

ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal FALL 2021

STORY BEHIND THE STORM

MANAGING CLIMATE CHANGE

A RECORD YEAR

KEEPING VISITORS SAFE
AND PROTECTING THE PARK

SCHOODIC AS MUSE

ARTISTS INTERPRET NATURE

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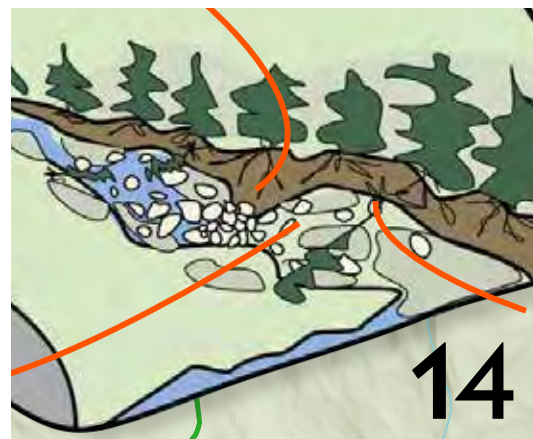
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IN THIS ISSUE



FEATURES

- 6 CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION VISITS ACADIA TO DISCUSS CLIMATE CHANGE** *By Lori Schaefer*
- 9 REFLECTIONS** A Look at Fall from Our Members' Perspectives
- 12 FROM SUMMIT STEWARD TO SEASONAL RANGER** Sierra Frisbie is on a Mission *By Julia Walker Thomas*
- 14 THE STORY BEHIND THE STORM** Managing Climate Change in Acadia is Tougher Than It Sounds *By Rebecca Cole-Will*
- 18 SCHOODIC AS MUSE** Schoodic Point Casts a Mighty Spell on Artists *By Carl Little*
- 22 WOMEN OF ACADIA THEN AND NOW** The Power of Storytelling *By Lynn Fantom*
- 26 ACADIA IS ON TRACK FOR A RECORD YEAR** Keeping Visitors Safe and Protecting the Park *By Lori Schaefer*
- 30 OUTDOOR LEARNING CONTINUES TO HELP TEACHERS AND STUDENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC** *By Paige Steele*
- 34 STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER PROGRAM ADAPTS DURING PANDEMIC** *By Paige Steele*

PERSPECTIVES

- 5 President's Message** *Defending Acadia Against Industrial-Scale Aquaculture*
- 7 Superintendent's View** *Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System is a Key Tool in Record Visitation Year*
- 8 Donors Rally for the Park** *Helping Acadia Become Climate Friendly and Energy Smart*
- 24 William Blair & Company** *A Trusted Partner in Philanthropy*
- 43 Chair's Letter** *Continuing the Legacy with an Eye on Today's Pressing Challenges*
- 44 Our Acadia** *Brenda Beckett and Howie Motenko*

DEPARTMENTS

- 3** Where Around Acadia?
- 29** New Members
- 31** Donor Profile
- 33** Capturing the Moment
- 36** Updates
- 42** Special People, Laura and Vassar Pierce

page 25



ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

FALL 2021

Volume 26 No. 4

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 four times a year. Submissions and letters are welcome.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Autumn gold reflections in Acadia National Park.

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WILL O. GREENE/FOA

WHERE AROUND ACADIA?

One of our favorite locations for a paddling experience that is both salty and fresh. Many members and friends enjoy a fall canoe or kayak trip here in search of a beloved Thanksgiving side dish—you won't find it in a can, though.

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

READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IS IT?"



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Thanks to all readers who responded to our "Where in Acadia?" question in the summer magazine and correctly identified the location as Jordan Pond Trail. Everyone who responded identified this iconic spot with their own unique twist. Here are a few of the responses.

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!

**"While I will always cherish this Maine gem,
it's always a little painful being there without her."**

—Tom Aceto, Yarmouth, ME

This is the North end of Jordan Pond. The five mountains are Pemetic, Penobscot, North Bubble, South Bubble, Sargent.

—Tom and Susan Hayward, Beech Hill, ME

This is a bridge at the north end of Jordan Pond. Take a seat and enjoy a great view of Jordan Pond House across the water. I often backtrack from the bridge to climb the South Bubble Trail, an interesting rock scramble to the top.

—Greg Karl, Victor, NY

The photo on page 3 of the summer 2021 journal is along the Jordan Pond Trail at the end opposite the Jordan Pond House. I've crossed this many times with my wife Becky who I lost to cancer in Dec 2017. Hiking and biking Acadia were always a favorite for us...very fond memories. I've been back several times since her passing and, while I will always cherish this Maine gem, it's always a little painful being there without her. She will always be my inspiration to continue doing the things she and I loved to do together.

—Tom Aceto, Yarmouth, ME

Hi! We are Henry (age six) and Maggie (age four) from Salt Lake City, UT, and here we are on the footbridge halfway through the Jordan Pond loop trail on July 24th. We stopped for a minute to rest.

Our family has a summer home in Lamoine, and we are the 7th generation to enjoy beautiful Mount Desert Island/Acadia and all it has to offer.

—Kathy Newton, Henry and Maggie's grandmother



COURTESY KATHY NEWTON

Defending Acadia Against Industrial-Scale Aquaculture

For more than a century, landowners, community members, and park partners have worked together to preserve the lands and waters that define Acadia National Park. We are blessed by their foresight, and we experience their gifts daily: dramatic coastal scenery, clean water, recreation on the historic trails and carriage roads, dark night skies, and the opportunity to restore ourselves in nature.

Friends of Acadia strongly believes that these assets that define our region are imperiled by the proposal from American Aquafarms to construct two 60-acre salmon farms near Bald Rock and Long Porcupine Island in Frenchman Bay. At approximately the size of fifteen football fields, the farms would be an industrial use at unprecedented scale and reliant on unproven technology.

The proposal aims to raise 66 million pounds of salmon each year, contributing significant amounts of new nutrient pollution to the Bay. Each farm would have five diesel-powered 500-kw generators running continuously to keep water flushing through the pens—up to 6,200 Olympic-sized swimming pools of water being pumped through each site daily.

The pens and associated barges and infrastructure would be highly visible from Acadia's hiking trails, carriage roads, and Park Loop Road, as well as from the Cadillac Summit Road, which are all on the National Register of Historic Places.

It is not only scenic viewsheds and soundscapes at risk. Acadia is a Class 1 area under the Clean Air Act, meaning the park is designated to receive the highest level of protection against air pollution and haze.

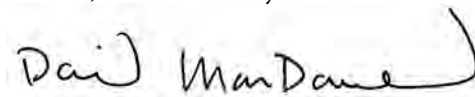
All of these designations are a testament to the special nature of Acadia National Park and Frenchman Bay. And together they help make this region an economic powerhouse, with the draw of the park contributing over \$511 million to the economy and supporting more than 5,400 jobs.

Friends of Acadia stands together with the National Park Service, Frenchman Bay United, area fishermen, local municipalities and businesses, and other stakeholders in asking state and federal regulators to put a halt to this ill-conceived proposal. We are bringing our case to elected officials in Augusta and Washington and seeking intervenor status as soon as final applications are filed.

This is not about opposing aquaculture as an industry. Frenchman Bay has a long history of small-scale aquaculture operations that live in harmony with traditional uses of the Bay. Adding two 60-acre permanently fixed salmon farms within a bay that means so much to so many, however, would surely destroy these long-standing traditions of living in balance with each other and the bay, stewarding the natural resource, and supporting local livelihoods.

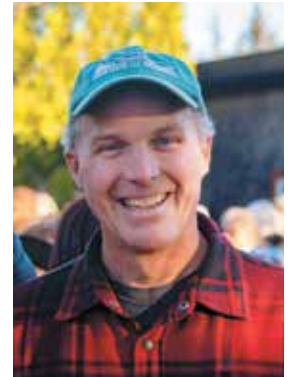
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Maine Departments of Marine Resources and Environmental Protection face a weighty permitting decision that will directly affect Acadia's scenic vistas, clean air, and natural soundscapes for the twenty-year permitted span of the leases, and potentially beyond if the farms are established, licenses later renewed and potentially expanded.

We urge all who share our concerns to add your voice to the groundswell of opposition; please visit our website at www.friendsofacadia.org for additional updates, resources, and opportunities for public comment on the proposal. We owe it to all of those who worked so hard before us and all of those who will follow in future years when places like Frenchman Bay will be that much more rare, valuable, and treasured by all.



—David MacDonald

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"We owe it to all of those who worked so hard before us and all of those who will follow in future years when places like Frenchman Bay will be that much more rare, valuable, and treasured by all."



JULIA WALKER THOMAS / FOA

MORE THAN 125 commercial and recreational boaters participated in a "Save the Bay" flotilla in Frenchman Bay on August 29 to protest American Aquafarms' proposed salmon pens.



Left: Brian Henkel, Friends of Acadia Wild Acadia Project Coordinator, talks with members of the U.S. House of Representatives and the media about the impacts of climate change in Acadia. Right: U.S. Representative Chellie Pingree (ME) talks with park staff during Acadia's climate change tour.

Congressional Delegation Visits Acadia to Discuss Climate Change

BY LORI SCHAEFER

A delegation from the U.S. House of Representatives Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition visited Acadia National Park in September to explore issues surrounding climate change.

U.S. Representatives Chellie Pingree (ME), Mike Quigley (IL), Nanette Barragan (CA), and Annie Kuster (NH), as well as several congressional staff members, spent three days engaging with scientists and resource managers from the National Park Service, Friends of Acadia, Schoodic Institute, and others about the scope and severity of climate change at Acadia. As they visited the Schoodic Peninsula, Sieur de Monts, Thunder Hole, Jordan Pond, and Cadillac Mountain, they learned about the forward-thinking adaption and management strategies being piloted at Acadia, and how Congress could help.

"The visit was an opportunity to highlight some of the great climate change work our team at Acadia is doing in partnership with Friends of Acadia and the Schoodic Institute," said Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. "National Parks are the most iconic landscapes in America, and yet they are also some of the places where the impacts of climate change are most visible—whether it is carriage roads that are destroyed by intense rainstorms or rapidly shrinking glaciers in Glacier National Park. We were honored they chose to visit Acadia and appreciate Representative Pingree for helping bring them here."

Friends of Acadia's President and CEO David MacDonald and Wild Acadia Coordinator Brian Henkel were among those who participated in the tour, highlighting the importance of the partnership and showcasing our work to pilot on-the-ground

restoration projects at Bass Harbor Marsh, Great Meadow, and Cadillac Mountain, through the Wild Acadia initiative.

Representative Quigley is Vice Chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition and the visit to Acadia was his sixth climate change tour visit to a national park. In a letter to National Park Service Deputy Director Shawn Bengé, Quigley said: "Our time at Acadia provided us with deeper insight into the problems we're experiencing and gave us a glimpse into what is being done now, as well as what can be done in the future to mitigate the worst of its effects."

"Our three days exploring the park and interacting with National Park Service [NPS] staff, and the teams at the Schoodic Institute and Friends of Acadia, further underscored our commitment to meeting the challenge of climate change around the world and strengthened our resolve to take concrete action as we return to Congress. It is vital that Congress works to give the NPS the tools and resources it needs to continue its conservation and research missions," he concluded.

Friends of Acadia is working with the Schoodic Institute and National Park Service on a communications plan for Wild Acadia. Congressional relations will be a key component of this work to ensure that Acadia National Park secures adequate funding for resource management projects. The visit by the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition was a positive step in advancing this goal. ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System is a Key Tool in Record Visitation Year

As I write over Labor Day Weekend, I can't help but reflect on this past summer at Acadia National Park. Although we still have four months remaining, it is clear that 2021 will go down as the busiest in Acadia's history.

Since October of last year, we have set visitation records each month—*every single month* for the last 10 has been the busiest of that month on record. What really drives Acadia's visitation for the calendar year is summer, and visitation in June surged 45% compared to the pre-pandemic average. In July and August, our visitation was up nearly 10%. Being "only" up almost 10% in July and August is likely a reflection of reaching the area's lodging capacity. Almost every bed within a reasonable drive of the park was likely filled.

Thankfully, we instituted a vehicle reservation system this summer for Cadillac Mountain, beginning May 26 and running through Oct. 19. Although there remains some opportunity for improvements, I am really proud of how well our team did in making it come to fruition. We are very grateful to Friends of Acadia for their support in funding the redesign of the base of Cadillac Mountain, along with gravel and paving supplies and the electrical connections so that we could process vehicle reservations. Friends of Acadia has also been instrumental in helping the park communicate to visitors about the reservation system.

With overflowing parking lots at Jordan Pond, Bass Harbor Head Light, and Sand Beach, the irony of this summer is that the one place we could promise visitors they would find parking was at Cadillac Mountain—assuming they had a reservation. The vehicle reservation system has dramatically improved the experience for our visitors at Cadillac, as indicated by the comments on the recreation.gov website.

I had the honor this summer of testifying about Acadia's efforts to manage congestion before the Senate's Subcommittee on National Parks, chaired by Maine's own Senator Angus King. Vehicle reservation systems are increasingly being used at other parks to address congestion, and this summer, Glacier, Rocky Mountain, Zion, and Yosemite National Parks all used some form of a vehicle reservation system. Preserving the high-quality experience that national parks offer is critical, and we can all learn from one another as we try to craft solutions.

In addition to high levels of visitation, we have also seen a record number of rescues this summer. Through August, rescues in the park are up by 85% compared with 2019. A "simple" carry-out of a visitor with an injured ankle can take as many as 25 people to coordinate. This quickly consumes our staff, including law enforcement rangers, maintenance workers, fee collectors, interpretive rangers, and anyone else who can help. On busy days it is not unusual for two or even three incidents to occur simultaneously. Because of the number of people needed, we depend on the all-volunteer team of MDI Search and Rescue to help, and sincerely appreciate them giving their precious time.

Despite the increasing number of people visiting Acadia, and the congestion that may be felt trying to find a place to park, I also reflect on my many personal experiences in the park this summer, including running and bicycling on the carriage roads, hiking the trails, picnicking at Seawall, and family camping at Isle au Haut.

Acadia remains a treasure, and it is no surprise that so many people want to be inspired by it and enjoy it just like I do.



—Kevin Schneider

SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



"With overflowing parking lots at Jordan Pond, Bass Harbor Head Light, and Sand Beach, the irony of this summer is that the one place we could promise visitors they would find parking was at Cadillac Mountain—assuming they had a reservation."



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

PARK VISITORS watch as the rising sun illuminates foggy Porcupine Islands from Cadillac Mountain.

Friends of Acadia Donors Rally for the Park

BY LORI SCHAEFER

This year friends stepped up in record numbers to support Acadia National Park by participating in the Friends of Acadia's 32nd Annual Benefit, raising \$500,000 through the silent auction, live auction, and paddle raise.

This was the second benefit held virtually due to the lingering COVID-19 pandemic, and Friends of Acadia was honored by the generosity of all those who joined to help preserve and sustain this very special place.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who

rallied for Acadia and helped to make our second virtual benefit a resounding success," said David MacDonald, President and CEO of Friends of Acadia. "Thank you to the Benefit Committee led by co-chairs Laura and Vassar Pierce, to our lead sponsor Chilton Trust, and all bidders and donors. We're particularly excited about the new Greening Acadia fund to help accelerate the park's efforts to implement sustainable operations and reduce emissions, ensuring that Acadia is continuously improving its environmental performance."

Helping Acadia Become Climate Friendly and Energy Smart

BY LORI SCHAEFER

Adding solar panels on park buildings. Converting National Park Service vehicles, lawnmowers, chainsaws, and weed whips from gas-powered to electric. Installing more electric charging stations for both park service and visitor use. Looking into the feasibility of introducing electric buses to the Island Explorer bus service.

These efforts aimed at reducing Acadia's carbon footprint and emissions inspired Friends of Acadia donors to give more than \$330,000 to Greening Acadia—a new fund jumpstarted by this year's paddle raise at the Friends of Acadia 32nd Annual Benefit. Donors at all levels made gifts ranging from \$10 to \$100,000.

"Ultimately, our goal is to empower Acadia to be strategic and forward-thinking regarding its sustainability efforts, using the Greening Acadia fund to spur new projects, while leveraging federal investments to make each Friends of Acadia dollar go further," said David MacDonald. "By working together, we can help mitigate the negative impacts of climate change and preserve the park for generations to come."

Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider said he appreciated Friends of Acadia partnership by stepping up to start the Greening Acadia fund through the Annual Benefit paddle raise. "A huge thank you to the donors who have already contributed to the Greening Acadia Fund," Schneider said. "Your support will help Acadia become more energy neutral and be an environmental leader. We're also fortunate to have other community partners like A Climate to Thrive serve as a resource on solarizing and electrifying as part of their mission to help MDI realize energy independence by 2030."

If you missed the 32nd Annual Virtual Benefit in August and are inspired to contribute to the Greening Acadia fund, you're in luck! You can still contribute to Greening Acadia via our online form at friendsofacadia.org/membership-giving/annual-benefit/paddle-raise. ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

REFLECTIONS

on water, colors, and autumn in Acadia

MARLENE HUBBARD



CORI LEEK

**A look at fall from
our members' perspectives...**



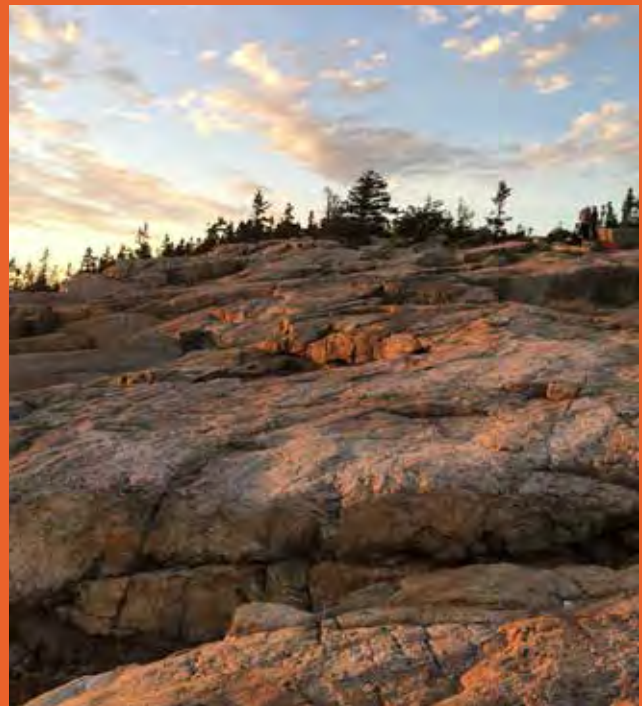
SHARON SABOL



BARBARA HARRIS



JANET BEARDSLEY



CAROL LEVIN

WE RECEIVED MORE THAN 40 PHOTOS FROM FRIENDS OF ACADIA MEMBERS WHO SHARED THEIR IMAGES FOR THIS SPECIAL SECTION.

THANK YOU! WE WISH WE COULD PRINT THEM ALL.



**"OF ALL THE SEASONS, AUTUMN
OFFERS THE MOST TO MAN AND
REQUIRES THE LEAST OF HIM."**

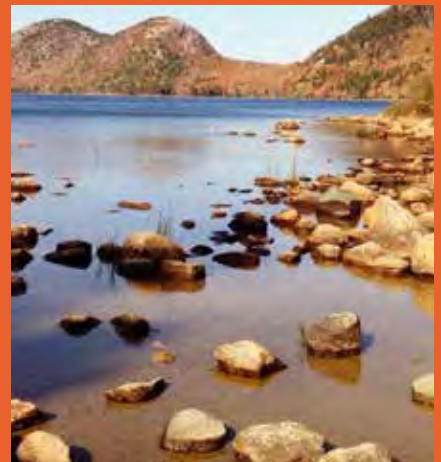
Hal Borland



GRANT MEAD



LIZ SILVA



KELLY L. MINITER

*"It was a beautiful bright
autumn day, with air like cider
and a sky so blue you could
drown in it."*

— Diana Gabaldon, Outlander



GAYLE VAN SUMMERN

A photograph of Sierra Frisbie, a woman with dark hair tied back, wearing a light blue surgical mask and a grey short-sleeved uniform shirt with a name tag and a park service patch. She is sitting at a wooden desk, looking at a computer monitor. A green jacket is hanging on the wall behind her. The background shows a window with a view of a rocky landscape.

*From Summit Steward
to Seasonal Ranger...*

Sierra Frisbie is on a Mission

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Sierra Frisbie works at her desk below the Hulls Cove Visitor Center.

Just before graduating from Bowdoin College in 2015 with degrees in Environmental Studies and Political Science and a minor in Education, Vermont native Sierra Frisbie knew she wanted to pursue work in the environmental field. But she wasn't sure where to begin.

As luck would have it, Frisbie saw a posting on the school's job board for seasonal positions with Friends of Acadia. She applied and was hired as a Cadillac Summit Steward in the program's pilot year.

After a season spent on the summit of Cadillac Mountain

The following spring, Frisbie joined Yosemite National Park as a seasonal ranger. She worked three summers as an interpretive ranger and a winter as a backcountry ranger patrolling on horseback. She has also worked on a Nature Conservancy partner ranch helping manage a conservation bison herd and spent a season as a ranger at Point Reyes National Seashore.

Frisbie believes her career came full circle when she returned to Acadia National Park this year—exactly five years after working for Friends of Acadia as a Summit Steward. She's currently a seasonal supervisor for Acadia's Visitor Experience

"To come back...and see some of the changes being implemented was a really cool experience."

answering visitor questions, conducting trail maintenance, repairing cairns, recording visitation patterns, and assisting park rangers, Frisbie decided she wanted to pursue a career with the National Park Service.

"For me, it clicked when I got to experience the challenge of public land management and stewarding these incredible cultural and natural resources, as well as promoting recreation and enjoyment of these places," Frisbie recalls. "I enjoyed the intersection of these things and that's what inspired me to pursue a career in the park service."

and Education division, where she provides guidance, training, and scheduling for seasonal interpretive rangers.

Working in Acadia again during the Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System's inaugural year makes Frisbie proud of the work that she and her teammates did as Summit Stewards—taking data points, recording visitation observations, and creating a report for the park that ultimately helped inform the Transportation Plan and new vehicle reservation system.

"To come back during the first year of the reservation system and see some of the changes being implemented was a really cool

experience,” Frisbie said. “You don’t often get to see results based on your work because change typically moves slowly. When I saw recommendations that our team had proposed being implemented, I felt like I had made a positive impact.”

Pursuing a permanent career with the National Park Service is Frisbie’s ultimate goal, but she’s also open to working in the private sector for a nonprofit that supports a park. “Of course, I would love to return to Acadia in a permanent position. You get to work and play in an incredible national park, but you also get to be a part of an island community, and that’s pretty special and something I definitely appreciate.” ■

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

SIERRA FRISBIE



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



Above: Frisbie (right) served as a horseback backcountry ranger in Yosemite National Park.
Below: Sierra Frisbie

Where are They Now?

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Friends of Acadia supports a variety of programs that prepare young people for future employment by giving them an opportunity to work directly with park staff for the betterment of Acadia, our natural resources, and visitor safety.

By supporting these high-quality internships, Friends of Acadia hopes to create life-long stewards of the environment, serve as a steppingstone for meaningful careers managing public lands, and bring the youth perspective to more of Acadia’s work.

Sierra Frisbie and these four former Friends of Acadia seasonal employees are all extraordinary stewards of our environment and our natural world at a time when we need it most.



Alexa Pezzano

Ridge Runner, 2007

Now: Schoodic Education Adventure Program Director, Acadia National Park

Working as a Ridge Runner provided me with direct interaction with National Park Service staff as well as the resources in Acadia. This opportunity motivated me to pursue a career in the National Park Service.



Will Newton

Acadia Digital Media Team Member, Summer 2018, Summer and Fall 2020

Now: Staff Photographer, The State of Arkansas Department of Parks, Heritage and Tourism

Friends of Acadia allowed me to combine my love for the outdoors, conservation, and digital media storytelling into one, all while pushing me to grow professionally. My time with FOA exceeded all of my expectations and I would not be in the position I am today if it weren’t for Friends of Acadia.



Mary Raikes

Ridge Runner, Summer 2007

Now: Assistant Land Steward, Maine Coast Heritage Trust

My experience as a Ridge Runner on the trails of Acadia National Park further cemented my love for the Maine coast. I gained a strong understanding of visitor management and resource protection, which I use on a daily basis in the position I hold now as a steward for conserved lands up and down the coast.



Alex DeLucia

Ridge Runner, Summer 2000

Now: Director of Trails & Recreation Management, Appalachian Mountain Club

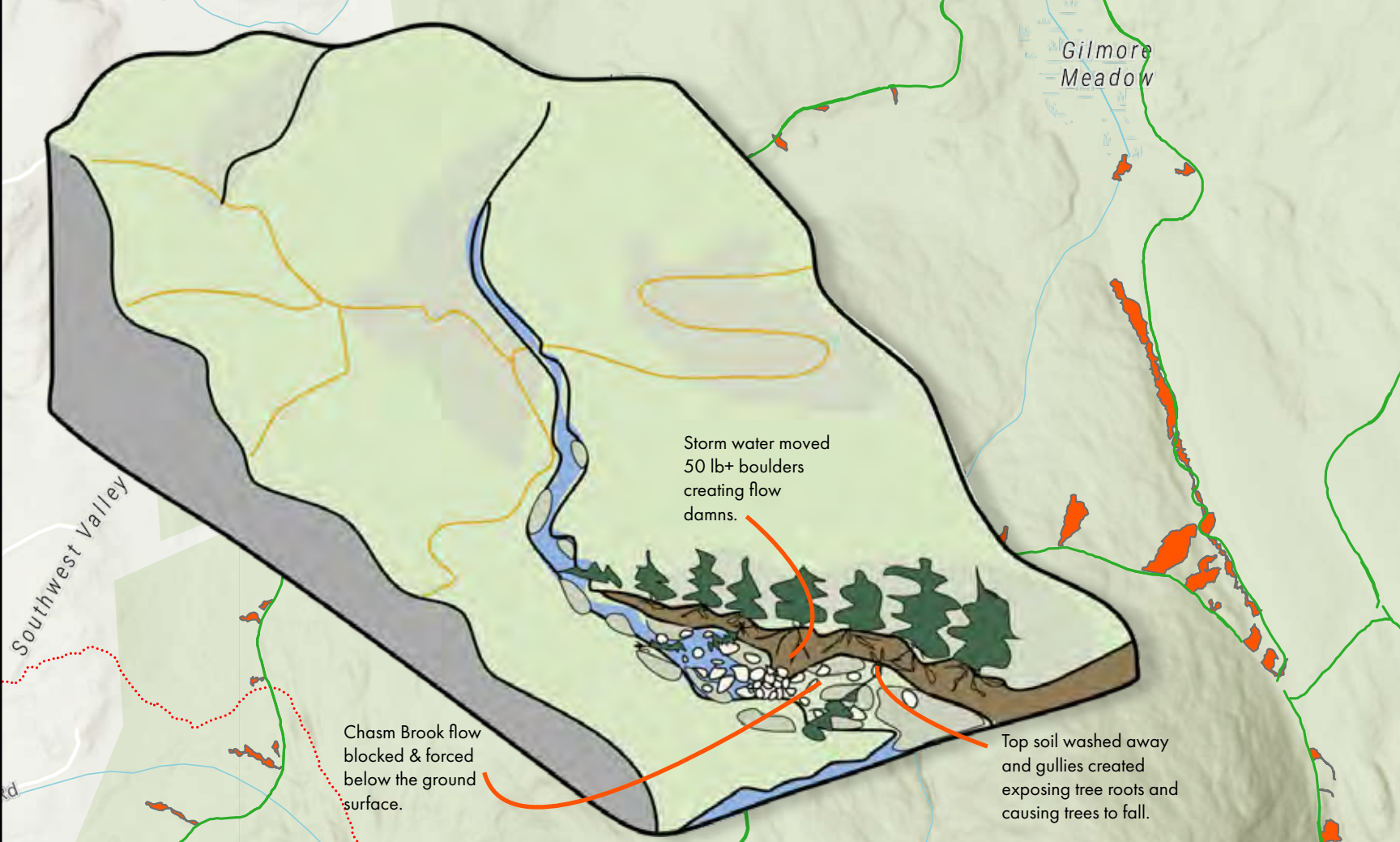
Prior to 2000 I was working mostly in the outdoor leadership field. The summer seasonal position with FOA as a Ridge Runner in Acadia was my first experience with visitor services and recreation management. That experience reset my trajectory and I looked for ways to combine outdoor leadership and recreation management. I landed in recreational trail management with the Appalachian Mountain Club and have been working with the AMC since 2001.

The Story Behind the **storm**

Managing Climate Change in Acadia is Tougher Than it Sounds



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



Opposite: Brian Henkel examines the damage to Chasm Brook near the Seven Bridges section of carriage road. Above: Illustration of effects of the storm waters which cut valleys in the loam layers, skimmed off and deposited massive amounts of carriage road gravel into the forests, moved rocks and boulders and exposed vulnerable tree roots along the way. Background image: Orange areas indicate damaged regions from the June storm.

BY REBECCA COLE-WILL

On a rainy Friday morning in early July, I joined Brian Henkel, Wild Acadia Coordinator for Friends of Acadia, Gail Gladstone, Acadia's Cultural Resource Manager and Bik Wheeler, Wildlife Biologist, as we cautiously drove a van behind the locked gate on the Eagle Lake Carriage Road. Our destination was the segment of carriage road that had been washed out in an unprecedented storm on June 9th. Our goal was to better understand the impact of the storm that led to the closure of approximately 10 miles of carriage road and how that damage further impacted the forests and streams below.

The storm had unleashed torrents of rain down the steep slopes of the Around the Mountain segment of Sargent Mountain. The raging water tore through carriage roads, overwhelmed ditches, and filled drains beyond capacity. Water flowing over the carriage roads eroded deep gouges and exposed the core materials of the carriage road base that hadn't seen the light of day in almost a century.

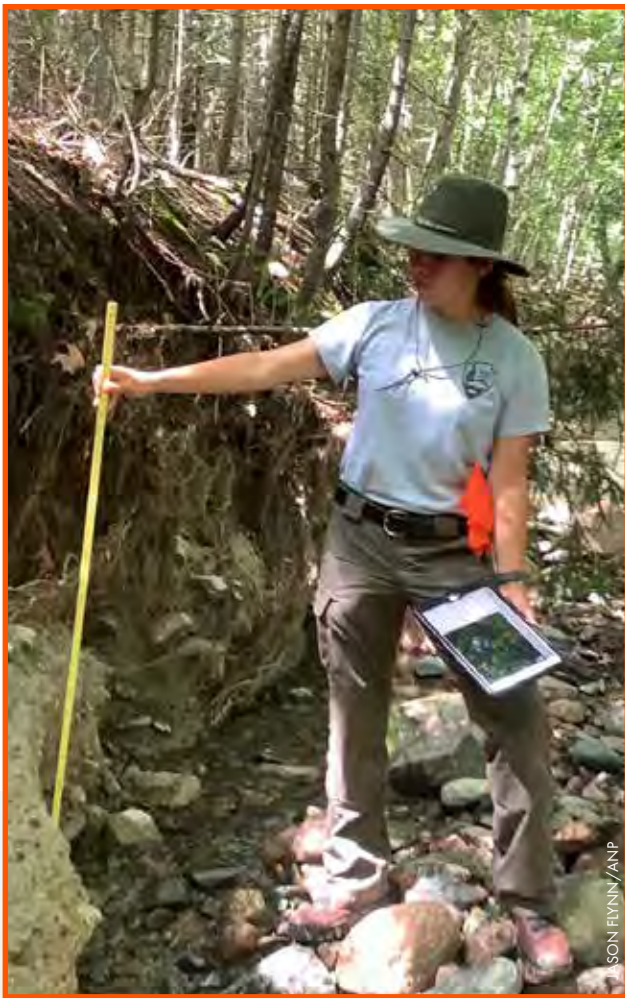
The park's facilities team responded quickly to assess the damage, estimate the cost of repairs, and obtain emergency funds

for repairs. By the time we walked the road, from the Seven Sisters Bridges area up and around the mountain, some lower sections had already been repaired so skillfully that you might not even realize they had been damaged.

But we were seeing other damage. All that carriage road mix of gravel, sand, and cobbles, along with roadside vegetation and soil was spread out into the forests, streams, and wetlands through which the carriage roads wend.

As we walked the roads and roamed into the surrounding forest, we were saddened and overwhelmed by the damage to the natural resources. "Deltas" of gravel covered expansive areas adjacent to streams, sealing off the ground vegetation. Open areas next to the roads where blueberries had thrived were now covered in gravel. Further down slope, the bedrock was scraped clean of vegetation and soils, soils which had developed over millennia. Cobble "end moraines" marked where the water torrents had finally dropped their load.

We saw where Chasm Brook had taken the brunt of the storm. Its banks were scoured and undercut, leaving tree roots exposed. In



Acadia's Physical Science Technician Erica Doody measures the depth of scour that occurred to a section of Chasm Brook.

areas adjacent to the streams, red spruce roots were exposed where virtually all the protective duff layer had been stripped away by the flow of water loaded with gravel. When forest ecologist Kate Miller saw the damage, she lamented, "Those trees are probably going to die."

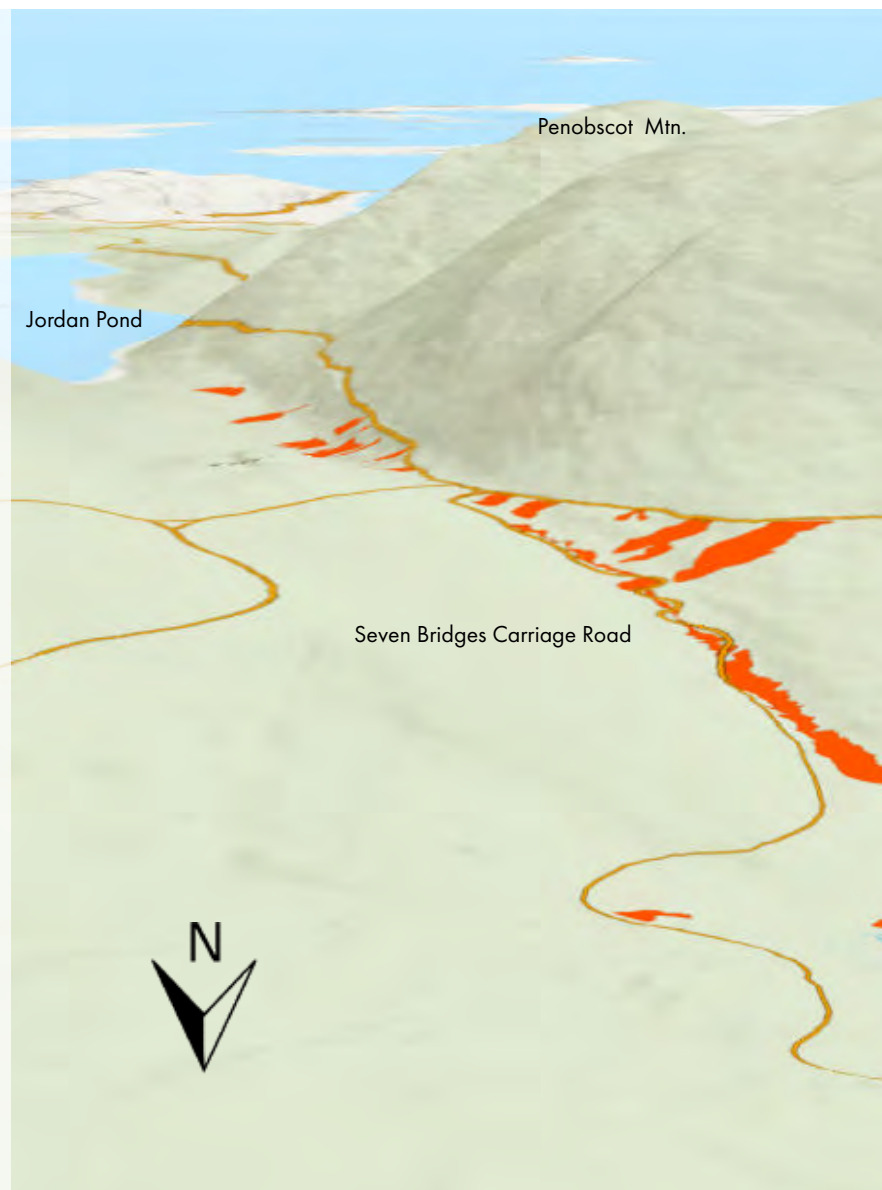
So, as we walked and mourned for the devastation, we also talked. What should we do? What could we do? Could the gravel burying the natural forest floor be safely removed? Should it remain in place in hopes that the landscape could heal itself? Can the soil layers be repaired to possibly save some of the trees? How will this affect the health of the downstream wetlands?

We met as an interdisciplinary team of resource managers to begin to figure this out. Karen Anderson, the park's geographical information specialist (GIS), built a mapping tool linked to a database of impacts. The resource teams pivoted from their normal seasonal work to begin an intensive and expansive field-mapping exercise, including staff and technicians from air and water, invasive plant management and wildlife programs, augmented by the Northeast Temperate Network forest inventory team, Schoodic Institute technicians, and Friends of Acadia staff.

The teams mapped the extent of impacts, almost 125,000 m² (roughly 10 acres) of deposition and eroded carriage road materials displaced into the environment. They identified the high priority resource areas near critical habitat that will need protection and consulted with technical experts in the National Park Service about future management needs.

The most sensitive resource areas are streams and wetlands. Bik Wheeler is concerned about the impact of altered water chemistry on herptiles, especially salamanders that are already under threat. Jesse Wheeler, botanist, recommends close monitoring of wetlands, some of the park's most sensitive resources. With sediments deposited into these areas, the threat of disturbance-loving invasive plants like cattails and purple loosestrife is increased.

In the short term, we will minimize impact to streams and wetlands by strategically installing some erosion fencing, to "stop the bleeding" as biologist Bill Gawley put it. We will apply for restoration funding to support the effort of our resource teams, and we will continue long-term monitoring to understand how the forests, streams, and wetlands respond.





DAN MCGIGSON/NPS



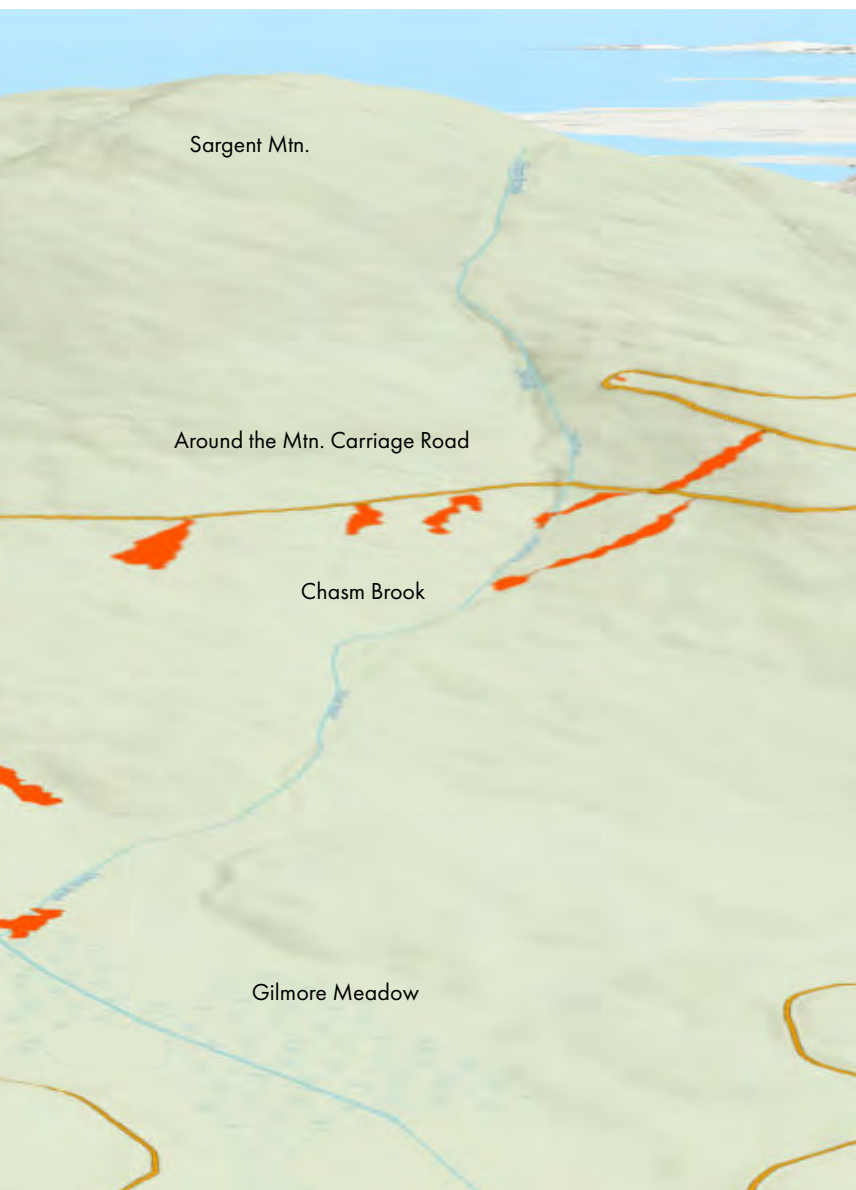
JASON FLYNN/ANP



JASON FLYNN/ANP



JASON FLYNN/ANP



Left: Water rushes down Railroad Brook near Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park during the June 9 storm. Top: Deposits of carriage road gravel fill the brook below the Seven Bridges area. Middle Left: Acadia National Park Resource Management staff prepare to collect field data for use in assessing the damage to the streams and forests from the storm. Middle Right: Acadia's Vegetation Biologist Jesse Wheeler measures the depth of scour to the stream bank. Bottom Left: GIS map shows the locations of wide-spread damage as indicated by the orange sections.

This is a climate-change story and how we respond and tell this story is central to our work now. We will use the understanding of what happened to build adaptive approaches for the future. This type of storm was unprecedented in the history of Acadia, but that is no longer the case. We have recognized, within our work with Wild Acadia that we are experiencing rapid environmental change. We can no longer look to the past as a guide for how to manage our natural resources. (See related story: Acadia's Changing Climate, pages 14-17, *Acadia* magazine, Summer 2021).

As we work to repair the damage both to the carriage roads and the natural environment, we'll need to look for solutions that best prepare Acadia for the changes we've already seen and those we expect in the coming decades.

This story most certainly is to be continued. ■

REBECCA COLE-WILL is the Chief of Resource Management for Acadia National Park.





Schoodic as Muse

Among the most painted places
in Maine, Schoodic Point casts
a mighty spell on artists

BY CARL LITTLE

In the late 1930s, painter Chenoweth Hall and her partner Miriam Colwell, from Prospect Harbor, befriended Marsden Hartley, the renowned American Modernist who was living what turned out to be his final years in nearby Corea. Hall and Colwell told Hartley authority Gail Scott that whenever a storm was brewing on the coast, they would pick up the painter, who didn't have a car, and drive him to Schoodic Point. He brought along no art supplies; he simply sat and watched as the waves leapt up over the rocks.

Hartley ended up painting several versions of the scene, each a vision of an ocean in turmoil. The most famous, *The Wave*, 1940-1941, earned a place in art historian and Mount Desert Island summer resident John Wilmerding's book *American Marine Painting*. Wilmerding described Hartley's wave as being "as substantial and monumental as a mountain."

Another Schoodic frequenter, artist Vincent Hartgen (1914-2002), found respite from academia on the point. When teaching took its toll—Hartgen ran the art department at the University of Maine in Orono—his wife Frances would chauffeur him to the coast where, sketchbook in hand, he would draw. His Schoodic drawings and watercolors are among his most brilliant.

Many artists before and after Hartley and Hartgen have found their muse at Schoodic. Indeed, when considering the most-painted spots in Maine, this Downeast eminence goes toe to toe with Monhegan, Stonington, Katahdin, and Portland Light.

Sarah Faragher, *Migration, Southwest of Schoodic, Maine*, 2017, oil on canvas, 40 by 60 inches



Stockton Springs resident Sarah Faragher, who was brought up in Bar Harbor, spent quality time at the point as an Acadia National Park artist-in-residence in 2015. “Schoodic feels like a scouring-out place, where nature is still wide open and wild,” she writes. “I love to be there, out on what feels like the edge of everything, participating in nature.”

Faragher takes a stylized approach to Schoodic motifs, softening the rocks and crashing surf. She evokes the change of seasons in *Migration Southwest of Schoodic* where geese form irregular patterns in the sky as they fly over low-lying islands.

Joel Babb, who lives in East Sumner in western Maine, remembers first seeing Schoodic from a sailboat on a cruise from Southwest Harbor up the coast to Cross Island off Cutler. “It seemed beautiful and unspoiled, a gateway to an unexplored part of Maine,” he recalls.

Babb finally returned to paint the place in 2006, at the tail end of a camping/painting trip to Mount Desert Island. “I was exhausted,” he recalls, “but decided to spend a day at Schoodic before going home.” Glad was he of that decision: he created one of his finest plein air paintings, which led to a full-scale oil two years later.



Top: Vincent Hartgen, *Nor’easter, Schoodic Point (Gnarled Juniper)*, 1992, pen and ink, University of Maine Museum of Art. Center: Joel Babb, *Schoodic Peninsula*, 2008, oil on linen, 27 by 45 inches, collection Tom and Mary Bigos. Bottom: Janice Anthony, *Schoodic Shore*, 2021, acrylic on linen, 19 by 38 inches



COURTESY COURTHOUSE GALLERY FINE ART, ELLSWORTH, MAINE



Marsden Hartley, *The Wave*, 1940-1941, oil on canvas, Worcester Art Museum

That first painting took about five hours, but the time, Babb says, “seemed to pass in an instant.” Afterwards, lying on the rocks, looking at clouds passing overhead, listening to the water “working away,” he felt as if he were riding the granite ledge into the distances. To his eye, the rocks “seemed to be quarried neatly by natural forces and tilted against the perfection of the horizon.”

From her home in Jackson in Maine’s midcoast, Janice Anthony visited Schoodic a number of times over the years with her family, part of their explorations of wild places in the state. They were impressed by the huge tides, expanses of rock and the ever-present horizon. More recently, they stayed at the Schoodic Woods Campground, just a few weeks after it opened in September 2015.

Anthony’s feelings about Schoodic align with Faragher’s and Babb’s. She loves its sense of “limitless space, of moving air and restless water, of mists and reflections” and how the colors intensify at the end of the day. Most meaningful of all is “the eternal presence of the underlying rock, defiant against the ocean waves, sheer cliffs standing unperturbed, and cobblestones moving and adapting like living beings to the flow of water.”

Those cobblestones are featured in several paintings, their rounded shapes spread out like some marvelous glowing gift from the sea. Alert while traversing them, Anthony hears the voice of her geologist mother “pointing out a basalt dike running through the granite ledges and the rarest wildflowers along the shore.”

All three painters look forward to future Schoodic encounters. Anthony seeks “an unheard conversation between strong forces that existed before me and will continue without me” while Faragher hopes to continue the relationships she is building there “with the ledges, lichen, spruce trees, and ocean.”

Babb’s attraction to what he calls “the end of the world” lies in how “the order and structure of the earth ends at the edge of something great and different and disorderly”—and, he might have added, eminently paintable. The lure of Schoodic is strong and timeless. ■

CARL LITTLE of Somesville recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his art writing from the Dorothea and Leo Rabkin Foundation.



With this feature, we continue our series recognizing women of Acadia, both past and present. Here we pair Acadia National Park Curator and Cultural Resources and Interpretation Liaison Marie Yarborough with Ardra Tarbell, who served in park administrative roles from 1930 to 1969. One treasure in the archives Yarborough oversees is an audio interview with Tarbell. Yarborough marvels at the juxtaposition of the “calm, lulling, deliberate, gendered-of-her-time voice” with the reality that Tarbell was a “powerhouse.”

Women of Acadia

THEN & NOW

The Power of Storytelling

THEN... Ardra Tarbell, Chief Clerk and Administrative Officer

Ardra Tarbell, a 25-year-old from Aroostook County, met George Dorr on her first day of work at Acadia National Park in 1930. That was the beginning of a close working relationship for the next 14 years. Tarbell’s business training and professional administrative skills helped ensure the stability of park operations during the early years of land transfers and challenging events of the Great Depression, World War II, and the Great Fire of 1947. Her lasting impact will be not only these administrative contributions but also her detailed and sensitive oral history of the time she served Acadia and worked in Bar Harbor.

NOW... Marie Yarborough, Curator of William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center, and Cultural Resources and Interpretation Liaison

BY LYNN FANTOM

Marie Yarborough’s summer jobs as a teenager—delivering newspapers, shelving library books, and welcoming guests at a museum café—foreshadowed her future as a cultural anthropologist and collections curator. Today she is still managing “repositories of knowledge”—and with the same passion of that girl back in suburban Connecticut.

“I always loved museums,” she says.

Acadia National Park’s collections give visitors a look into the natural and cultural history of Acadia, the Cranberry Isles, and Mount Desert Island, as well as the management of Acadia and the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site. Objects, photographs, and historic audio files help ignite the imagination.

Yarborough’s responsibilities as curator of the William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center range from protecting the collections to fielding research requests to handling special

projects. One minute she is checking mousetraps and humidity controls. The next finds her working with developers to create a virtual tour of George Dorr’s former estate, downloadable as an app, the first of a cultural site that Acadia ever produced. She also serves as cultural resources liaison to the park’s Division of Visitor Experience and Education.

That’s a lot of balls in the air—with a few under the leg and behind the back—but it’s not surprising for someone who is a researcher, mom, restaurant co-owner, and elected school board member.

Currently, some of Yarborough’s most compelling research focuses on Thomas Frazier, potentially the first documented free African-American who lived in Hancock County between 1774 and 1820 and served in the American Revolution. It’s a project she refers to as “Finding Private Frazier.”



Ardra Tarbell (left) with colleague Sylvia Cough

COURTESY ACADIA NATIONAL PARK



COURTESY CHRISTIE ANASTASIA/ANP

Yarborough's work today grows boldly from her academic studies. She earned her bachelor's degree from Wheaton College in Massachusetts, where she majored in Cultural Anthropology. At the time, she thought, "I don't know what the heck I'm going to do with this degree, but I'm going to study this because I love it." Later, she added a master's in New England and American Studies from the University of Southern Maine.

That commitment to learning required not only passion but some sacrifice. "I needed two jobs to pay for school," she says. "I would get my check and go directly to the bursar's office to sign it over."

Maybe that's why she is driven to learn more about "the underdog," as she says. She is bringing a new perspective to cultural history. "I want to tell stories at Acadia that are beyond those we tell over and over again, to include Native people, people of color, women, local people."

"You'd have no problem finding an article about George Dorr or Charles Eliot. You will be hard pressed to find content built around women and their roles in the founding of Acadia," she adds.

One of those stories is that of Ardra Tarbell. Near the end of her 39-year career with the National Park Service, Tarbell sat down in an office, with phones ringing and typewriters clicking in the background, to record her experiences with an unidentified interviewer who was particularly curious about George Dorr.

"That interview wasn't really about Ardra and about women and their roles. It was about George, but what can I glean from this?" asks Yarborough. "That's where we're at today."

From the serendipitous oral history told in a soft, steady voice with a distinct Maine accent, listeners hear a story of a young woman's self-determination and quiet ambition. For example, anticipating the impact of the Wall Street crash of 1929 on her burgeoning business career in Aroostook County, she hedged her bets by taking the federal civil service exam. It paid off in an offer to come to Acadia National Park.

Tarbell displays both touches of humor and masterful recall. From construction projects to staffing, she could peg events in time and cite specific titles of personnel according to payroll records.

Despite the interviewer's best attempts to zoom in on Dorr, the lens widened.

Today's National Park Service wants to offer a more meaningful experience to a wider range of visitors. Yarborough says, "All these people coming to Acadia now want to know how this park may be connected to them. They want to hear a different story." And she's ready to tell it. ■

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

William Blair & Company: A TRUSTED PARTNER IN PHILANTHROPY

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

Friends of Acadia has been fortunate to work with William Blair & Company as a partner in our fundraising success for the last three years. William Blair is an employee-owned wealth management firm whose mission centers on commitment and connection to the clients and communities they serve.

Their partnership with Friends of Acadia goes far beyond their support of the planned giving program. It includes the professional expertise we receive from Laura Coy, C.J. Young, and several other William Blair staff members as we work through complex financial changes that might impact donors at Friends of Acadia.

Recently they authored and shared a white paper entitled *Philanthropy in the Age of Constant Disruption*, focusing on trends that create new opportunities for donors to maximize their charitable impact. Divided into the six topic areas of Catalytic Capital, Moonshot Philanthropy, Advancing Equity, Collaboration and Philanthropy, Values-Based Investing, and Paving the Way for the Next Generation, it is a thoughtful and succinct view of the changing landscape of philanthropy.

One of the six areas, using catalytic capital, stood out. It encourages donors to not only share their monetary resources, but also their technical expertise (much like William Blair does!), networks and relationships, social media influence, and other innovative solutions to today's challenges as ways to help fulfill our mission.

Friends of Acadia currently has donors who are providing new technology to assist the park in helping to restore and maintain the historic carriage road bridges, others who are helping us explore adding electric buses in the park, and still others providing creative solutions to help solve the workforce housing issues facing the park and other employers

Their partnership with Friends of Acadia goes far beyond their support of the planned giving program.

on Mount Desert Island. These are all perfect examples of catalytic capital.

These nontraditional gifts are allowing Friends of Acadia to stretch our member dollars further in our quest to preserve and protect Acadia now and into the future.

For a copy of William Blair's *Philanthropy in the Age of Constant Disruption* or to discuss a planned gift to Friends of Acadia, contact me at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340. ■

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



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

Karen Eames, Barbara Cummings, and C.J. Young, all from the Boston office of William Blair & Company, join Lisa Horsch Clark (center) at a gathering in Northeast Harbor.

The 17th Annual George B. Dorr Society Celebration

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

At the end of July, members of the George B. Dorr Society for Planned Giving gathered with fellow members, park staff, and special guests via Zoom for the second year in a row due to the COVID pandemic. While we always enjoy our annual adventures—think carriage rides, boat trips, and garden parties—we wanted to be cautious and opted for a virtual event again this year.



The role of women in creating and maintaining Acadia is one of several “untold stories” that were highlighted.

Marie Yarborough, curator at Acadia National Park, gave us a unique, behind-the-scenes look at Acadia’s diverse collections. The William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center, named for the founder of the Islesford Historical Museum on Little Cranberry Island, houses natural

and cultural history collections, archival documents, and the administrative history of Acadia National Park and Saint Croix Island National Historic Site.

The collections are housed in a small facility, making an in-person visit with a large group impossible. Since our gathering was virtual, it was the perfect time to ask Marie to share the untold stories of the collection and some of her personal favorites.

The George B. Dorr Society recognizes members who have documented bequests or other estate gifts for Friends of Acadia in their financial 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 100 member families. The George B. Dorr Society and the planned giving program at FOA 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 at lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org or 207-288-3340. ■

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



SAWTELLE COLLECTION/ANP

Portrait of a Cranberry Isles woman, unnamed, n.d. Sawtelle Collection, Acadia National Park.



This model of a Cutter rigged with sails made from lined paper, is one of many intricate models handcrafted by Cranberry Island residents. Sawtelle Collection.



Marie's slide show
can be seen here:



GBD Video

Acadia on Track for a Record Year

Keeping Visitors Safe and Protecting the Park

BY LORI SCHAEFER

Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns called our national parks “a treasure house of superlatives—more than 80 million acres of the most stunning landscapes anyone has ever seen” when he testified before the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee earlier this year.

He’s right! And the COVID-19 pandemic has compelled people to spend more time outside in our parks and nature preserves than ever before. This brings benefits, and challenges.

Visitation has skyrocketed at some of the most popular national parks, including

Acadia National Park, which is on track to see a record four million visits this year according to Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. (See Superintendent’s Column on page 7 for more on Acadia’s visitation.)

While it is wonderful to see so many people enjoying all Acadia has to offer—from its breathtaking views and iconic landscapes to spectacular hiking and biking and its varied history and culture—more visitors also brings more vehicle traffic and congestion, more potential damage to the natural landscape, and more medical emergencies and rescues.

“Our job as park rangers is to help ensure that visitors have amazing experiences and do so safely,” said Acadia National Park Public Affairs Specialist Christie Anastasia. Reservation systems, like the Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System, help us manage vehicle congestion and ensure a positive

visitor experience. With increased visitation we also often see increased medical emergencies and rescues. This can put pressure on park resources.”

Search and Rescues Increase with Visitation

Acadia’s Chief Law Enforcement Ranger Thérèse Picard oversees the Visitor Resource Protection division, including all law enforcement in the park and emergency services.

According to Picard, the volume of people in the park correlates to more rescues. She said the park typically handles 24-27 rescues through August each year, but this year there were 50 rescues through August—about double.

Picard explained that each rescue can take anywhere from 13-50 people, which includes law enforcement rangers, other park staff, Friends of Acadia’s Summit Stewards, and volunteer first-responders from MDI Search and Rescue. (See sidebar for a typical day in the life of a Visitor Resource Protection ranger.)

Recreating Responsibly

It’s not just park staff and rangers who have had their hands full this year with so many visits and first-time visitors to Acadia. Friends of Acadia’s Summit Stewards assist park staff by answering visitor questions, conducting basic trail maintenance, repairing cairns, responding to emergencies, and educating visitors on Leave no Trace ethics.

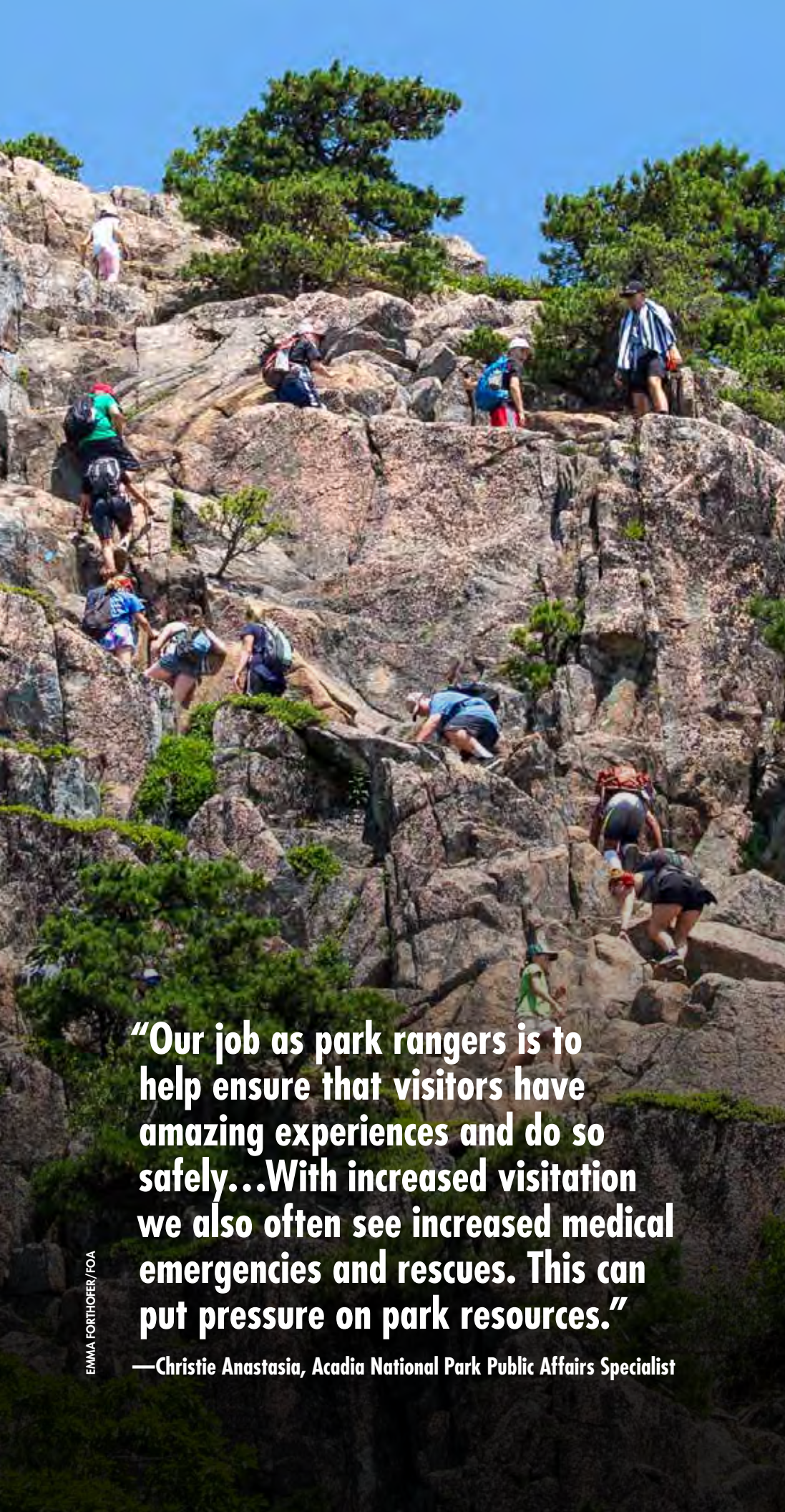
“Unfortunately, this year the impacts of visitor recreation on the trails are the worst I’ve seen in some time,” said Summit Steward Coordinator Stephanie Ley. “We’re seeing more social trails and trail widening, as well as both human and dog waste. This reinforces the importance of the Summit Stewards.”

According to Ley, whether it’s your first visit to Acadia or your 100th, you can protect the park by practicing proper trail etiquette and leaving no trace. Learn more at friendsofacadia.org/leavenotrace.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Park visitors walk through the rising tide to make it back from Bar Island to Bar Harbor.



HIKING SAFELY IN ACADIA

- All natural areas pose risk. Your safety depends on your own good judgement. Trip planning and preparation are key.
- Always carry water, a detailed trail map (cell phones do not always work in the park), and extra layers of clothing for unexpected weather. Wear sturdy, close-toed shoes.
- Maintained hiking trails are marked with Bates cairns (stone structures) and/or blue blazes (painted on rocks and tree trunks). Please do not add or remove rocks from the cairns so that other hikers can find their way.
- Hiking trail surfaces vary throughout the park. Use caution hiking in cold and wet conditions as granite and wooden surfaces are extremely slick or ice covered. Make sure you have the appropriate footwear for the terrain and season.
- Stay on the trail and step on rocks when possible. Off-trail hiking causes erosion and tramples fragile plant life, particularly rare subalpine plant species that grow near summits.
- Some trails cross private land. Please respect private property by remaining on trail.
- If you are hiking alone, especially in the winter, make sure someone knows your route and check in before and after your hike.

“Our job as park rangers is to help ensure that visitors have amazing experiences and do so safely...With increased visitation we also often see increased medical emergencies and rescues. This can put pressure on park resources.”

—Christie Anastasia, Acadia National Park Public Affairs Specialist

Left: Hikers climb up to the summit of Beehive on a warm afternoon.

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A VISITOR RESOURCE PROTECTION RANGER

Rescues on an August day in 2021

- A man crashed his bike on the carriage road near Parkman Mountain and was transported to the MDI emergency room.
- A small tree fell on an unoccupied car at Echo Lake. No one was hurt and damage to the vehicle was minimal.
- A 53-year-old female fell and hit her head on Ocean Path. She was transported by ambulance to the MDI emergency room.
- A 60-year-old male fell and hit his head at Thunder Hole. He was transported to the hospital by family members, along with a ranger escort.
- Assisting a 53-year-old female who fell on the rocks at Wonderland Trail and injured her head. Southwest Harbor Fire is also assisting.

In the same day park rangers also...

- Helped locate a lost cyclist and reunited him with his family.
- Reunited a second separated hiking group.
- Worked on illegal parking issues in the park to maintain free flowing traffic.
- Contacted visitors for speeding on the way down Cadillac Mountain and failing to stop at the sign at the base of the mountain.
- Escorted out of the park a visitor who ignored the check station at the base of Cadillac Mountain and continued up the mountain ("gate runner").
- Helped locate and hike out an individual unprepared to be out after dark on the Hemlock Trail.
- Responded to a visitor complaint about someone being nude in the park and handled a separate incident involving harassment.
- Assisted visitors with a vehicle lockout, battery jumpstart, and shuttle back to a car.
- Responded to six 911 calls including accidental misdials (e.g. pocket dials and/or smartwatches). Each misdial requires contacting the person by phone to verify there is not an emergency and sending a ranger to the area if the person cannot be reached to determine if there is an emergency.



Visiting When the Park is Busy

When Acadia is crowded, it's important to plan ahead and come prepared. The Acadia National Park website at nps.gov/acad is the best resource for information on park entrance passes, vehicle reservations, accessibility information, trail closures, and other alerts.

Visitors are also encouraged to have a plan B—especially during the pandemic—so that when trailheads or parking areas are full, they have a back-up plan. Visiting popular destinations or trails during off-peak times, such as early morning or later

afternoon, can also help. Finally, it's important to know your abilities and practice good hiking safety as suggested in the tips on this page.

With proper planning, visitors are more likely to have a great experience while enjoying this amazing natural resource and helping to protect it for future generations. ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Communications Director.

Acadia National Park rangers assist an injured hiker off South Bubble with the support of MDI Search and Rescue.



NEW MEMBERS

June 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021



Anonymous (4)
Susi Acord
Lesley and
Patrick Ainsworth
Donald Allen
Sharon Anderson
Frances Ansbro
Doug Atkin
Alanna Bachtlin
Aminda Stern Baird
and Ruth Stern
Susie Balthazor
Richard Barner
Lindsay Barth
Kathy and
Richard Beardsley
Jarly Bobadilla
Jean Bodine
Meredith Bove
Lisa Bowser
Steven Boyce
Dayna Bradstreet
Catherine and
Ernie Braue
Melissa Bremekamp
Andrew Bryant
Jean Buchenhurst
Debra Bumbaugh and
Jillaine Butler
Lois and
Chris Buschmann
Daniel Campbell
Melissa Cannon
Jocelyn and
John Capen

Jennifer Carlin
Elizabeth Carney
Karl Carter
Michael Carter
Sara and
Gregory Cary
Dorothy Jordan
Chadwick
Carol Chappell and
James O'Connell
Alexandra Cheng
Raymond Choban
Jennifer Ciardelli
Charles Cole
Pancho Cole
David Coleman
Joan Breton Connolly
Norman Cook
Bonnie Daidone
Meghan Dale
Chris Danaceau
Wendy and
Darryl DiBrigida
Henry Doherty
Mary Ann Dulude
Lisa Dunn
Jimmy Duong
Tricia and Brad Edgell
Catherine Ednie and
Samuel Dibella
Barat Ellman
Bruce Ellsworth
Richard Emmett
Jessica Faraci
Jan and James Fensom

Kathryn Feola
Joseph Ferlin
Amy and Gary Fitts
Weesie and Eric Floss
Tracy Frazee
Jenny Gardner
Rebecca Geib and
Dylan Brann
Rebecca Gibbs
Galia Gichon
Matt Gifford
Sallie Giordano
Andre Gonzalez
Cheyenne Gordon
Douglas Gorecki
Judy and Ken Grasso
Paula and
Richard Grayson
Mallory Griest
Tina Haluska
Janet and
Scott Harriman
Jessica Hawk
Jarrod Hayes
Kent Hein
Robert Hesslein
George Hofmann
Holbrook House
Linda Holloman
Jason Horne
Teresa Hull
Meenah Hulsen
Bobbie Lynn Hutchins
and Terry Maddatu
RG Iyer

J. David Jacobs
Mary James
Ann and Alex Jervis
Gehrig Johnson
Jane Rogers Jones
Christine Joyce
William Joyce
Charlotte Kessler
Nancy King
Rebecca King
Carol Knowles and
Craig Wills
Matthew Kostek
William Kostenblatt
Cynthia and
David Kubissa
Carol Lackey
C. and J. Lambert
Courtney Lederer
Debra Lefkowitz
Leslie Lemonick and
Sarah Murdoch
Erin Lieb
Jeanette and
William Linka
Molly Littlefield
Robert Loiseau
Denise Lopez
Nancy Lucas
Mimi Lukens and
Mark Hansen
Megan Madsen
Marisa Marinelli
Jennifer Markell
Amy Peronto Marsh

Amanda and
Philip Marvin
Christopher Mast
Henry McCann
Michael McCarthy
John McCliggott
Robert J. McKown III
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ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Outdoor Learning Continues to Help Teachers and Students During the Pandemic

BY PAIGE STEELE



CAROLYN ROGERS/FOA



CAROLYN ROGERS/FOA

This summer, the Outdoor Teacher Collaborative convened for another season bringing together ten local teachers and Acadia National Park education rangers for professional development.

Friends of Acadia funded the teacher and education ranger stipends to facilitate the program aimed at creating outdoor curricula for kindergarten through fifth-grade students. Lesson plans developed through the Teacher Collaborative can be used with students on school campuses or at home through remote learning to enhance students' academic and health outcomes.

The Teacher Collaborative expanded from one school district to three this year: Mount Desert Island, Ellsworth, and RSU 24, which covers a large area from Mariaville to Steuben. Teachers shared challenges associated with being an educator during the COVID-19 pandemic and contemplated fresh possibilities. Outdoor classrooms were identified as an answer to many of the hurdles imposed by the pandemic and focusing on outdoor learning helped buoy the teachers' spirits.

Friends of Acadia continues to receive applications from schools to help fund their outdoor classroom spaces. The park's education rangers are also preparing a variety of day-long outdoor field trips in the park, as well as virtual programming for schools and self-guided educational hikes that teachers can lead in the park.

While interruptions and program pivoting are anticipated this school year, educators now have many more tools to deal with such frequent and drastic change. Friends of Acadia is pleased to aid in building educational resources to help both teachers and students thrive.

"We're going to make every moment count with students until we get back to full programming," said Kate Petrie, Education Coordinator at Acadia National Park. ■

PAIGE STEELE is Conservation Projects Manager for Friends of Acadia.

Top: Acadia National Park Education Ranger Mackette Kark (right) talks to teachers about how the mountains got their shapes. Middle: Acadia Teacher Fellows training program hikes to Sand Beach. Bottom: Education Ranger Mackette Kark (right) talks with teachers about sea life that can be found at Sand Beach.

The Maffuccis of Atlantic Brewing Company Support Beer, Acadia, and Water Quality

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK

Like many Mainers, Amy and Alex Maffucci work hard—really hard. Alex serves as the president of the Atlantic Brewing Company and Amy is an associate broker at the Swan Agency and works at Atlantic in her rare free time. As the second generation running the brewery, they love carrying on the family business and traditions.

Doug Maffucci, Alex's uncle, started Atlantic Brewing Company as one of the early Maine breweries in the 1990s. With the popularity of their beer, demand grew, and they moved operations to Town Hill. They now have two locations in Bar Harbor—the main brewery in Town Hill and their location in midtown Bar Harbor on Cottage Street, conveniently located across from the Friends of Acadia offices.

The Town Hill location is situated on a 19th-century Bar Harbor farmstead and hosts the popular Mainely Meat BBQ. The midtown location is a sleek, modern brewery, restaurant, and taproom focusing on pilot and specialty batches. Over the years, Friends of Acadia has co-launched several beers in partnership with Atlantic Brewing in addition to hosting other activities and events at the midtown location.

In June 2021, Atlantic Brewing Company launched Flat Hat—a crisp, refreshing pale ale brewed with Hallertau and Saaz hops and Maine grown grains, named after the iconic “flat hats” worn by park rangers. A portion of the proceeds of this brew supports the water quality monitoring of Jordan Pond in Acadia National Park through a partnership with Friends of Acadia.

When asked about Flat Hat, Alex says, “We are very happy with the beer; it’s easy, refreshing drinking for hot summer days. And we are pleased to support the water quality program at Acadia. Water is the foundation of life, and of beer. Taking care of our water resources is vital.”

The formal water quality monitoring program at Jordan Pond was established in partnership with Acadia and the University of Maine at Jordan Pond in 2013, with major capital expenses incurred with the purchase of the NexSens CB-400S Inland Lakes Data Buoy. It was a great investment, yielding 7,700 measurements in its first year, compared with only 219 measurements taken since 1942 using the manual monitoring system the Data Buoy replaced. The result? A 3,416% increase in the number of measurements, with more accurate, real-time data being delivered for analysis.

“Atlantic Brewing Company has been a great partner to Friends of Acadia,” said President David MacDonald. “Their popular and delicious beers like Flat Hat generate funds for the park and help raise awareness of key conservation issues, like water quality.”

Be sure to visit the Maffucci family at Atlantic Brewing and order your Flat Hat Pale Ale. If you miss Amy and Alex at the brewery, catch them walking their dogs and sweet baby daughter Lydia on their favorite trails and roads in the Duck Brook area of Acadia National Park. ■

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



Amy and Alex Maffucci with their daughter Lydia at Jordan Pond.

JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA





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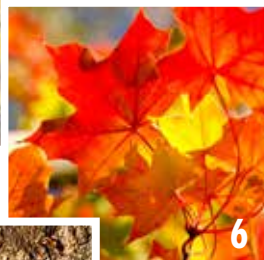
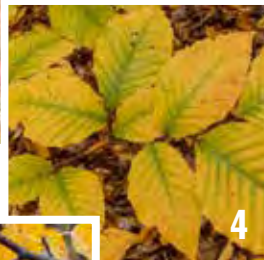
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- _____ Bigtooth Aspen
(*Populus grandidentata*)
- _____ Gray Birch
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- _____ Hawthorn
(*Crataegus* spp.)
- _____ Red Oak
(*Quercus rubra*)
- _____ Staghorn Sumac
(*Rhus hirta*)
- _____ Sugar Maple
(*Acer saccharum*)
- _____ White Ash
(*Fraxinus americana*)
- _____ Witch-Hazel
(*Hamamelis virginiana*)





CAPTURING THE MOMENT

By Emma Forthofer

There are few things as beautiful as Acadia in autumn.

Growing up on Mount Desert Island, I have been lucky enough to witness a number of autumns in Acadia, but this photo taken in October 2020 represents a particularly spectacular autumn.

The park was quieter than I ever remember seeing it. Standing at the top of Beehive at sunrise, I was overwhelmed with gratitude to be hiking and photographing Acadia when so many people couldn't experience the park due to the pandemic.

There were peak autumn colors. Fellow Acadia Digital Media Team member Will Newton and I decided to hike the Beehive for sunrise. When we reached the summit, we were blown away by the range of autumn colors that greeted us below—from the fiery red blueberry bushes to the yellow and orange array of deciduous trees.

The Beehive at sunrise is one of my favorite hikes—climbing up the metal rungs along the sheer cliff-faces with pinks and blues illuminating the sky from the early morning light, I cannot help but feel a meditative gratitude for this special place and to all the people who have made this park what it is today. ■

EMMA FORTHOFFER is a senior studying Film and Television Production at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. She was born on MDI and was a member of the Acadia Digital Media Team from 2016 to 2020.



PAIGE STEELE/FOA

While completing trail work on Isle au Haut in September, staff and volunteers crossed paths with distinguished national park advocate Destry Jarvis (center), who is also a founding advisor to Friends of Acadia. Mr. Jarvis was deeply influential at the time of Friends of Acadia's founding and in the early years, helping negotiate the relationship between Acadia National Park and our newly forming nonprofit.

Stewardship Volunteer Program Adapts During Lingering Pandemic

BY PAIGE STEELE

The Stewardship Volunteer Program is currently closed to the public but has remained open for the 2020 and 2021 seasons to current and emeritus Volunteer Crew Leaders and long-term dedicated volunteers, all of whom are already trained in trail project skills.

Volunteers have been pre-registering for stewardship projects on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Due to the pandemic, this season started with participants using their personal vehicles to travel and meet at work sites, but later in the year, volunteers transitioned back to using the program vans, with passengers masked.

The small, but mighty, crew of volunteers has put in over 800 hours so far this season and has worked on more than 20 trails, as well as carriage roads. The projects included trimming back plants growing in trail corridors, clearing drainage on both trails and carriage roads, and other specialized projects.

The team successfully completed the five-year long Jordan Pond Bog Walk replacement project by removing the old bog walk by boat over the course of two days with the help of Friends of Acadia staff and the Acadia National Park trail crew.

Volunteers also helped remediate some of the damage done by the unprecedented rainstorm on June 9, they replaced a fence at the Bass Harbor Head Lighthouse Overlook Trail, and removed encroaching vegetation on the trails on Isle au Haut.

The volunteers have not only accomplished a lot of work this

year, but they have also dedicated significant effort to planning how to ensure that the stewardship volunteer program is both safe and sustainable into the future. The Volunteer Crew Leaders recently created a Stewardship Handbook for current and future leaders and conducted trainings and safety check-ins throughout the season.

Nikki Burtis, Friends of Acadia's seasonal stewardship assistant, helped coordinate and prepare these initiatives and work groups. Friends of Acadia is very grateful to Nikki, the park staff, and the volunteers for their tremendous efforts in maintaining the trails and carriage roads during the COVID-19 pandemic.

We're hopeful that the 2022 volunteer season will re-open to all who would like to participate. ■

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



PAIGE STEELE/FOA

Stewardship volunteers worked alongside rangers to maintain Isle au Haut's trails this summer.

NEW TRAILBLAZERS

June 1, 2021 – August 31, 2021

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Friends of Acadia launched its new website in October at friendsofacadia.org.
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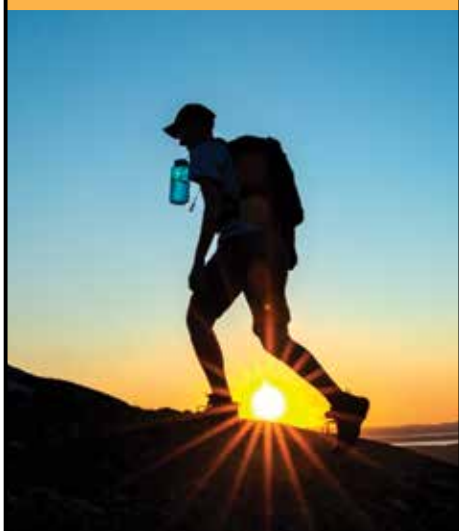
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Updates

Take Pride in Acadia Day 2021

Take Pride in Acadia Day will be held this year on Saturday, November 6. The event will be modified to run at about 50 percent capacity, as it was last year, to increase safety due to COVID-19.

Groups will meet at work locations dispersed in the park, rather than gathering at park headquarters for the traditional refreshments and cheer. Participants must pre-register in teams of 8-16 people with whom they feel comfortable working in the outdoors (e.g., family, friends, students, outing clubs, etc.). Tools and other supplies will be distributed to groups ahead of the event, and teams

will meet at pre-assigned locations along the carriage road system on the day of the event.

Registration is full for the modified Take Pride in Acadia Day 2021. Thanks to all groups who pre-registered. If you have questions, please email stewardship@friendsofacadia.org.

Friends of Acadia hopes that these event modifications will keep everyone safe who is volunteering time to help put Acadia's carriage roads to bed for the winter. Take Pride in Acadia Day will return to normal conditions in 2022 as COVID conditions allow.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Members of the L.L. Bean volunteer group work to clear leaves from the carriage road near Eagle Lake.

ANSWERS to Fall Foliage IQ quiz on page 32

1. Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)
2. Bear Oak (*Quercus ilicifolia*)
3. Staghorn Sumac (*Rhus hirta*)
4. American Beech (*Fagus grandifolia*)
5. Grey Birch (*Betula populifolia*)
6. Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)
7. Big Tooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)
8. Hawthorn (*Crataegus* spp.)
9. Witch-Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)
10. White Ash (*Fraxinus americana*)

Bass Harbor Head Light Planning

Friends of Acadia donors are helping the National Park Service (NPS) begin a process to decide the future redevelopment/adaptation of the Bass Harbor Head Light and surrounding area. Planners from the NPS's Denver Service Center have held two workshops with park staff, Downeast Transportation, and Friends of Acadia to identify issues and data gaps at the site.

Issues identified included illegal parking, overcrowding and hazards on the viewpoint trail and surrounding rocks, lack of accessibility throughout the site, limited septic system capacity, illegal trails, long distance to public transportation, and unsafe traffic congestion and circulation.

Park resource management staff also identified the need to protect an important ecological study area in the forest surrounding the Light where historically significant migratory warbler research was conducted and monitoring continues today.

Combined with the historic structures report for the Light that Friends of Acadia previously funded, the results of this preliminary planning process will help the park advance toward a development concept plan for the future of the area.

The Bass Harbor Head Light is one of the iconic, highly visited destinations in Acadia, appearing on the Maine State quarter and in the series of national park stamps released during the NPS's Centennial.



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Schoodic Education Adventure is Back in 2021

The popular Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) is returning this fall after taking a hiatus in 2020 due to the pandemic. The SEA is an acclaimed residential outdoor education program for middle-school students, led by Acadia National Park educators. Students participate in a wide variety of ranger programs that utilize the wetlands, forests, and shoreline of the Schoodic Education and Research Center, incorporating lessons in math, science, social studies, language arts, physical education, health, and art.

The park's education rangers have learned to pivot their school programming to meet changing conditions, and it is not different for

SEA. This fall, SEA will be modified into field trips, rather than overnight stays in the park. Students will visit the park multiple days within one week for the (almost) full SEA curriculum experience.

Because of the modification to daytrips, the geographic radius of those that will be able to attend will be limited, but schools farther afield may participate in virtual programming as well as in-person ranger programs on their school campuses. For more information on the Schoodic Education Adventure program, contact acad_education_office@nps.gov.

Acadia Accessibility Study Will Help Inform Future Infrastructure Plans

Representatives from the National Center on Accessibility at the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University completed site visits to Acadia in June and September to identify barriers to accessibility at important visitor destinations throughout the park. The interim report described the visitor experience at each site, listed objectives for each evaluation, and included recommendations for future improvements, ranked by criticality and timeframe for implementation.

Overall, the Eppley team complimented park staff for the work they had already done to improve access in Acadia. They also provided several overarching considerations for the park. For example, rather than designating certain locations as "accessible," the park should present information about the

experience and conditions at each park destination so that visitors could decide for themselves whether they wish to go there and whether they are capable of safely maneuvering at the selected site.

The National Park Service will incorporate the study's findings into infrastructure plans and funding requests moving forward. The accessibility study is funded by a grant from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation to Friends of Acadia.

To access the park's current information about programs, services, and destinations for blind/low vision or deaf/hard-of-hearing visitors and those with service animals or mobility assistance devices/wheelchairs, visit <https://www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/accessibility.htm>.

Carriage Road Census Helps Better Understand Visitor Use

BECCA STANLEY/FOA



Volunteers help record the number of hikers, bicyclists, runners, walkers, and equestrians on the carriage roads.

This year, Friends of Acadia's Recreation Technicians and volunteers helped Acadia National Park implement carriage road censuses. Using counting protocols established from previous studies, more than 20 volunteers recorded hikers, bicyclists, runners, walkers, and equestrians entering the carriage road system from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. throughout the park.

Reiterating these censuses allows the park to gain a better understanding of the current use and long-term trends of visitor use on the carriage roads. To date this year, the Duck Brook Bridge carriage road entrance has experienced the most manual and e-bikers; Parkman experienced the most walkers; and Wildwood Stables was used the least often by visitors to access the carriage roads, but most often by carriages and horses.

Based on this data set, e-bikers make up 5.5% of all users, while manual bikers make up just over half (50.5%) of all users. The park, Recreation Technicians, and volunteers will continue to collect carriage road census data each season from June to October to understand the long-term visitor use impacts of Acadia's carriage road system.



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Debra and Ken Getz	Wayne Theriault*
Sally Hazard	Stacey Watt and Tim Finan
Emily and Larry Hoff	Steve Wessler
Susan Howard*	
Howard Katz	
Dan McKay	
National Park Service	

*Deceased

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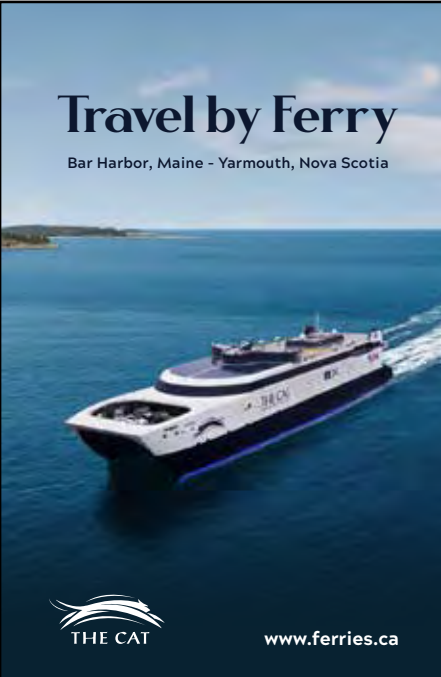


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The Resting Fisherman, oil on canvas, 30 x 40



Wash Day, 12 x 16



Woman Washing Windows, 12 x 16

Laura and Vassar Pierce: A Leadership Duo for the Times

BY MARISA MARINELLI

During challenging times, it takes outstanding leadership to help communities and organizations come together and prevail. Friends of Acadia could not have asked for two better leaders than Laura and Vassar Pierce to support Acadia, and rally others to do the same, amidst a worldwide pandemic that changed everything.

In early 2020, when Laura and Vassar agreed to co-chair the 31st Annual Benefit Committee, they had no idea of the circumstances under which they would be planning and executing the largest fundraiser of the year to benefit Acadia National Park. Suddenly, and without notice, they needed to re-imagine a 30-year tradition that not only raised critical funds for conservation projects in Acadia, but also engaged park lovers in building strong connections.

In March of 2020, it became clear that the Friends of Acadia Annual Benefit would need to pivot from a highly social in-person event to a virtual event supporting our beloved park at a time when nothing was certain, and resources mattered more than ever.

With passion, commitment, and creativity—backed by strong expertise in fundraising and event planning—Laura and Vassar rallied to hit it out of the park. And, after a highly successful first virtual benefit in 2020, they agreed to do it again, co-chairing the second virtual benefit in 2021 with similar results. What's perhaps most impressive is that this dynamic husband and wife duo made it look easy.

There's no question Laura and Vassar are passionate about Acadia and Mount Desert Island, something they have demonstrated over the years in many ways.

As the great-great-grandson of Charles W. Eliot, one of Acadia's founders and advocates during the establishment of the park, Vassar has a deep-rooted connection to Acadia. In 2006-2008, he spent summers constructing Bates cairns and educating visitors on Leave No Trace principles as a Friends of Acadia Ridge Runner and Special Projects Intern. In addition, his extensive experience with public speaking led him to excel not only at Friends of Acadia, but within his career in philanthropy where he served most recently as the Interim Director of Advancement at Pomfret School.

Laura's connection to Acadia and Mount Desert Island began when she met Vassar more than 12 years ago. A talented interior designer, Laura launched a seasonal interior design shop called Rusticators in Seal Harbor



LILY LAREGINA/FOA

Annual Benefit Committee Co-Chairs Laura and Vassar Pierce are all smiles after the 32nd Annual Benefit.

where they now live. You may recognize her work in prominent projects such as the redesign of the Claremont Hotel in Southwest Harbor. With a background in event planning and development, Laura not only excelled as a benefit co-chair, this year she joined Friends of Acadia's Board of Directors.

Laura and Vassar Pierce are both "special persons" to the Friends of Acadia family. Their devotion to Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park is impressive, and as wonderful as they are as individuals, they're even more powerful as a team. Friends of Acadia is fortunate to benefit from their collective passion, commitment, enthusiasm, and incredible talent. ■

MARISA MARINELLI is Friends of Acadia's Senior Development Officer for Major Gifts and Events.

Continuing the Legacy with an Eye on Today's Pressing Challenges

As incoming Chair of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors, my first and most important act is to thank Anne Green for her outstanding service as our Board Chair over the past four years. She “lived” the task with dedication, thoughtfulness, a warm smile, and a kind heart. She, and most recent past Chairs Ed Samek and Lili Pew, are challenging acts to follow.

My second act is to thank fellow Board members for the confidence they have placed in me with my selection as their leader. With steady guidance and support from our President and CEO David MacDonald and his very dedicated staff, I'll do my absolute best to continue the legacy our past leaders have left behind.

As individuals here on Mount Desert Island (MDI) we all bring unique perspectives of this special place based on our backgrounds and life experiences. Once we have become personally “engaged” with MDI, we most often will broaden these perspectives—especially to include how MDI, Acadia National Park, and the local communities should, could, and must be preserved, protected, and enjoyed. The dynamics of this “morphing” and the harnessing of perspectives is what we're “all about” at Friends of Acadia.

I first came to MDI to visit a friend (a then romantic interest) as a teenager in the late 1950s. It was midwinter, cold and snowy. Vestiges of the 1947 fires were still evident. Having been born in Maine into a family that made its living harvesting timber and manufacturing lumber and having experienced firsthand the ravages of the 1947 fires, I thought I knew what Maine was all about (the arrogance of youth?). Not so! Even at this most challenging time of the year, Sand Beach, Thunder Hole, Jordan Pond, and the wind

whistling at the top of Cadillac Mountain were amazing discoveries.

Fast forward 60 years and now with the perspective of a grandparent and civil engineer/constructor who is proud to have completed projects at the MDI Biological Laboratory, Jackson Laboratory, Jordan Pond House, Bar Harbor YMCA, College of the Atlantic, and Southwest Harbor Library, I'm trying to keep up with my seven grandchildren as they pursue the Acadia Quest goals nicely laid out by Friends of Acadia in conjunction with Acadia National Park.

There are all sorts of discoveries to be made and places to be experienced through the eyes of these youngsters—sunrise at Cadillac Mountain, popovers at Jordan Pond House, swimming at Sand Beach and Long Pond, climbing the rungs at the Perpendicular Trail, rowing ashore at Baker Island, and many more.

My seasoned perspective now includes the realization of my responsibility to help consider and deal with such challenges as traffic congestion, the shortage of affordable housing, inappropriate aquaculture development, underfunded park operations, and many more long term big-picture issues such as sustainable ecology and social equality.

The opportunities are NOT, as cartoon character Pogo suggests, insurmountable. I pledge to you that I will do my utmost to help us all make a positive difference in this wonderful place during our time as its guardians. I look forward to sharing my perspective and updates here in Acadia magazine, but mostly I look forward to hearing from and working with you.

Jack Kelley
—Jack Kelley

FROM THE CHAIR



“I pledge to you that I will do my utmost to help us all make a positive difference in this wonderful place during our time as its guardians.”



COURTESY JACK KELLEY



SOME of Board Chair Jack Kelley's grandchildren enjoying Dancing Rock on Baker Island during an Acadia Quest challenge.

OUR ACADIA

BY BRENDA BECKETT AND HOWIE MOTENKO

We appreciate when Friends of Acadia changes the column title from “My Acadia” to “Our Acadia.” Not only because we’re a couple, but more importantly because we believe Acadia is a gift for all to enjoy—everyone’s collective Acadia... our Acadia.

We feel a symbiotic relationship to the park. Being in the park brings peace, solace, and inspiration. While Acadia renews us, that renewal in turn fuels us, providing energy to give back to the park, in perpetuity, for future visitors to experience similar gifts.

Brenda: These past 18 months working as a physician assistant at Mount Desert Island Hospital have been the most stressful of my career. Through all the worry and uncertainty, spending time in the park has been a grounding force.

Whether we are out for a walk along the coastline, hiking to a mountain peak, or riding on the carriage roads, I develop a sense of calm and peace. My worries are wiped away, and I know that we will make it through whatever comes next.

Howie: For New Year’s Day, we attempted our first Sargent Mountain summit. Being a slow walker and a night owl, we got a late start and packed headlamps for the hike out.

As we transitioned from the carriage road to the trail, we started passing friends coming down from Sargent gleefully boasting about seeing a snowy owl. Hearing the news filled us excitement, having never seen a snowy in Acadia, though the odds are low.

When we cleared the treeline, there was a small group looking off and pointing at a snowy owl in the distance. After enjoying a few minutes with the owl, we continued our ascent. We made it to the top and enjoyed a clementine before our descent.

What are the odds that snowy owl would still be in the same place hours later? Amazingly, the owl was still there!

Being slow and getting a late start has its advantages; we spent the next twenty minutes alone with the snowy owl. This vignette is one small example of the many ways Acadia continues to share its gifts with us.



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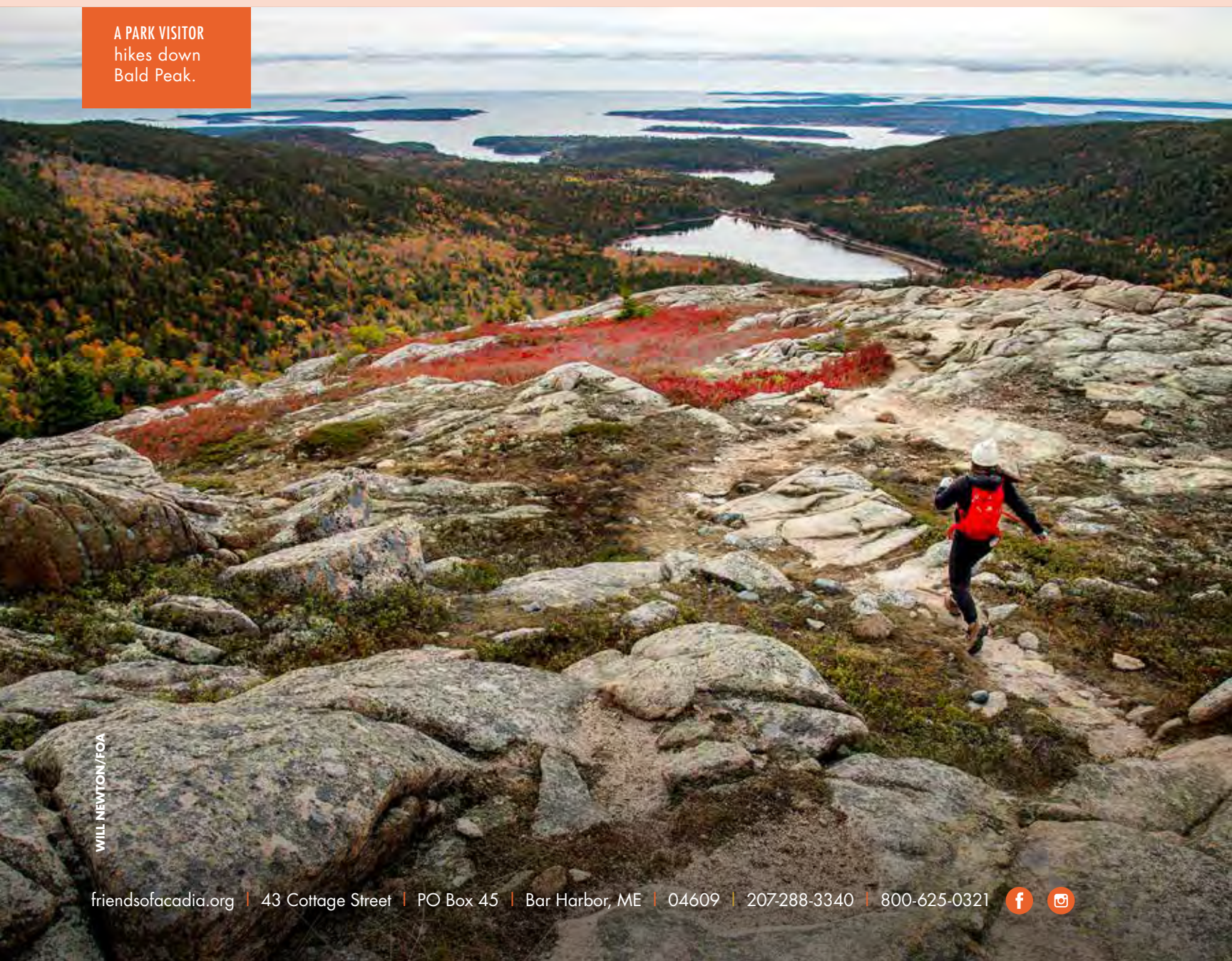


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A PARK VISITOR
hikes down
Bald Peak.



WILL NEWTON/FOA

