha Tabb
Linda Tschoepe
Sara Yeterian
Diane Zito
Frank Zito



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Updates

Acadia Welcomes Two New Leaders to the Team

Acadia National Park has six divisions, and each is overseen by a chief who reports to the deputy superintendent and, ultimately, the superintendent of the park. (It was five divisions, but a new Project Management division was added this year). The divisions are Administration, Visitor Experience & Education, Maintenance, Resource Management, Project Management, and Visitor and Resource Protection.



Joy Absher Is the New Chief of Visitor Experience and Education

Joy Absher joined Acadia National Park as the new Chief of Visitor Experience and Education officially in September. She comes to Acadia from the Visitor Services Manager role for Eastern Massachusetts

National Wildlife Refuge Complex, managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

“Joy’s wide range of experiences and deep understanding of how to engage with visitors, youth, and community members will serve her well at Acadia,” said Superintendent Kevin Schneider.

The Chief of Visitor Experience and Education works with staff and partners to oversee Acadia’s visitor center operations; digital and interpretive media such as the park website, social media accounts, exhibits, signs, and waysides; education programs such as the Schoodic Education Adventure; and ranger-led walks and talks.



Matt Outhier Selected as Chief of Project Management

Matt Outhier is the first-ever Chief of Project Management at Acadia National Park.

The Chief of Project Management will support Acadia’s growing need for planning and project management

related to construction and cultural resource preservation. The division will support park projects from project planning to project completion: providing comprehensive project oversight.

“Matt’s experience and passion for this work is critical as we stand up a new division here at Acadia,” said Schneider in making the announcement. “We know he is up for the challenge and are excited to see Matt lead this new division to many successes here at the park.”

Matt Outhier is a registered civil engineer in the state of California. He started his engineering and project management career 20 years ago and has experience working in the private sector throughout southern and central California, southern Utah, and Nevada. Outhier joined the federal service in 2018 as a civil engineer in the Design & Engineering Branch at Yosemite National Park. During his time in Yosemite, he also served as the park’s land surveyor and is currently the acting chief of the design and engineering branch.

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Preserving and Protecting Our Acadia for Generations to Come

This year, another generation of my family came to Acadia for the first time. My oldest son brought our grandson to visit, and they climbed the same hills my wife Donna and I climbed decades ago—also with a baby in a backpack.

Donna and I first visited Acadia when she was pregnant with our youngest, now 29 years ago. As our three sons grew up, they hiked every trail in the park and got to know it well. For me, spending my summer in such a special place continues to be the highlight of my year, especially when the next generation visits.

As I step into the role of Board Chair for Friends of Acadia—and the big shoes left by former Chair Jack Kelley—I'm keenly aware of how we each came to know Acadia by unique introductions, and how, in turn, we recognize our responsibility for stewarding and protecting it.

I'm grateful to the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors for their confidence in me, and for the opportunity to work closely with Acadia National Park and with each of you—our members and Friends—to serve this place we love.

Over the last two years, I've watched Jack Kelley lead our board as we selected a new CEO, Eric Stiles, and set ourselves up for many years of success. We took a serious look at the seasonal housing issue and helped start real, tangible progress toward addressing it, and we developed the Acadia for All Task Force to help us address our diversity goals.

Friends of Acadia is now a nationally recognized leader among national park friends groups. As I look forward to what lies ahead, I do so knowing that Friends of Acadia has successfully addressed many challenges in the past—and we haven't done that alone.

Our work is deeply collaborative, and our successes are a testament to our partnerships with the park and other community organizations, and with our dedicated volunteers and supporters.

In the months and years ahead, we'll face new challenges.

In the near term, we must press forward and address the seasonal workforce housing challenge. We must continue to address the congestion challenges that flow from our park's growing popularity. The Acadia Gateway Center, which broke ground in May, will offer a big step forward, helping to support the Island Explorer bus system.

And we'll face even bigger challenges as we continue to partner with the park and our friends at the Schoodic Institute to address the effects of climate change with forward-thinking climate-smart restoration.

I look forward to working with each and every one of you to help write the next great chapter for our park. Working together—with passion, planning, and persistence—we will create a future that allows generations to come to enjoy Acadia as we have.

Acadia deserves nothing less.



—Bill Eacho

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



"Our work is deeply collaborative, and our successes are a testament to our partnerships with the park and other community organizations, and with our dedicated volunteers and supporters."



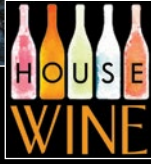
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ANSWERS to STEWARDSHIP TOOLS & TERMS IQ Quiz on page 42

1. Pulaski. Invented by Edward Crockett Pulaski in 1911 as a wildland firefighting tool, the "Pulaski" combines an axe chopping edge and an adze digging edge atop a straight handle with a flared end to assist chopping.
2. Brushing Out. It describes clearing a trail of brush. Brushing in refers to filling in a social trail with brush.
3. Trick question—it's both! In Acadia, coping stones like these, which line the downhill edges of the carriage roads, are lovingly referred to as "Rockefeller's Teeth."

Updates

AYCC Wraps Up a Season of Hard and Rewarding Work



This year's Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) worked hard with multiple divisions of Acadia National Park, gaining conservation skills and meaningful friendships along the way.

The program welcomed 12 high schoolers from across the country who spent eight weeks rebuilding trails, monitoring water quality, crushing rocks, and so much more. They were led by AYCC Coordinator Eric Lobel, and Crew Leaders Jen Vanegas Gonzalez, Carlyle Grundon, and Gondica Stryker, who was also an American Conservation Experience (ACE) intern.

Some highlights include replacing 120 feet of bogwalk on the Giant Slide Trail, installing 21 checks on Cadillac

North Ridge Trail, building 16-foot cribs on the Beech Mountain Loop Trail, and collecting 43 bags of garbage from the beaches on Isle au Haut.

Corps members also revegetated the Jordan Pond House vista with 300+ plants and hiked 558 pounds of soil to the summits of Penobscot and Sargent Mountains for vegetation restoration projects!

"It was the most fun and rewarding summer of my life," said AYCC member Ava Hoff, 16.

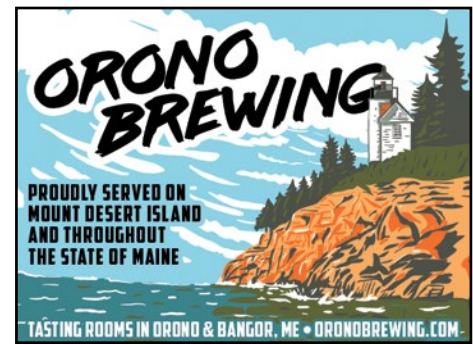
Scan the QR code or visit friendsofacadia.org to read more about the incredible 2023 AYCC crew.



AYCC



FRONT ROW, L-R: Erica Lobel (AYCC Coordinator), Jayden Cata, Elise Patton, Ava Hoff, Samantha Wysoc-ki, Jen Vanegas Gonzalez (Crew Leader). **BACK ROW, L-R:** Gondica Strykers (NPS Academy ACE Intern/Crew Leader), Eli Falatko, Tyler Reed, Matt Egelberg (Youth Leader), Alina Holliday, Caroline Ruof, Link Swaney, Carlyle Grundon (Crew Leader). **NOTE:** Two AYCC participants not pictured are Sanjit Borle and Jemima Fitzpatrick.



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An aerial photograph of Hunters Beach, showing a rocky shoreline with a mix of grey, brown, and reddish stones. The beach is bordered by dense green forest on both sides. A small stream or brook flows into the beach from the top left. The water is dark and calm.

MY ACADIA DISCOVERING "BIG" HUNTERS BEACH

COURTESY WILL GREENE

BY SUSAN WIDER



It was our annual two weeks in Maine, a chance for Mother to get back to her roots and for me to have a work break in a gorgeous place. Mother's mobility was limited, so most days I would hike alone in the morning and then take her for a drive in the afternoon. Schoodic, Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Great Head,

wherever she wanted.

One day we were driving the Park Loop Road after a visit to Little Hunters Beach. Mother could manage that one since there were wooden stairs with a railing to get down to the beach and nice rocks and logs to sit on once there. We were headed toward Jordan Pond House when I saw a parking area I hadn't stopped at before. I hated to drive by and leave it undiscovered.

Hunters Beach.

Did that mean there was a Little Hunters and another Hunters? We had to investigate.

The trail was beautifully flat for Mother and included a lovely path through the trees along Hunters Brook. Until we had to cross it. And she couldn't. I heard the surf up ahead and knew we were nearly there. I looked for a safe crossing spot, but the rocks were wet and slippery with nothing for Mother to hold onto apart from me. I imagined us both taking painful tumbles.

Somehow, we made it to the beach, but I hated seeing her have to crawl across the rocks, getting quite wet in late October. Her joy in making it to the beach was worth it, but I was already worrying about the return.

In the moment, I did think about asking a ranger how to make a donation to help support a bridge of some kind, but like so many impromptu plans, life got in the way. It wasn't until many years later, after Mother's death, that I circled back to the idea. The fall 2021 issue of *Acadia* magazine had an article about a perfect little bridge on the Jordan Pond Trail. Seeing that photo brought back my desire to help hikers and Acadia lovers like Mother.

That brings us to today, when my husband and I are working with Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park on a gift in memory of my mother to help provide an improved route for all who want to cross. ■

Note: If you are interested in helping the effort, please contact Lisa Horsch Clark at Friends of Acadia at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

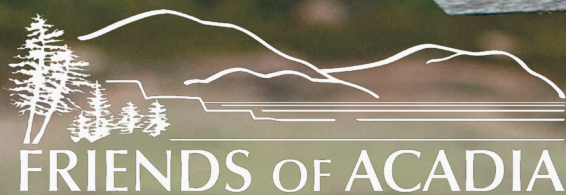
SUSAN WIDER is the daughter of a Mainer-to-the-core mother and a lobster-afficionado father. She is also the author of *It's My Whole Life: Charlotte Salomon, An Artist in Hiding during World War II*, (W.W. Norton & Co. 2022) winner of the National Jewish Book Award for Young Adult Literature.



ABOVE: An aerial view of Hunters Beach.
RIGHT: Susan Wider's mother poses for a fall photo in Acadia.

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MUSHROOMS GROW
on a moss-covered
tree trunk off the
Jordan Cliffs Trail.

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