

An aerial photograph of a rugged coastline. A winding road curves through a dense forest of evergreen trees. The forest meets a rocky shore where waves are crashing, creating white foam. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a blue sky with some clouds.

ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal SUMMER 2024

**THE ACADIA YOU
MAY NOT KNOW**
AN INSIDE LOOK

TOP 5 THINGS
TO ENSURE
A GREAT VISIT TO ACADIA

RAISE THE ROOF
HELP BUILD A BETTER FUTURE
FOR ACADIA'S WORKFORCE

PURCHASE YOUR **PARK PASS!**

Whether walking, bicycling, riding the Island Explorer, or driving through the park, we all must obtain a park pass. Eighty percent of all fees paid in Acadia National Park stay in Acadia, to be used for projects that directly benefit park visitors and resources.



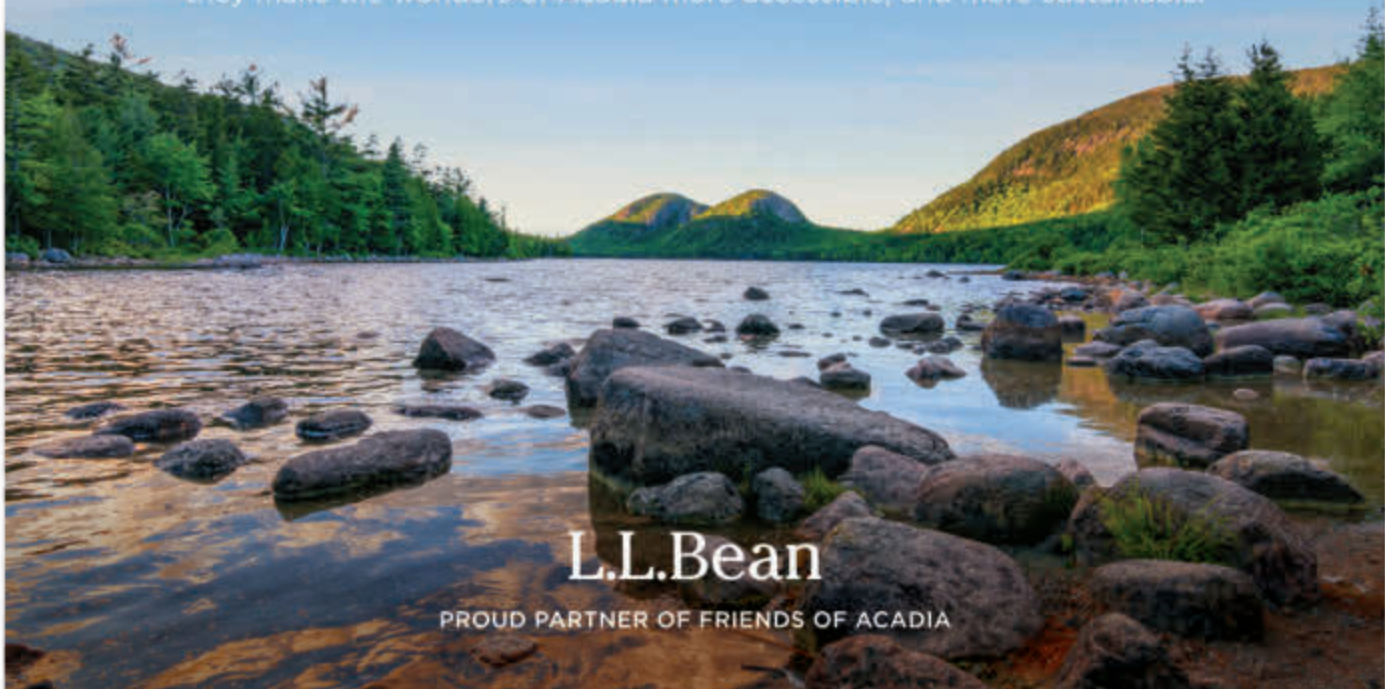
BUY A PASS ONLINE AND PRINT before you arrive at the park. This allows you to drive directly to a trailhead/parking area & display your pass from your vehicle.

Acadia National Park passes are available online:
www.recreation.gov/sitepass/74271

Annual park passes are also available at certain Acadia-area town offices and local chambers of commerce. Visit www.nps.gov/acad/planyourvisit/fees.htm

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ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

SUMMER 2024

Volume 29 No.2

A Magazine About Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities

Friends of Acadia preserves, protects, and promotes stewardship of the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and distinctive cultural resources of Acadia National Park and surrounding communities for the inspiration and enjoyment of current and future generations.

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

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Aerial view of waves crashing on Hunter's Head in Acadia National Park. WILL GREEN/FRINDS OF ACADIA



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This journal is printed on paper made with 30% total recycled fiber and 30% PCW. It is Elemental Chlorine-free (ECF) and manufactured in the USA. Printed with H-UV inks, which are 99.5% free of volatile compounds (VOCs).

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WHERE IN ACADIA?

WILL GREENE/FOA

This off-the-beaten-path trail shares its name with a more well-known and trafficked trail in another section of Acadia. Through marsh, on the edge of cliffs, and overlooking harbors and coves, this hike will require you to share the nimbleness of the animal for which it was named.

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.

Help us Raise the Roof!

A Campaign to Build a Better Future for Acadia's Workforce

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"When we build seasonal employee housing at the park, we're also building a better visitor experience, a better community, and a better Acadia. Together, we'll succeed."

If you're reading this, you likely share the goal of a thriving Acadia National Park that provides a high-quality visitor experience, protects and preserves our natural resources, has the best trails and carriage road system in the country, fosters tomorrow's stewards, and is welcoming and accessible to all who want to visit.

What you may not know, is that ALL of those things are powered by hiring the very best seasonal workforce possible that Acadia can hire. Unfortunately, in recent years, hiring that seasonal workforce has been hampered by a severe lack of workforce housing.

Providing affordable employee housing not only helps us recruit the best and brightest to Acadia, but it also gives Acadia a competitive advantage in a tight labor market.

That's why we're inviting you to help us RAISE THE ROOF and provide affordable seasonal workforce housing to Acadia's employees, including trail and carriage road workers, emergency services rangers, maintenance staff, visitor information specialists, and more.

Friends of Acadia has launched a \$10 million Raise the Roof campaign to help address the seasonal employee housing shortage at Acadia National Park. And what's even more impactful is that Friends of Acadia's investment will unlock \$10+ million in federal and other funding to provide housing solutions.

Every dollar—every donation—will help us achieve our \$10 million goal this year. We're asking everyone to help us Raise the Roof for Acadia's seasonal workers.

The Scope of the Housing Challenge

Acadia aims to hire about 150-175 seasonal employees annually to support its full-time staff in managing the park during the busy visitor season. Last year, it could only hire 115, leaving about 30% of its seasonal jobs unfilled.

Only eight of 36 positions on the trails and carriage road maintenance crew were filled, leaving vital trail work unfinished. This year, the seasonal staffing shortage is similar.

As rental prices increase and housing inventory decreases, a dire housing situation on Mount Desert Island and its surrounding communities is only getting worse. Acadia's seasonal workers are often left to compete for housing with employers who are struggling to staff their businesses and year-around residents who are looking for homes for their families.

Building housing for Acadia's seasonal workers is not only vital to the park's success, but it will also serve the broader island community by relieving competition for housing.

Partnering to Provide Solutions

Constructing new housing units at Acadia is imperative for a meaningful and sustainable solution. But constructing buildings within a national park requires careful consideration to preserve park values and experiences.

Fortunately, Acadia and Friends of Acadia have identified two suitable sites that could provide housing for 60-plus seasonal employees: the Harden Farm property in Bar Harbor and the Dane Farm property in Seal Harbor.

Both sites are conveniently located near village centers, near Island Explorer routes, and have

DANE FARM CONSTRUCTION is underway for Acadia National Park seasonal employee housing.



KIP WING/AERIAL AESTHETIC/FOA

access to public utilities. And because only the National Park Service (NPS) can build on park land, we are not competing for building lots for other workforce housing efforts.

Friends of Acadia purchased the Dane Farm property in Seal Harbor and is well underway on adding eight bedrooms in two new buildings. Once completed, we will donate the structures and property to the park.

The larger Harden Farm property will accommodate the majority of the proposed new housing units, with the National Park Service leading project design and development. Friends of Acadia's donation will unlock matching funds through the NPS Centennial Challenge program to help build housing at Harden Farm.

The dynamic partnership between the park and Friends of Acadia allows us to tackle the housing crisis head on.

But none of this is possible without you—our Friends.

Here's How You Can Help

Each of us has a personal connection to Acadia, nurturing a shared commitment to its preservation for future generations.

Please join us and help Raise the Roof to create the housing necessary to recruit a diverse and dedicated workforce, support Friends of Acadia's programmatic priorities, and protect the park's resources for years to come.

Together, we're Raising the Roof and making a difference, one bedroom, one park ranger at a time.

To learn more or donate today, scan the QR code or visit friendsofacadia.org/raisetherooft.



Eric

—Eric Stiles



TOP TO BOTTOM: Claire Burnet moves into the Kingsleigh house in Southwest Harbor, which now houses 10 seasonal employees. • An Acadia seasonal staff member's jacket and hat hang in the entrance of the Kingsleigh. • Roof trusses are installed at Dane Farm in Seal Harbor. E.L. Shea construction workers used heavy equipment to lift the prefabricated roof trusses, which were made in Maine, on top of the unit walls and secure them in place.



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA

SEASONAL WORKERS are the backbone of Acadia's operations from May through November. They help maintain the trails and carriage roads, welcome visitors and ensure a good visitor experience, provide critical maintenance, safety, and rescue services within the park, and help repair trails and rebuild infrastructure after major storms like those from earlier this year. Lack of workforce housing is one of the key challenges in hiring seasonal staff.



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



ACADIA QUEST PARTICIPANTS OVER THE YEARS have shared photos of their favorite locations and adventures through the Acadia Quest App. This includes "Goose" (second from left) who is honored in this year's quest. PHOTOS COURTESY OF FAMILIES ENROLLED IN PAST YEARS OF ACADIA QUEST.

Adventure to "FAN FAVORITE" Locations and Activities with This Year's Acadia Quest

BY SHANNON BRYAN

Exploring Acadia is always an adventure. Tackling a family-friendly scavenger hunt that leads your intrepid crew to interesting corners of the park to glean cool Acadia insights and complete fun activities is even better.

Acadia Quest is a series of outdoor experiences in Acadia National Park that encourage youth to explore, learn, and protect national parks and other conserved lands and waters.

Challenges appeal to all ages, so the whole family can participate. And many families do, exploring new park locations and activities year after year. This year, Acadia Quest highlights some all-time fan favorites chosen by some of those dedicated Acadia Questers.

This year's Acadia Quest is dedicated to the memory of a much-loved Acadia adventurer named Neil, known as "Goose." He passed away in 2017 soon after his family's annual visit to Acadia. In his honor, his mother (known as "Moose") founded Force Spirit Goose, which hosts a yearly walk in Torrington, CT, with all proceeds benefiting Friends of Acadia. His mother invites us all to celebrate Neil's bright spirit through our shared love of spending time with our families in Acadia.

Team Moose & Goose also chose one of the destinations for this year's Acadia Quest Fan Favorites. Their location: Triad-Day Mountain Bridge. Of Acadia's 17 stone bridges, this one

was not designed and financed by John D. Rockefeller, Jr. It was built by the National Park Service.

Other locations in this year's Acadia Quest include Cedar Swamp Mountain, selected by Search Team Stanley. It's highly recommended that this year's Questers take a dip in Sargent Mountain Pond.

Team Tally-Ho is sending you to Bass Harbor Head Light Station (look for seals in the ocean!), and Team Scooterhead Butterflies is sending you to the summit of North Bubble. There are so many ways to get there!

To participate, Questing families download the free Acadia Quest app and scout their way to interesting corners of the park, where they'll uncover the stories intertwined with these special places.

Acadia Quest is free and open to all, but teams will need a park pass to participate.

The mobile Acadia Quest app is developed for iOS and Android platforms and operates on smartphones, tablets, and desktops. Check out the new app by searching the app store for "Friends of Acadia" or "Acadia Quest," then download to your device. Or visit: friendsofacadia.stqry.app. ■

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

Managing Acadia is Like Completing a Favorite Jigsaw Puzzle

Friends of Acadia Often Supplies the Missing Piece

You may not know this, but I love nothing more than whiling away an evening (or a few!) working on a 1,000-piece jigsaw puzzle. As I was working one of the holidays this year, it occurred to me how much managing a national park is like completing a jigsaw puzzle.

Our hope is that to the average visitor, it looks like the park manages itself. The ecosystems thrive with little to no human intervention. Curiously square pieces of granite fall miraculously into the shape of a staircase on your favorite trail. Every restroom is tidy, and every trash can has space for you to toss out that granola bar wrapper.

But if you look closely, there are clues that the “invisible hands” of National Park Service (NPS) staff are hard at work: thoughtfully and intentionally placing pieces of that metaphorical puzzle into place so that Acadia can be loved by this generation and the next, and the next, and so on.

For any of that to happen, so many puzzle pieces need to fall into place. It's our job as stewards of Acadia to make sure they do.

Like any government organization, Acadia National Park operates with limited resources. After we receive our operating budget from Congress, we compete for other federal funding to support the wide array of projects we need to complete to keep things running smoothly.

With whatever funding falls together, after we pay for essential fixed costs like electricity and supplies, we pay our staff. Without park staff, none of these puzzle pieces fall into place!

They are the people fixing washed out trails, monitoring invasive and native species, turning the lights on in the visitor centers, or carrying you off Bubbles Divide Trail when you trip and sprain your ankle. The amount of work Acadia employees accomplish in a day is pretty astounding, and they play a massive role in making this place so special.

Often, the park's needs overwhelm the amount of federal funding we can obtain. On top of that, in recent years, we have not been able to fill our seasonal positions in major part due to limited seasonal housing availability. With less funding and fewer staff, we don't always have all the pieces to our jigsaw puzzle. Luckily for us, we can look to our partners, like Friends of Acadia, to help fill them.

Without Friends of Acadia's philanthropy, advocacy, and stewardship, our park would look very different. Friends of Acadia's ability to respond to park needs for workforce housing, leverage additional federal funds through private philanthropy, and promote stewardship inevitably helps us fill in the holes of our jigsaw puzzle.

The final piece of every national park's puzzle is our visitors. Because of continued support of America's greatest idea, our parks will continue to be preserved and valued by people from all over the world from one generation to the next. Thank you for helping us fulfill our mission to keep our national parks safe, clean, and beautiful.

—Kevin Schneider

SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



“Friends of Acadia’s ability to respond to park needs for workforce housing, leverage additional federal funds through private philanthropy, and promote stewardship inevitably helps us fill in the holes of our jigsaw puzzle.”



FOG DISSIPATES from Champlain Mountain revealing a clear view of the Porcupine Islands.

Acadia Artist in Residence

30 YEARS AND COUNTING

BY CARL LITTLE



Known for her small-scale black and white prints, **SIRI BECKMAN** was inspired by Acadia's "BIG landscape filled with lakes, streams, the ocean, forests, cliffs, amazing skies, sunsets" to shift to color and a larger size. The result: *The Bubbles*, 1997, color linocut, 10 x 8 in. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

In 1993, Acadia National Park launched its Artist-in-Residence (AIR) program, joining a nationwide movement to connect artists to national parks. Then Philadelphia-based painter Robert Pollien got it going.

"An artist's residency did not exist in the late 1980s," Pollien recounts, "so I wrote to Acadia stating that they should consider starting one." A while later, a leader for interpretation at the park, Shirley Beccue, invited him to be the first visiting artist.

Arriving in October 1993, Pollien remembers painting on the shore of Eagle Lake and in Otter Creek. The following year, inspired by his visit, he and his wife, fellow painter Amy Pollien, moved to Mount Desert Island for good.

Like many of the artists who have followed in his footsteps, Pollien was most grateful for the opportunity to spend a block of time creating art in the park. He took a second turn as an Acadia National Park artist in residence in 2019 to paint on Isle au Haut.

Jay Elhard, the park's interpretive media specialist, arrived in Maine in April 2017. As the former residency program manager at Denali National Park and Preserve in Alaska, he took over Acadia's program from Kate Petrie, who had inherited it from Beccue when she retired in 2001.

"That might be among the more significant and stabilizing things about Acadia's program as compared with other programs, where turnover can be high," Elhard observes. "We've only had three people at the helm for more than 30 years." He adds, "Anybody who knows Shirley and Kate knows that's a lot for me to try to live up to."

Asked about changes to the program, Elhard points to stable funding, thanks to the park stores; no more \$25 application fee; and a more diverse population of applicants. Another major change: the application and jury process is entirely online.

"In Shirley's and Kate's era," he explains, "there was a lot of photocopying, postage, and shuffling of stacks of paper to jurors, which I can't quite fathom now that we have more than 350 applications a year."

Elhard also highlights the expanded range of artistic practices the residency supports: "everything from stand-up comedy to digital animation, dance, food writing, playwriting." He appreciates having a core group of as many as 20 people each year who serve as jurors on three different panels, for visual art, writing, and at-large. They include past residents, subject-matter experts, community members, and park staff.

The residency's mission and vision remain the same, says Elhard: "to invite artists to help us interpret the park to visitors in new and interesting ways and, I hope, help to shape visitor experience for the better."

The most significant contribution of the residency program, he believes, is the caliber of the artwork the park is able to share with the public. Some of the work donated by the artist residents is displayed at the Sieur de Monts Nature Center and the Hulls Cove Visitor Center, which was refurbished in 2019. A new gallery is being set up at the Jordan Pond House this summer—another opportunity to view the park through the artists' eyes.



In his painting *The Bridgekeeper*, **ROBERT POLLIEN** combines his love of crows with a view of the Waterfall Bridge spanning Hadlock Brook. “The bridge seemed to need a crow,” he notes, “so I gave it one.” *The Bridgekeeper*, 2021, oil, 12 x 12 in. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.

Each resident artist is asked to host a public outreach activity. As part of her 2023 residency, Hollie Adams, a writing professor at the University of Maine, led a poetry writing workshop and read from her work at the Jesup Memorial Library in Bar Harbor. Here are lines from her “Trying to Try in Bass Harbor, Maine”:

I mean I want the ocean
at its splashiest, what I mean is
it should seem ecstatic to have made it
all this way, I mean I want each pine
needle visible in silhouette,
I mean I want the lighthouse
freshly white-washed, its light on
and beckoning, no matter the cost
of electricity.

—Hollie Adams, from “Trying to Try
in Bass Harbor, Maine”

The next open call for applications for AiR opportunities in 2025 is expected to be from July 1 through September 30, 2024. You can find more information—and art—at go.nps.gov/AcadiaArt. ■

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

SUE CHARLES did the residency on Isle au Haut in 2018. Eli Creek, next to the cabin, became the subject for the painting she donated to ANP. “Lucky for me, it is hanging in the visitor center and I have received lots of emails since it was hung, resulting in sales and more interest in my work.” *Eli’s Creek, Isle au Haut*, 2018, oil, gold, palladium on cradled wood panel, 18 x 24 in. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ARTIST.





COURTESY, LYNN VEZDEL

ACADIA IS CHANGING, AND CHANGE IS MESSY

BY AMANDA POLLOCK AND CATHERINE SCHMITT

Acadia National Park is still showing the impacts of multiple storms this past winter.

It's true, storms impact Acadia's landscape every year; ecosystems continually change and evolve over time.

During a typical storm with strong wind, trees come down in the park's forests. Those downed trees keep ecosystems functioning (and provide a welcome habitat for fungi and amphibians and a host of other wildlife).

But this year's winter storms were different.

The first, on December 18, 2023, brought wind and rain that set the tone for the rest of the season. The Rainwise monitoring station on Cadillac Mountain recorded more than two inches of rain and wind gusts of 55 miles per hour (mph) throughout the day.

With hurricane-force winds and waves of 30 feet, two more storms came in January. Both arrived during high tides, inundating the shoreline with the highest water levels recorded in Bar Harbor since the tide gauge was installed and monitoring began in 1947.

Then came another storm in March, washing out Seawall and other roads (again) and eroding Sand Beach (again).

The result: devastating damage in sections of the park.

In the Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area, there were more than 700 downed trees.

Sand Beach and Little Hunters Beach experienced significant erosion and sloughing near visitor access points, which park staff continue to monitor. About 1,000 feet of the

historic Ocean Path was destroyed. The foundation of the Blue Duck Ships Store next to the Islesford Historical Museum was undermined, as was a section of Schoodic Loop Road.

In most places, these changes require little or no immediate management response. But park teams are monitoring areas for impacts that might require action, including the spread of invasive species into disturbed areas and erosion that might threaten trails or roads.

It will take us several years to truly understand the impacts these storms have had on park landscapes.

First things first

Protecting resources, ensuring visitor safety, and providing a fulfilling visitor experience are always on the minds of those with the National Park Service (NPS).

As soon as it was safe to do so, park teams started to clean up storm damage so that roads, trails, and carriage roads could open as soon as possible. It quickly became evident that we would be unable to fix all the storm damage on our own.

The National Park Service's Emergency Incident Management Team and Arborist Incident Response Team came to the park in February. This team consists of rangers from all over the country who are specifically trained to support emergency response and recovery efforts. By working alongside Acadia's own cutting crew, within a week they had cleared all the downed trees in the Seawall Campground and Seawall Picnic Area.

The outpouring of support from our local community was humbling.



MAPS OF WINTER STORM DAMAGE IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

SCHOODIC POINT Waves overtopped the east side of the Schoodic Loop Road, flooding back-barrier wetlands and moving cobble beaches and coping stones onto and across the road. Trees were blown down and debris washed up on shore. Frazer Point Picnic Area was flooded.

THOMPSON ISLAND The picnic area was flooded and trees were broken and blown down.

SAND BEACH The January storms eroded the beach and dunes, and uncovered the Tay, a shipwrecked Canadian lumber schooner, which had been buried at the base of the dune.

Erosion caused by multiple storms, combined with downed trees and precipitation infiltrating from above, led to unstable conditions and collapse of the bluff on the west side of the beach.



SCHOODIC PENINSULA

OCEAN PATH & OTTER POINT More than 1,000 feet of trail washed out, and many trees blown down.

OTTER CREEK Storm surge overtopped the causeway and receding waters left behind debris, driftwood, and broken trees.

SEAWALL CAMPGROUND AND PICNIC AREA Storm surge pushed the seawall inland and washed out the road, while wind blew down many trees in the campground and picnic area.

WONDERLAND Storm surge pushed the beach into the trees, wind blew down trees, and waves breached the eastern narrow part of the beach.

SHIP HARBOR Wave action broke apart a section of bog walk (and carried it to Seawall) and winds tore an information wayside from its metal base and tossed it into the woods.

LITTLE HUNTERS BEACH The high storm surge ripped away a portion of the wooden stairs leading to the beach from Park Loop Road.

LITTLE CRANBERRY ISLAND Wind tore the siding from the Blue Duck, a former ship's chandlery built in 1853 that currently serves as home to Islesford Boatworks, and waves undermined the building's foundation.

ISLE AU HAUT The National Weather Service reported a wind gust of 95 miles per hour on January 10.



ISLE AU HAUT

OPPOSITE: High tides combined with intense storm surge brought waves, sand, and debris across the road in Seal Harbor during a January Storm. **BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Storm surge and high tide combined to pull a great amount of sand away from Sand Beach and its stair landing. • Little Hunters Beach experienced significant erosion • Blue Duck Ships Store, next to Islesford Historical Museum, shows the impact of the winter storm surge.



JULIA WALKER/THOMAS/FOA



JULIA WALKER/THOMAS/FOA



NPS PHOTO

Friends of Acadia jumped at the chance to support the park, raising \$200K in a storm restoration challenge to help prepare the park for another busy summer season. Volunteers worked to remove debris along Schoodic Loop Road, Otter Creek Causeway, and Seawall Picnic Area. Volunteers will continue to assist with storm damage clean-up this summer through a stewardship program led by Friends of Acadia.

We also knew that it would be critical to repair one of our most used trails in the park: Ocean Path. Thanks to the generous support of Friends of Acadia, we were able to make temporary repairs and safely open Ocean Path for the summer.

Where do we go from here?

We've made progress, but we still have a long way to go.

The park has submitted storm damage assessments to the NPS Washington office, and those assessments are now under review. Park staff have repaired and stabilized some areas of the park with the resources we have available.

We've also begun restoring and monitoring park ecosystems, including mapping and measuring erosion at Sand Beach and Frazer Point, restoring summit vegetation to reduce runoff and erosion, and continuing king tide monitoring to detect how the re-shaped shoreline will influence high tide water levels.

Now, we can start looking toward long-term alternatives for adaptation.

We expect that extreme weather events, like this winter's storms, will occur more frequently and with more intensity, given the rapid pace of climate change.

Park teams want to make sure that when we invest in the rehabilitation of an ecosystem or the reconstruction of a trail, those resources will last for decades to come. Park staff take the responsibility for spending taxpayer dollars or private donations very seriously. No one wants to waste money.

To make informed, purposeful, and strategic choices despite a rapidly changing climate, Acadia National Park staff use a

framework known as Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD). This means that, based on the best available science, we can choose to resist change (put things back the way they were), accept change (allow change to happen and accommodate it), or direct change (actively steer inevitable changes toward a new, desirable condition).

Decisions about whether to resist, accept, or direct change are not simple, and the options aren't mutually exclusive. We adapt our planning and responses as we gain new information.

Interdisciplinary groups of park staff have begun preliminary RAD-based analyses. Each subject matter expert approaches challenges differently, and they often have different and sometimes competing priorities.

For example, when looking for a long-term solution for Ocean Path, our trail crew's priority might be to harden the trail to resist any potential future storm impact, while our cultural resource manager likely wants to make sure that the historic trail, which is listed on the National Register, retains its historic integrity. Our biologists might want to make sure that any changes made to the trail won't negatively affect the plants or animals that live around it.

All these perspectives are considered when making management decisions about Acadia's future.

The park is going to be dealing with the ramifications of the most recent winter storms for years. However, we find solace in the reality that the lands now called Acadia have been here for thousands of years and will be here for thousands more.

With our continued stewardship, the National Park Service's mission of preserving and protecting Acadia's natural and cultural resources for future generations will endure. ■

AMANDA POLLOCK is the Public Affairs Officer at Acadia National Park. CATHERINE SCHMITT is the Science Communication Specialist at Schoodic Institute.



FRIENDS OF ACADIA FUNDED temporary repairs at Ocean Path, including a new bridge and railing where erosion washed away the trail.





BE A SOIL HERO IN ACADIA THIS SUMMER

Hike up a mountain with soil during weekly Save Our Summits events and have meaningful impact on Acadia's summit restoration work.

BY CLAIRE BURNET

THERESE MILLER, left, and Gary Stellpflug, middle, drop off bags of soil at the summit of Sargent Mountain with Friends of Acadia Summit Steward Molly Bogner during the Save our Summits hike up Sargent and Penobscot Mountains.

On a sunny Wednesday in early May, I started my day at the Parkman Mountain Carriage Road Trailhead. I frequently explore Acadia's trails on my own time, but today I was here for work. I was joined by staff from Acadia National Park, Schoodic Institute, Friends of Acadia, and an eager class of UMaine students.

We were all there with the same goal: to kick off this year's Save Our Summits program by carrying bags of soil up Sargent Mountain. A few miles and over a thousand feet of elevation gain later, we removed that soil from our packs and caught our breath.

The views from Sargent Mountain are beautiful. It's easy to forget to look down, but the lichens, grasses, and shrubs on Acadia's summits are worth paying attention to.

Trampling and climate change impacts have led to vegetation loss, but years of restoration work have shown that soil helps. Looking down, we saw early signs of success: a few blades of grass peeking through the fiber netting of a restoration plot established last year.

This year, I have the lucky task of leading groups of volunteers up Sargent and Penobscot Mountains with soil to support continued summit restoration efforts. You may have heard about or participated in last year's Save Our Summits event, where volunteers carried up over 1,500 pounds of soil.

This year we're building on that success by offering regular volunteer opportunities. You can register to hike up soil with me every Wednesday from late June through early September.

Save Our Summits is one of several projects I'm helping lead as Acadia National Park's Community Volunteer Ambassador (CVA). The CVA program is a year-long position designed to strengthen relationships between parks and local communities.

The program is a partnership between AmeriCorps, Conservation Legacy, and the National Park Service. I'm a member of the first-ever Climate Cohort, a subset of CVAs focused on advancing resiliency in sites particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. I'm passionate about environmental literacy and climate action and feel lucky to be in a role that brings together those interests.

The magic of national parks is that they bring together so many people who care deeply about a place. Acadia is changing rapidly, and it can be hard to know how to help.

Almost two-thirds of Americans are worried about global warming, and they are hungry for solutions. Collective action is as much about our own wellbeing as it is about helping out.

Whether I'm building citizen-science opportunities, tabling at community events, or hiking soil up a mountain, my goal is to open the door to meaningful action. I hope you'll join me this summer on the trail!

Learn more and sign up for a Save our Summits hike this summer by visiting friendsofacadia.org/soilhero. ■

CLAIRE BURNET is the Acadia National Park Climate Community Volunteer Ambassador.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/EOA

Filling a **GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE GAP** While Restoring Acadia's Landscapes

BY CHRIS NADEAU

In Acadia National Park, park staff are dealing with the impacts of more frequent and intense storms, higher sea levels, warmer winters with more rain, more frequent drought, and the spread of invasive species that thrive in warmer temperatures.

These changes are having complex effects on Acadia's ecosystems, and staff now question the effectiveness of some traditional approaches for managing natural resources. How do park staff maintain the beauty and character of Acadia, while also adapting to a changing climate?

This is the challenge faced by park managers and caretakers of lands and waters around the world. But it's not that they don't have options for how to respond to these changes. In fact, they have a bewildering number of climate change adaptation strategies to choose from, from maintaining high biodiversity in an ecosystem to transplanting plants from warmer climates (i.e., assisted migration).

What managers don't have is evidence that these strategies work. Very few of these strategies have been tested on the ground, even though many, such as relocating plants from warmer climates, are novel approaches that could unintentionally cause harm.

For that reason, we should be implementing multiple management strategies simultaneously, including both climate-adapted and traditional approaches, to learn which

strategies work best.

This is a "learning-while-doing" approach that combines natural resource management with science. We need more of the types of climate adaptation experiments we're implementing in Acadia National Park.

The challenge is exemplified by three-toothed cinquefoil, a plant that grows on Acadia's mountains and is key to restoring eroded areas on Cadillac and other summits. Although cinquefoil is doing well in restoration plots now, temperatures could become too warm for this important plant in the coming decades, jeopardizing restoration efforts.

In the spring of 2021, we collected three-toothed cinquefoil plants from 31 locations ranging from Massachusetts to central Maine. We planted them on the summit of Cadillac Mountain in an experimental design that would allow us to compare current restoration methods with climate-adapted approaches.

So far, the climate-adapted approaches aren't working to mitigate heat stress as expected, which is a huge surprise, but also demonstrates the benefit of testing novel approaches. This is a small-scale example of the type of experiments we are recommending, and it shows we don't need a huge, expensive effort to result in significant learning about which strategies might be effective.

Acadia National Park Science Coordinator Abe Miller-Rushing has said, "Taking a learning-while-doing approach

in Acadia is helping managers compare different strategies quickly, learning how to respond to change without having to wait for research results to be published, a process that can take years. We don't have that long."

With support from the National Park Service, Friends of Acadia, and Schoodic Institute, we are also taking a "learning-while-doing" approach in two of the largest wetlands in Acadia: Great Meadow and Bass Harbor Marsh, both of which are experiencing the impacts of a changing climate.

We set up multiple test plots for comparing ways to prevent the growth and spread of invasive glossy buckthorn, including traditional removal methods, planting native shrubs to shade out buckthorn seedlings, and planting fast-growing native grasses. Learning quickly about the best methods to limit the spread of glossy buckthorn now will help us prepare for a future climate that might be even more favorable to this species.

The team is learning that this kind of experimental adaptation has many secondary benefits. For example, implementing a few different strategies at once means if something goes wrong with one, the entire project doesn't fail.

These experiments also expand knowledge about how climate change is affecting park ecosystems. Much of what we think will happen to biodiversity as the climate changes is based on correlative models that make associations between climate and species occupancy. But these models are rarely tested, despite regular suggestions in the literature that the methods have limitations that could result in inaccurate predictions of climate change responses.

Employing multiple management strategies under an experimental framework could help inform models of climate change biology and therefore improve predictions of how climate change will affect Acadia's plants and animals.

For decades, natural resource managers around the world have invested significant resources trying to adapt their management plans to climate change, but few efforts have led to significant on-the-ground actions.

We hope that promoting a "learning-while-doing" approach to climate change adaptation will accelerate efforts to learn, without delaying action on the ground. Climate change is here, but if we act now, we can avoid some of the worst impacts. ■

CHRIS NADEAU is the Climate Change Adaptation Scientist at Schoodic Institute.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Jess Moskowitz, Schoodic Institute ecology technician, marks off which plots still need monitoring for the restoration efforts on Cadillac summit. **TOP TO BOTTOM:** Allie Sliney, Acadia National Park biological science technician, waters the plants that were planted in an effort to revegetate the summit of Cadillac Mountain. • Three-toothed cinquefoil pokes up through the granite of Acadia Mountain. • Members of the Acadia National Park Invasive Plant Management Team, Emma Lanning, biological science technician, and Gondica Strykers, American Conservation Experience (ACE) intern and AYCC crew leader, remove glossy buckthorn from Great Meadow.





GREAT WORK HAPPENING ON THE GREAT MEADOW LOOP

Trail Improvements Designed to Enhance Visitor Experience and Withstand Climate Change Impacts

BY LAUREN GIBSON

Get ready! There are a lot of plans for the Great Meadow Loop trail this summer and

beyond. The work will enhance recreation by making the trails safer, more accessible, and better able to endure climate change impacts.

This work is part of the larger story for the Great Meadow Wetland. Great Meadow is facing climate challenges that are part of our reality now: more intense storms that bring significant precipitation, more time in between rain events resulting in droughts, warmer average air temperatures, and an increase in invasive species.

The Great Meadow is experiencing extreme conditions; it can seem almost desert-like with dry, cracked soils or completely under water following large rain events.

After one flood event, water in the Great Meadow froze solid, turning the wetland into a temporary ice-skating rink. While that was a unique experience for those who skated through the

wetland with a majestic view of Dorr Mountain, it highlights the lack of functionality of the wetland and associated infrastructure to handle weather conditions that are predicted to become more frequent.

Improvements to the aging infrastructure within Great Meadow are set to begin winter/spring 2025: an undersized culvert along the Park Loop Road will be replaced with a larger box culvert. This new culvert will allow for more water to exit the wetland during large rain events, but also retain water and reduce the drought conditions that the wetland has been experiencing.

"Improvements in hydrology from the new culvert should have cascading effects in the health and function of the Great Meadow," said Jason Flynn, environmental protection specialist at Acadia National Park. "Some of these improvements, such as water levels and improved access to recreation, will be immediate. Others, such as increased habitat diversity and improved carbon sequestration, will take much longer."





OPPOSITE PAGE: A bridge on the Great Meadow Loop trail crosses over a marshy area across from the Great Meadow, on the other side of Park Loop Road. **ABOVE:** A trail crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club works on a new section of trail that will connect the Great Meadow Loop along the south side of the Park Loop Road.

Trail Relocation for Increased Safety and Unobstructed Views

While the culvert will improve the hydrology of the wetland, the associated trail work will enhance the visitor experience.

As part of the culvert-replacement project, the Great Meadow Loop trail will be moved from the north side of the Park Loop Road, where it now runs alongside Kebo Valley Golf Course, to the south side of the Loop Road between Kebo Street and Great Meadow Drive. Pedestrians will have unobstructed views of Dorr Mountain as they walk along the meadow.

Great Meadow Loop, Jesup Path, and Hemlock Path will become a walkable loop that does not require users to interact with the Park Loop Road at all. This trail relocation began last fall when a crew from the Appalachian Mountain Club developed most of the new trail on the south side. The trail will not officially be open or completely connected, however, until the culvert replacement is complete.

Crosswalks will also be added at the intersections of Kebo Street, Great Meadow Drive, and the Park Loop Road, aligning them with modern federal highway standards. Other safety improvements will include signage and roadway markings like what is now seen near Thunder Hole or Jordan Pond.

Hemlock Path Also Gets a Makeover

Trail work along the Hemlock Path is also scheduled for this summer. Currently, the Hemlock Path creates a barrier for water flow through the wetland. During high water events, the path floods, rendering it inaccessible until water subsides.

Purges will be built in the existing Hemlock Path to restore natural hydrology, reduce flooding, and improve connectivity. There is also a concrete low area along the trail that will be removed.

While both ends of the path will largely remain as they are now, the center of the trail will resemble the Jesup Path: a boardwalk-style trail elevated above the purges. These changes will not only make the trail more accessible during weather events, but it will also comply with current Americans with Disabilities Act standards.

Connecting to Bar Harbor

The section of the Great Meadow Loop that runs outside of the park was one of the first Friends of Acadia Village Connector Trails constructed in partnership with Acadia National Park. The trail encourages people to walk from the village of Bar Harbor into Acadia and is only possible through access generously granted by the private landowners who allow the trail to cross their land.

Currently along the trail, a pedestrian may come across pooling water in a low spot, an exposed culvert, or tripping hazards. In certain spots, the connector trail requires users to walk on the road before reconnecting to the next portion of off-road trail.

The ultimate goal is to have a contiguous, well-marked trail that does not require the use of any roads, thus improving visitor safety. Friends of Acadia will continue to work with private landowners and the Town of Bar Harbor to create new routes through these road-based sections.

We hope that trail improvements encourage users to get out on these trails to experience and appreciate the wildlife, plants, and splendor that the Great Meadow Wetland has to offer. ■

LAUREN GIBSON is Friends of Acadia's Wild Acadia Coordinator.



SAM MALLON/TOA

Honoring Cultural Knowledge and Scientific Inquiry

Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) Program Empowers Youth Within the Wabanaki Confederacy



SAM MALLON/TOA

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Etuaptmumk is the Mi'kmaq word for the "gift of multiple perspectives."

Also called "Two-Eyed Seeing," it refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledge and ways of knowing and from the other eye with the strengths of Western science—and learning to use both these eyes together for the benefit of all.

Here in Maine, the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program immerses Indigenous youth in the wonders of scientific inquiry while simultaneously honoring their community and culture through the teachings of Cultural Knowledge Sharers (CKS) to encourage "Two-Eyed Learning."

It's an innovative initiative that stands as a beacon of empowerment and opportunity for Indigenous youth within the Wabanaki Confederacy, comprised of the Penobscot, Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq Nations, and the Abenaki Nation in Canada. Through engaging workshops, field trips, and collaborative projects, the program fosters cultural knowledge and nurtures scientific curiosity, community engagement, and academic success among its participants.

An Indigenous-led organization, the WaYS program addresses a critical need for Indigenous representation in science, technology, engineering, the arts, and mathematics (STEAM). Providing access to hands-on learning experiences, mentorship, and resources equips Wabanaki youth with the skills and confidence needed to pursue careers in STEAM fields traditionally underrepresented by Indigenous peoples.

Indigenous knowledge has often been marginalized, dismissed, or outright suppressed throughout history, particularly by colonial powers and dominant Western

societies. Several factors have contributed to this disregard, including colonialism and imperialism, Eurocentrism and forced assimilation policies, exploitation, appropriation, and a lack of representation.

Despite these challenges, Indigenous scholars, activists, and communities have worked tirelessly to reclaim, preserve, and revitalize their traditional knowledge systems.

One of the programs under the WaYS umbrella is the Ancestral Lands Trail Crew (AL Trail Crew.) The program, started in 2020 as one team, has now expanded to two teams of five Wabanaki youth ages 16-25 who travel to national parks, land trusts, tribal communities, and Indigenous nonprofit organizations throughout Wabanaki Territory to gain experience combining cultural knowledge and Western science on ancestral lands.

In just four seasons, the program has seen a lot of growth. WaYS Executive Director and Program Manager tish carr says the popularity and enthusiasm for the program is very encouraging. Recently, two members of the AL Trail Crew were promoted to full-time positions with WaYS. Wambli Martinez, a long-time WaYS intern, and Jayden Dana are now co-leaders for the trail crew.

"The AL Trail Crew has an almost 100 percent return rate—hiring on Jayden and Wambli full-time was huge. It helps us build community and connection," carr said. "They keep in contact with the other crew members. If we can find internships for them, we do that. We also extend the season for as long as possible to help them stay engaged and connected."

In 2023, during their nine weeks in Acadia National Park, the AL Trail Crew worked with park staff to build bog bridges, repair stonework, learn about and mitigate invasive species,



and participate in the Soil to Summits restoration program.

In addition to working with park staff, the AL Trail Crew is regularly joined by recently hired Kyle Lolar, WaYS Cultural Liaison. Lolar, who is Passamaquoddy and Penobscot, shares tribal history and timelines to help foster a deeper understanding and appreciation for the ancestral land that is Acadia National Park.

"WaYS is important to help our younger generations reacquire knowledge that was once freely given by thousands of years of knowledge, acquisition, and practice. It has since been removed by the extractive practices of the culture around us. WaYS allows us to bridge the traditional ecological knowledge with academia, allowing us to educate that science is a living, breathing entity. We have naturally learned from creation around us and are not constrained by the absolutes paradigm known to exist within academia," Lolar said.

Representatives from the WaYS program were invited to present at The Corps Network 2024 National Conference in Washington, D.C. in March, 2024.

"It was the first time we were at a national level speaking about our program," carr said. "The program is unique nationally because there are other ancestral lands trails crews, but they don't have the cultural component and connections during the trail season as well as after the trail season ends."

As part of their time in Washington, they also toured United States Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's office.

By bolstering a sense of belonging and pride in Indigenous identity, the program promotes resilience and self-determination among Wabanaki youth by serving as a catalyst for empowerment, innovation, and cultural resurgence. Nurturing their potential as scientists and stewards of their ancestral lands ensures that the voices, experiences, and knowledge of Wabanaki people shape the landscape of STEAM and beyond.

Participants emerge from the program with the ability to use and share the invaluable "two-eyed seeing" of Indigenous knowledge and Western science to address complex environmental and social challenges now and into the future.

"One of the things that we've heard from a number of Native youth involved in our program is that they felt like they were ahead of their classmates when they first entered college because of WaYS and understanding how the two types of knowledge come together. Feeling like they are ahead of their classmates is huge—that empowerment and that confidence is massive. That's what we are trying to accomplish here," carr said.

Learn more about the WaYS program at wabanakiyouthinscience.org. ■

JULIA WALKER THOMAS is Friends of Acadia's Visual Storytelling & Visual Assets Manager.

OPPOSITE: Elena Sparrow of the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program plants native plant species in one of the areas of Great Meadow. **TOP TO BOTTOM:** Zack Lola of the Wabanaki Youth in Science (WaYS) program plants native plant species in Great Meadow. • Wambli Martinez (right) uses a hand scope to identify hemlock woolly adelgid, an invasive pest threatening hemlock trees in the park. • Benjamin Collette, Wabanaki Youth in Science Ancestral Lands Trail Crew leader, holds a hemlock branch for Wambli Martinez, Wabanaki Youth in Science Ancestral Lands Trail Crew member, to trim back off the Hemlock Road.

The Stars Are Aligned for a Magical Night

Join us for the 35th Annual Friends of Acadia
Benefit & Auction at Cover Farm



KIP WING / AERIAL AESTHETIC

HISTORIC COVER FARM in Hulls Cove is the site of the 35th Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit on August 10, 2024.

BY JEN BYER

Get ready for an unforgettable evening as we come together to celebrate the 35th Annual Friends of Acadia Benefit & Auction!

This year's event will take place on Saturday, August 10, at the breathtaking Cover Farm, a 26-acre property that offers a stunning view of Frenchman Bay. It's been decades since we have introduced a new location for our Annual Benefit, and Cover Farm promises to provide the perfect backdrop for this momentous occasion.

Cover Farm is rich in history, dating back to 1792. The property was first owned by Antoine de la Mothe, Sieur de Cadillac, the namesake

for Cadillac Mountain. The current family acquired the property in 1922, and it features a beautiful apple orchard dating back to around 1917 and an enchanting walled garden, making it an ideal setting for our celebration.

This year's Benefit continues our tradition of community, revelry, and support for Acadia National Park. We will feature both live and silent auctions with an array of incredible items, including artwork, jewelry, multi-day trips, and unique experiences in Acadia and beyond. The evening will also include a cocktail reception, a delicious three-course dinner, live music, and dancing to the Sultans of Swing.

Historic Cover Farm

Cover Farm is a delight in great part thanks to its location. The long driveway runs alongside a meadow, beyond which is eye-catching Frenchman Bay. But there's impressive historical significance to be found here, too.

Cover Farm is listed on the National Register of Historic Places because of its architecture, including an early nineteenth-century cape house with Greek Revival and Colonial Revival period alterations as well as a designed walled garden that has survived virtually unchanged.

More recently, the property belonged to Lois and Westy Frazier. Westy was from Chestnut Hill, PA, and served as a lieutenant in the United States Army Air Corps, completing 58 missions in the Pacific

and earning the Distinguished Flying Cross and an Air Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster.

Lois was the great granddaughter of Alexander Johnston Cassatt, one-time president of the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Lois loved Mount Desert Island and knew all the trails and carriage roads well. She was a member of the Wild Gardens of Acadia Committee since the early 1980s and served as secretary for 15 years. Both she and her husband volunteered for many years at the Wild Gardens, in addition to several other local nonprofits. ■

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

Presented by

CHILTON
TRUST

We're Diggin' This Year's Paddle Raise

A highlight of the night is our Paddle Raise, aptly themed "Can We Dig It? Yes We Can!"

We are raising funds this year to purchase new heavy equipment for Acadia National Park. The park's current fleet, acquired in the early to mid-90s, is aging and increasingly difficult to maintain.

This equipment is essential for routine maintenance of the park's carriage roads and bridges as well as Acadia's ability to recover from storm damage, which has been frequent and unprecedented in scale. The need for heavy equipment is more critical now than ever before.

Having new equipment readily available will enable the park to respond quickly, without delays associated with fixing old equipment or renting equipment and training operators how to use it.

Our goal for the Paddle Raise is \$300,000 to purchase new equipment, beginning with replacing two of the oldest and most heavily used dump trucks. These trucks are critical for maintaining the park's infrastructure, and every contribution helps ensure Acadia remains pristine and accessible for future generations.

We extend our deepest gratitude to our Presenting Sponsor, Chilton Trust. We are also immensely thankful for our trio of Benefit Chairs, Anne Green, Jill Hinckley, and Lydia Kimball, whose leadership and dedication have been invaluable, as well as the entire Benefit Committee for their support of our beloved event.

Join us for a night of celebration, community, and impactful giving! Can We Dig It? Yes We Can!

For additional questions about the Annual Benefit or Paddle Raise contact Jen Byer, special events coordinator, at 207-370-4910 or jen_byer@friendsofacadia.org. Scan the QR code to learn more about the Annual Benefit and Paddle Raise and browse silent auction items. Or go to friendsofacadia.org/annualbenefit.



HEAVY EQUIPMENT is costly and critical for continued care and maintenance of Acadia National Park.

FRIENDS OF ACADIA IS

POWERED BY MEMBERS

WHO CARE DEEPLY ABOUT ACADIA

BY ELIZA WORRICK

This spring, a Friends of Acadia member left us a voicemail asking a question about the park.

"I don't know if I'm a member or not," the voicemail began. "I'm a donor who gives to Friends of Acadia each year. I just love what you're doing for the park. Anyway..."

It was a reminder that the terminology surrounding Friends of Acadia membership and giving can sometimes be a bit confusing, so we wanted to clear a few things up.

In short: A member is a donor, and a donor is a member. The terms are interchangeable.

If you give \$35 or more annually, you're a member and a donor. Whether you sign up to make an annual, quarterly, or monthly Trailblazer auto-renewing gift on the Friends of Acadia website or donate at our Membership Table at Jordan Pond House, or you give to our housing campaign (see story on page 4), you're a member and donor.

And anyone who supports the park through Friends of Acadia we consider a Friend—whether that's by donating, volunteering, advocating, or just general support. The "power of Friends" is having great impact for Acadia National Park now and for future generations.

The Meaning of Membership

For MINDY GOSSELIN, membership means MEMORIES.

Growing up in Connecticut, it was her grandfather who first introduced Mindy Gosselin to Acadia National Park. He'd visited regularly since the 1960s.

"We would always explore the island together," Mindy said as she recalls their visits to her grandfather's cabin in Otter Creek for two weeks each summer. These trips gave her something to look forward to each year, but she also got to see how parts of the park changed over time.

"I remember seeing the Tarn slowly change into mainly grass and not really knowing why," she said.

Witnessing these environmental shifts sparked an interest that led to a career in habitat restoration and conservation. Once Mindy started her role in an environmental non-governmental organization (NGO) in Connecticut, she gained a front-row seat to the kind of work that organizations like Friends of Acadia accomplish.

"Seeing and hearing what it is they actually do made me want to donate as soon as I had the means to," Mindy said.

She made her first donation on her grandfather's birthday, choosing to make the gift at the Otter Cliffs Society level as a nod to his cabin in Otter Creek. To ensure her donation lands on his birthday annually, Mindy joined the Trailblazers program, meaning her gift will automatically renew each year.

"I wish I could be up there more, but I can't. To me, giving every year helps contribute in some way."





For RENEE ANDERSON, membership means CONNECTION.

While Renee and her husband Charlie live in Delaware, they have been drawn to Maine over the years, most recently when their son bought a home in Bar Harbor.

During a quick trip last summer, Renee and Charlie stopped by the Jordan Pond House where they met volunteers at the Friends of Acadia membership table. "I just had a wonderful time talking to the volunteers at the table and found all kinds of connections to people they knew who I knew or of places that I knew."

That conversation inspired the Andersons to make their first donation to Friends of Acadia. Since then, they have made several more contributions as they learn about the work the organization is doing, such as building seasonal housing.

"With my donor advised fund I am able to support many of the places and causes that are important to me," Renee said. "Friends of Acadia is now one of those places!"

For MIKE STAGGS, membership means LEAVING A LEGACY.

About 15 or 16 years into his 23-year career at Friends of Acadia, Mike was working on creating a will right after his son Grayson was born.

"At some point you realize you're working for or donating to this thing that you love and are passionate about that was here long before you, and it's going to be here long after us," Mike said.

He chose to include Friends of Acadia in his will, a decision that made him a member of the George B. Dorr Society. The Dorr Society honors George Bucknam Dorr, whose dedication to preserving Mount Desert Island helped create Acadia National Park.

A decade later, Mike's legacy is on his mind again as he prepares to leave Friends of Acadia for a new opportunity as the Executive Director of the Seal Cove Auto Museum.

"I'll still be a Dorr Society member and keep Friends of Acadia in my will because, even if I'm at the museum until I'm 65, I'll still only be there for half the time I was at Friends of Acadia. So, it's been a large part of my life, and I hope that my planned giving will be some small part of Acadia's future."

Thanks to all of you for being members AND donors AND Friends. ■



ELIZA WORRICK is Friends of Acadia's Digital Marketing Manager.

When it's time to renew, consider an auto-renewing gift. These recurring gifts strengthen our ability to plan long term for Acadia's future. They're also convenient. Visit friendsofacadia.org/trailblazer.

THE ACADIA YOU MAY NOT KNOW

An Inside Look at What it Takes to Manage This

Archipelago

BY LYNN FANTOM



LILY LAREGINA/FOA

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

1

GET THERE EARLY!

The trails, roads, and parking lots in Acadia get busy. If you've got a particular destination or hike in mind, arriving early (before 9 a.m.) increases your chances, especially in popular areas such as the Jordan Pond parking lot and Park Loop Road.



Acadia's glaciated coastline and island landscape, abundance of habitats, and rich cultural heritage make it one of the most popular parks in the country. Acadia is consistently ranked in the top 10 most visited national parks, with about 4 million annual visits in recent years.

Whether you're a first-time or frequent visitor of Acadia, a seasonal or year-round resident of one of its surrounding communities, or a Friends of Acadia member or volunteer, there is always something to learn about this national park and what it takes to manage and protect it.

Acadia is a relatively small national park, protecting about 50,000 acres, but it is super complex according to John Kelly, an expert in environmental planning and outdoor recreation who serves as management assistant for the park. "It is an expensive place to manage because of the staffing and infrastructure we need to host visitors," Kelly said.

First, Acadia isn't all in one place, but instead is located on different parts of Mount Desert Island, the Schoodic Peninsula, Isle au Haut, and 18 smaller islands. It features 26 mountains (including the tallest on the eastern seaboard), as well as rocky ocean coastline, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands, and glacial formations.

Acadia's protected lands include conservation easements on more than 120 islands stretching across 50 miles of coastline. The park's conservation easements protect natural, cultural, and scenic resources on about 12,500 acres of private land, but do not allow public access.

Acadia's complex boundary totals 220 miles. By comparison,

ACADIA INSIDER TIP 2 CATCH THE SUNRISE FROM A NUMBER OF STUNNING PLACES.

Sure, Cadillac Mountain gets all the attention (and crowds), but if you can't get a vehicle reservation, there are a host of incredible places to watch the sun come up. Try Park Loop Road/Ocean Path, Wonderland Trail, or other peaks like Gorham, Dorr, and Champlain Mountains.

Yellowstone protects 2.2 million acres, but with a simpler rectangular boundary that adds up to about 234 miles. Included in Acadia's sum are about 100 miles of lake and marine shoreline boundary.

It takes a diverse team of scientists, resource managers, and skilled workers—trail crews, road specialists, electricians, plumbers, heavy equipment operators, carpenters, masons, water and wastewater operators, mechanics—just to maintain it.

And all so you can simply enjoy it.

Pointing to the National Park Service (NPS) mission to protect these lands, Chief of Facility Operations and Maintenance Keith Johnston said, "You just don't run out and fix something without making sure that you're going to fix it in a way that supports the ecology of the area."

"Best results come when you have multiple disciplines all communicating together," added Cultural Resources Program Manager Gail Gladstone. "Project managers, maintenance workers, preservation experts, and environmental experts all contribute to making the soundest decisions about maintaining the park."

But just getting crews where they need to go is a challenge. It includes transporting both people and equipment to the offshore islands. Last year, a new larger and more fuel-efficient boat was donated by Friends of Acadia. (You may have been among the people who helped fund it through the Paddle Raise at the Annual Benefit. Thank you.)

OPPOSITE PAGE: COASTLINE ALONG FRENCHMAN BAY viewed from the Beehive Trail looking out over the Porcupine Islands. **LEFT:** One of Acadia's unique qualities is that it lies in the boundary area between two forest zones, the eastern deciduous forest and northern boreal forest. **RIGHT TOP TO BOTTOM:** Lakes and ponds cover more than seven percent of Acadia, offering 30 miles of stunning shoreline. Well-known spots include Eagle Lake (pictured here), Jordan Pond, and Long Pond. • The rocky coastlines of Acadia, such as Schooner Head, have attracted visitors since the mid-19th century. But safe access is a key challenge for maintenance staff. • Low tide reveals a gravel bar on a small island off the mainland.





SAM MALLON/FOA

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

3

TAKE THE BUS.

Ditch your car (and the headaches of packed parking lots) and ride the FREE Island Explorer bus. The Island Explorer runs through October 14, 2024, and there are routes all over Mount Desert Island (with stops in downtown Bar Harbor and many of the hotels, too), as well as the Schoodic Peninsula. You can bring your bike, too! Learn more at [exploreacadia.com](https://www.exploreacadia.com).

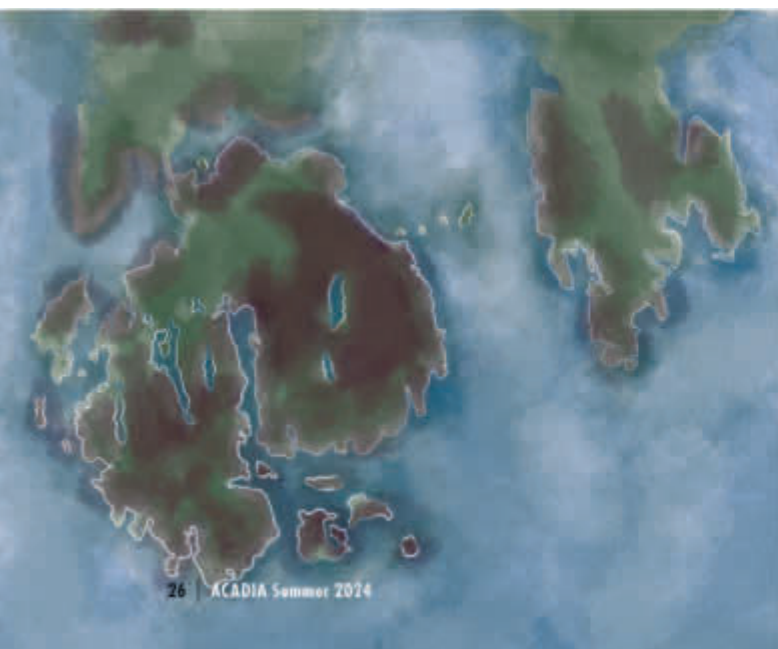
HOW ACADIA WAS CREATED ADDS COMPLEXITY

What many people also don't know is that Acadia was created largely through the donation of land tracts by individuals, who championed preservation of this landscape. The result is complex boundaries and an irregular patchwork of park lands interspersed among private properties and 10 local towns.

In fact, the park is a neighbor of some 1,000 landowners, who literally have a national park in their backyard. Being a good neighbor requires National Park Service investments of time, care, and expertise. This might mean, in a clearing operation, for example, ensuring that park trees don't fall onto someone's property. "We don't always get it right, but we do try. It does require a lot of communication," said Johnston, who himself is a mechanical engineer.

"Resource protection rangers have to understand where the park's boundary is and what those differences in jurisdiction are in order for them to manage," added Acadia's Chief of Resource Management Rebecca Cole-Will.

In fact, resource managers at the park have been exchanging information and working with boundary neighbors since 2015 to combat invasive species. Last year, they teamed up with neighbors, the Mount Desert Land & Garden Preserve and Somes-Meynell Wildlife Sanctuary, to combat hemlock woolly adelgid—the invasive insect attacking hemlock trees.





OPPOSITE PAGE: NORTHEAST HARBOR AND BEAR ISLAND in front of the mountains of Acadia. **ABOVE L-R: AMPHITHEATER BRIDGE**, the site of recent safety maintenance by Acadia National Park Master Mason Mike Fitzpatrick, is one of the historic bridges built along 57 miles of carriage roads. **HIKING ACADIA'S 150-MILE TRAIL SYSTEM** can thrill visitors. To ensure safety, park staff hike every trail each year to inspect iron rungs and ladders (such as Beehive Trail shown here), stairs, and stone walls. **BAKER ISLAND LIGHT** is among the three light stations that are part of Acadia's historic infrastructure.

WATER AND HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE ALSO POSE CHALLENGES

Bordering water adds challenges, too. Right now, for example, a specialized masonry crew is cleaning and adding new mortar to the stonework of the triple-arched Otter Cove Causeway Bridge, which was completed in 1939 and is one of the most impressive structures along the Park Loop Road.

"The crew has to contend with the tide coming in and out. They can only work at low tide and, even then, have had to develop a method for keeping water out of the barrel they are working on," said Gladstone, who is collaborating with Johnston's team on the project. They use marine grout, which holds up in extreme saltwater conditions—but dries so fast they must work quickly.

Two years ago, another bridge was the focus of cultural resource preservation. Over \$3 million was invested in Duck Brook Bridge, Acadia's longest and tallest—and the only one that is hollow. The project restored internal walkways used to conduct safety inspections. One of the challenges for this assignment was a month-long work hiatus to accommodate the peak maternity period for bats that roost under the bridge.

Acadia abounds in complex infrastructure, much of which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places, including 33 miles of scenic motor roads, 45 miles of carriage roads, 17 stone bridges, three lighthouses, two historic gate houses—and even the 158 miles of hiking trails, designated in 2022.

"We don't manage just for visitors. We manage for resources, both cultural and natural," said Kelly. So, trails are temporarily closed for peregrine nesting. Certain islands are entirely closed to the public to protect birds. Seal Cove Road was renovated with an open-bottom culvert, so the beavers could continue to do their damming and the road wouldn't wash out. "The beavers are extremely happy over there," Johnston added.

To ensure visitor safety and access, park maintenance crews conduct an annual condition assessment. For example, every year they hike every trail in the park, inspecting stone stairs, stone walls, iron rungs, and ladders.

Recently, workers had to build a new radio tower on Cadillac Mountain: ice kept damaging the existing one, but it was too dangerous to climb to repair. Storms have also devastated roads. Gusts damaged a pier on Isle au Haut, which Johnston's team reconstructed.

But sometimes the maintenance is as simple—and important—as securing a handrail. "I think the beauty of the work we do is that it's accomplished in such a way that you don't know we were there," says Johnston.

Which brings us to the subject of toilets. "Everyone needs to use a toilet when they come to a park," said Kelly. In 2023, \$7.8 million of funding provided by the Great American Outdoors Act was earmarked to rehabilitate the water and wastewater distribution systems in the Schoodic District. This project will install insulated pipes to prevent freezing during Maine's cold winters.

And rest areas will continue to be properly stocked. As Johnston's team once calculated, the toilet paper used by Acadia's visitors could reach to Mars—and back. ■

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

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

4 PLAN AHEAD.

Whether you're an experienced hiker or exploring the trails for the first time, do some homework on the places you plan to explore. Acadia's trails can be steep, rocky, rooty, and slippery—not to mention the rock scrambles. Those elements can be part of the fun, so long as you're ready for them. Unsure? Stop at the Visitor Center and ask a ranger for help.

SONGBIRDS AND SEABIRDS, FOXES AND OTTERS, SEALS AND SNAILS,

BY SHANNON BRYAN

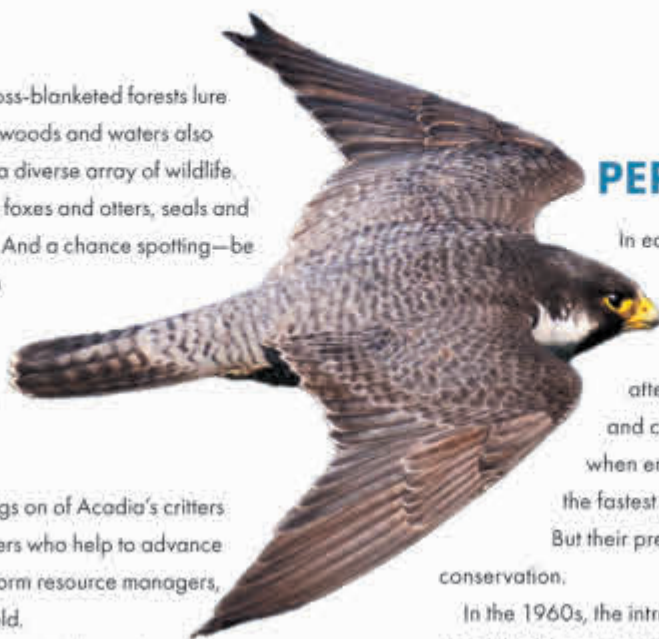
Oh My!

The churning coastline and moss-blanketed forests lure many of us to Acadia. Those woods and waters also make for welcome homes to a diverse array of wildlife.

Acadia's songbirds and seabirds, foxes and otters, seals and snails are integral to this landscape. And a chance spotting—be it a porcupine munching in a treetop or an osprey standing guard at its nest—is an experience that sticks in our memories. Plus it's just delightful to watch a cormorant dry its wings in the wind.

Paying close attention to the goings on of Acadia's critters are a host of scientists and researchers who help to advance our understanding and also help inform resource managers, both here in Acadia and farther afield.

Here are a few animals you might spot in the park and the interesting science that's happening around them:



PEREGRINE FALCONS

In early spring, Acadia's resource managers have their eyes toward the sky looking for the return of a particular raptor.

Peregrine falcons warrant the attention—these birds of prey are impressive and can reach upwards of 200 miles per hour when entering a hunting dive, making them one of the fastest animals on the planet.

But their presence in Acadia is an amazing win for conservation.

In the 1960s, the introduction of the pesticide DDT affected the strength of the peregrine's eggshells, leading to failed nests and a decline in the population. The pesticides were federally banned in 1973, and Congress passed the Endangered Species Act one year later. But the peregrines needed support to help restore their populations.

Acadia participated in a cooperative management plan to restore a self-sustaining population of peregrines to the eastern United States. In 1990, the plan's success meant the peregrine falcon was removed from the federal endangered species list.

Protecting peregrines is an on-going effort. When the peregrines return to nest on Acadia's cliffs, certain trails are temporarily closed to avoid disturbing them. That's why Precipice, East Face, Jordan Cliffs Trails and the northern section of the Flying Mountain Trail may be closed during a summer visit.

In the summer, young falcons are practicing flight. You might spot them flying above the cliffs or other parts of the island.



A PEREGRINE FALCON soars near its nest on the Jordan Cliffs. • Adult peregrine falcon rests at Jordan Cliffs • Acadia National Park Wildlife Technician Chris Long checks a peregrine falcon chick for the correct band size. The bands help researchers identify the bird in the future, giving scientists an understanding of where the birds come from and their age.

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

5 HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN.

That awesome hike you really want to do? It's likely a lot of other visitors want to hike it, too. Have a back-up option (Acadia has loads of them!) in case your first choice is already busy. And make sure you have a good, printed map, as cell phones don't always work in the park.





GULLS

Gulls are wonderfully resourceful. They've been known to bait fish with bread and wait for people to walk through automatic doors at the supermarket so they can fly in and grab some chips. They're also supremely adept at swooping in to grab a snack out of a park visitor's hands.

In Acadia, you're most likely to see herring gulls (notable for the red dot on their lower bills), ring-billed gulls (a thin black ring around their bill), and great black-backed gulls (the largest gulls in North America, they also have a red dot on their lower bills, but are notable for their dark gray wing and back feathers).

Gulls nest on offshore islands, and researchers and students from College of the Atlantic have studied them for years under the tutelage of Professor John Anderson. Last year, Anderson and his students conducted a survey of Acadia's seabird islands, tallying the number of nests on several of those islands and maps of where each of those nests was located. This data enables researchers to track population shifts as the climate changes and sea levels rise.



COMMON TERMS dip and dive for fish off of the Isle Au Haut section of Acadia National Park. • A herring gull perches alongside the cliff face of Schoodic Point. • College of the Atlantic student and seabird researcher Autumn Pauly holds a herring gull chick.

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

6

DON'T BE AFRAID TO EXPLORE THE PARK IN THE RAIN.

"Perfect" weather isn't a guarantee, and the park can be rather beautiful in the fog and rain. Explore Sieur de Monts, the carriage roads, or other flat trails between peaks. Bring your rain gear.



SAM MALLON/FOA



MATHANIEL X. BOECHAT/FOA

SALAMANDERS

A salamander spotting in Acadia feels like a rare treat, mostly because these slick-looking amphibians tend to hide out in cool, damp nooks, like under a

covering of dead leaves or a moist log on the forest floor. But you might catch a bold orange newt or a dark gray spotted salamander (notable for its yellow spots) while exploring the trails.

Spring is when many amphibians head off to vernal pools to mate and lay eggs before returning to their forest crannies. Sometimes they need to cross a road to get from one place to another, which means they're at risk of getting run over by automobiles. And many do, unfortunately. But there's research being done in and around Acadia this year to track amphibian mortality, which may help resource managers develop solutions that make those road crossings safer. You can help by volunteering as a site monitor! Learn more: search Acadia Amphibian Project on Facebook.

Acadia is also home to populations of spotted salamanders that lay their eggs on the rocky coastline, where crashing waves splash saltwater onto them. That's unique, since salt and direct sunlight are typically detrimental to amphibian eggs. A researcher from College of the Atlantic is studying those populations to figure out how those eggs fare longer-term and how those populations persist.



ACADIA INSIDER TIP

7 FOOTWEAR. LAYERS. WATER.

Maybe you're envisioning a short and mellow trail meandering. Even still, wear reliable footwear, bring an extra layer (like a fleece and/or windbreaker), and some water (snacks welcome, too)! That trail might surprise you—as might the weather.

BATS

Bats eat a host of agricultural pests and night-flying insects (like mosquitoes!)—one reason they're good to have around. They're also stealthy fliers and prefer to be active at night, so most park visitors won't see any bats during a visit.

Acadia boasts several species of bats. Some are migratory; others, like the little brown bat, Eastern small-footed bat, and Northern long-eared bat, call Acadia home all year. In the warmer months, they roost during the day in rock crevices, buildings, and trees.

Unfortunately, bat populations have diminished in North America in recent decades due to white-nose syndrome, a fungal disease that causes a white, fuzzy appearance on a bat's muzzle. In Acadia, the bat population has been reduced by 95% since 2011, when the disease was first detected in the park.

The park's ongoing monitoring program employs mist nets and acoustic call recorders to help park managers know where bats are and how they're doing. The park is also mindful of bats when doing tree cutting, which is done in the winter when bats are no longer roosting in trees but hibernating elsewhere. ■

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



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

AN EASTERN NEWT is found along the edge of Great Meadow near the Jesup Path. • Park volunteer Thea Clark finds a RED-BACKED SALAMANDER while working to re-vegetate the Seaside Path next to Stanley Brook Road. • An EASTERN SMALL-FOOTED BAT released after banding as part of a long-term monitoring program by the Acadia National Park Wildlife Crew. • Chris Heilakka, Acadia National Park wildlife technician, works to carefully untangle an eastern small-footed bat that he and his team trapped in mist netting.

BE A *Rock Star* STEWARD IN ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

You're an enthusiastic adventurer—a devotee of the great outdoors. We love that about you!

We also love that you're mindful of the impact you have on incredible places like Acadia National Park. We all have an impact but reducing it as much as possible helps ensure our public lands remain as glorious as we remember them, and that's something we can all get behind.

Here are some stewardship tips that'll ensure you're a rock star steward in Acadia and every outdoor space you adventure in:



● STAY ON THE TRAIL!

Staying on the trail is a wise environmental approach—and one that'll spare you from time spent lost in the woods. It keeps the impact from foot traffic to a confined space—allowing the surrounding vegetation to thrive.

Those summit plants make the most of the shallow pockets of soil. They're tough, but also fragile. A few boot steps can destroy them. Your duty as a plant protector is to rock hop and keep your boot steps on durable surfaces!

● WALK THROUGH PUDDLES

Maybe your parents discouraged puddle-walking when you were a kid, so you tend to detour around them when hiking on a trail. The thing is, that detour ends up making the trail wider and wider, which creates a bigger impact on the natural surroundings.

So go ahead and walk right through that puddle. Besides, a little mud on your boots is a hiker's badge of honor.



● LET CAIRNS BE CAIRNS

Cairns are rock piles or stacks that serve to mark the trail—they're super handy in Acadia on stretches of exposed granite, where the trail can be harder to follow.

Bates cairns have an important job, so when you see one, just let it be (but you're welcome to thank it for its noble work as a trail guide).



● STACK NO ROCKS

Pancakes are great for stacking. Rocks you find on public lands? Not so much.

Stacking rocks might seem like a harmless way to pass the time, but those stacks could confuse passing hikers who might think they're cairns and then be detoured from the trail. Moving rocks around can also damage our environment. Rocks play an important role in our ecosystems by providing habitat for lichen and insects. They also prevent soil erosion and flooding. Rock on, rockst



● REMOVE THE POOP

Ideally, all human pooping would take place in one of Acadia's many well-maintained toilets, all conveniently positioned near trailheads and popular park destinations (check a map before heading out). Even better, try to "go" before you go.

When hiking with a dog, it's our duty to make sure their poop ends up in the right place, too. That means bagging it AND disposing of it properly (i.e., not leaving it on the side of a trail hoping to remember to grab it later).

● RIDE THE ISLAND EXPLORER BUS

One of Acadia's many perks is the free Island Explorer bus service. This fleet of buses brings visitors to and from a host of locations within the park, as well as around Mount Desert Island and surrounding communities. It takes the pressure off parking (win!), reduces traffic congestion and emissions within the park (win!), and lets you relax and enjoy your exploring (win!). Shout out to L.L.Bean for their continued support of the Island Explorer.



ACADIA
INSIDER TIP



SIGN UP FOR A RANGER-LED TOUR.

You'll learn a lot about Acadia from someone who knows it well: a park ranger. From guided walks to carriage road bike tours, ranger-led tours give you a deeper look at the park. Or head out on the water with a cruise to Baker Island or Islesford. Check out the calendar on the park's official website to learn more and sign up at nps.gov/acadia

LEAVE IT TO BEAVER

BY SHANNON BRYAN

BEAVERS ARE AMONG THE MOST INDUSTRIOUS CREATURES ON THE PLANET.

They are dedicated builders and engineers, constructing lodges for their families and dams that aptly manage water. They're great at maintaining those structures, too, patching holes with mud and sticks they'll carry in with their forepaws or mouths. Beavers can hold their breath underwater for approximately 15 minutes and swim up to five miles per hour (more than twice as fast as the average human).

Impressively, beavers' work not only shapes their environments, but it also creates habitat for a range of flora and fauna.

In Acadia National Park, beavers weren't considered as part of the planning process as roads and other infrastructure were built, partly because there weren't many around. By the mid-1800s, a once-robust beaver population in North America was decimated by the fur trade.

Decades later, the park's first superintendent, George B. Dorr, believed it was important to bring this species back to the area. Reintroduction efforts began in the 1920s.

Even still, when the work of beavers conflicted with the desires of park managers or property owners, the prevailing approach was to remove the beaver.

But that's not today's approach.

Instead, park managers are aiming to reimagine the infrastructure in a way that is not going to create friction.

"Beavers are important to the ecology and important to the landscape," said Bik Wheeler, wildlife biologist at Acadia National Park. "They're here, and the park's perspective is they should stay here."

A good example of that holistic forethought is happening right now in Great Meadow, where the park is planning to replace a culvert in early 2025.

The current culvert's size and cylindrical shape aren't ideal to allow water to pass through during heavy rain events, which are expected to increase

THESE DEDICATED BUILDERS CREATE IMPORTANT ECOSYSTEMS IN ACADIA

as the climate changes. Add to that, debris tends to get caught up in the culvert, further hindering the flow of water and resulting in flooding.

As the park plans for the culvert replacement, they're taking the entire ecosystem into account. And beavers are top of mind.

"I want to ensure the replacement of the culvert is done in a way that beavers can still persist," Wheeler said. While it's impossible to know the future, having them in Acadia may be particularly beneficial as the environment changes.

"In the potential scenarios that we have for the park, beavers may end up tempering some of the negative impacts from climate change," said Wheeler. "They are a really good tool to have on the landscape. They have jobs, their job is to regulate water in a place."

In Acadia, keep your eyes peeled for beaver lodges, typically found surrounded by water or next to the bank of a river or pond, or signs of beaver activity in the woods, like tree stumps with teeth marks.

Beavers are most active at dawn and dusk—you might spot them moving smoothly through water, just the tops of their heads poking out, their snouts leading the way. But beavers are pretty good at maintaining personal boundaries and will use their tails to slap the surface of the water to let you know you've gotten too close.

There's so much more to know about beavers, their positive impact on ecosystems, and the work Acadia National Park is doing to ensure beavers and people can contentedly coexist. Read more about all of it by scanning the QR code. ■

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



A BEAVER carries needs to its lodge. A beaver snacks on some lily pads in Acadia National Park Pond.

ACADIA
INSIDER TIP

9

SHARE THE CARRIAGE ROADS.

Acadia's historic carriage roads can get crowded in the summer. Whether you're walking, biking, or horseback riding, stay aware of your surroundings and exercise courtesy. Keep to the right and give other visitors a clear warning before passing on the left. Bicyclists must yield to all users; pedestrians must yield to horses.

ASHLEY L. COHN/FOA





EMILY MOSES/FOA

TOP 5 THINGS TO KNOW TO ENSURE A GREAT VISIT to Acadia

A little planning goes a long way toward making your visit to Acadia even more enjoyable. The best place to start your trip is at the park's official website nps.gov/Acadia.

Park rangers share these top five things to know before you head into the park.

Remember that as a visitor, you are an important contributor to the long-term health of Acadia National Park. These tips will help you plan an incredible visit and be a good environmental steward of the park. Have a great time!

1 BUY BEFORE YOU GO

Entrance Pass: Visitors aged 16 and older must have a park entrance pass. All vehicles must display a pass clearly visible through the windshield. You can buy park entrance passes at Acadia's visitor centers and campgrounds, as well as area chambers of commerce. If you need a standard 7-day pass, you buy that online at Recreation.gov before you head to the park which helps avoid lines and saves time. Learn more about park entrance passes at nps.gov/Acadia.

Cadillac Reservation: If you want to drive up the Cadillac Summit Road between late-May and mid-October, you will also need to buy a vehicle reservation at Recreation.gov. These are only sold online in advance and are not available for purchase in person in the park. Remember to print or download your reservation before you get to the park as cell phone coverage can be spotty. For convenience, you can buy both an entrance pass and a Cadillac reservation at Recreation.gov.

2 RIDE WITH US

Try a car-free experience. The fare-free Island Explorer bus serves most of the park and surrounding communities, except Cadillac Mountain. Using the propane-powered bus reduces traffic congestion and air pollution. Leave your car at the hotel and take the bus. Learn more at exploreacadia.com.

3 PROTECT YOUR PET PRIVILEGES

Pets are welcome in Acadia, but rules apply. All pets must always be kept on a leash no longer than 6 feet. Collect and dispose of animal waste in trash containers. Find more information and a list of locations where pets are restricted at nps.gov/Acadia.

4 SAFETY STARTS WITH YOU

Before venturing out on the park's hiking trails, research hazards and challenges along your planned route. Do not rely on your cellphone as a map or flashlight. Always carry extra water, a detailed map, warm layers, and foot traction as conditions warrant. Check for trail closures and current conditions nps.gov/Acadia.

5 TAKE ONLY MEMORIES, LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS

Please leave Acadia as you find it. Walk only on designated trails and durable surfaces. Pack out trash and pet waste. Secure food and keep your distance from wildlife. Do not stack rocks or alter cairns used for trail navigation. If you discover a cultural artifact, leave it in place, snap a picture, note the location, and tell a park ranger.

ACADIA INSIDER TIP

10

BE ACADIA QUESTERS.

Acadia Quest is a FREE family-friendly scavenger hunt that leads to interesting corners of the park to glean

cool Acadia insights and complete fun activities. To participate, download the free Acadia Quest app by searching the app store for "Friends of Acadia" or "Acadia Quest," then download it to your device. friendsofacadia.stqry.app



LEFT: Acadia's Chief of Project Management Matt Outhier during a visit surveying erosion damage at Little Hunters Beach. **RIGHT:** Outhier and Ken Zyga take a measurement to assess the total area of erosion at Little Hunters Beach. **OPPOSITE TOP:** Outhier inspects the staircase at Sand Beach for structural damage. **OPPOSITE BOTTOM:** Outhier and Zyga assess erosion damage at Little Hunters Beach.

Building Acadia's Project Management Division

Storm Recovery. A New Maintenance Facility. Bridge Repair. These are No Problem for Acadia's Chief of Project Management Matt Outhier

BY LORI SCHAEFER

Acadia's new Chief of Project Management, Matt Outhier, was on the job for only a few months when extreme winter storms hit Acadia, causing extensive damage to certain areas of the park. But for him, it was business as usual.

Outhier is no stranger to responding to natural disasters in national parks. A 20-year veteran in engineering and project management, he spent the last five years as a civil engineer at Yosemite National Park in the Design and Engineering Branch, most recently serving as the acting chief.

He also serves on the Department of Interior's Burned Area Emergency Response Team, assisting with the recovery of Yosemite's Washburn fire in July 2022. This wildfire made national news because it threatened the giant sequoias of Mariposa Grove with some of the world's largest and most visited trees.

"I come from a pretty strong background of disaster recovery work," Outhier said. "At Yosemite, it seemed we were always battling a natural disaster. We'd get wildfires, which led into rainy season and mudslides, then spring rolled around, and we were back in fire season."

After the winter storms hit Acadia, Outhier and his new team sprang into action with other park managers to ensure visitor safety, assess the extent of the damage, and begin the process of applying for federal funding to help the park recover.

Outhier was instrumental in evaluating most of the significant areas of damage in the park, including sloughing at Sand Beach and Little Hunters Beach, and roof damage throughout the Schoodic Institute campus. He used his networks to bring in other civil and structural engineers who specialize in coastal engineering.

A New Project Management Division at Acadia

When Outhier joined Acadia National Park last October, he was tasked with developing a new Project Management division at Acadia to support the park's growing need for planning and project management related to construction and resource preservation.

The park manages hundreds of projects at one time, all at various stages. These projects are all aimed at maintaining Acadia's natural, historic, and cultural treasures and ensuring

the park is safe and enjoyable for visitors.

Those projects cover a wide spectrum, according to Outhier, ranging from a small culvert replacement to projects like the stabilization and rehabilitation of Wildwood Stables, to construction of the park's new maintenance facility, a two-year project. Most of Acadia's projects—big and small—were being managed in the Maintenance Division by Chief of Maintenance, Keith Johnston, and his team, but the need and workload had long outgrown one division's capacity.

The new Project Management division supports park projects from planning to completion, providing comprehensive project oversight. Team members work collaboratively to support the needs of other divisions—especially Maintenance—as they guide park projects through scoping, environmental compliance, contracting, design, and construction.

"We're here to help," says Outhier. "Our product is not self-serving. Everything we do benefits other divisions."

"The storms are case in point of why it's so important to have engineers and project managers in the NPS. Having this division means we can respond quickly to emergencies," Outhier added. "Engineers make great project managers because we speak the same language. We have the expertise to review the contract engineer's design products for compliance and suitability. That ultimately saves the park time and money when working through the design process."

Friends of Acadia Helps Fund Project Liaison

Ken Zyga, a 35-year veteran of planning, design, and management of capital improvement and rehabilitation projects, joined Acadia's Project Management division this year, thanks to support from Friends of Acadia.

Zyga has a civil, structural, and environmental engineering background, and has managed projects all over the world. Acadia National Park hired him this year as part of the National Park Service's Experienced Services Program.

He will focus his efforts and expertise on projects where Friends of Acadia has provided financial support, including the Cadillac Mountain Accessible Connector Trail, Bass Harbor Head Light, and housing projects at the Kingsleigh Inn and Harden Farm.

"We are excited to support Ken Zyga to add capacity at Acadia National Park, bringing our visions to reality," said Friends of Acadia President and CEO Eric Stiles. "Ken brings a wealth of expertise to the already deep bench at Acadia, and it will expedite completion of projects our donors have funded."

According to Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider, most of the larger national parks such as Yosemite, Yellowstone, and Grand Teton have a Project Management Division and build out extensive professional services.

"Having our own Project Management division means



we have staff support who not only are experts in project management, but are experts in Acadia," said Schneider. "Acadia is such a unique place, it's so important that we have experts managing projects who understand the context of the resources and infrastructure we are trying to protect."

Outhier considers it a huge honor to serve within the National Park Service and is thrilled to be at Acadia heading its new Project Management Division.

"I have absolutely loved my time as a civil engineer in the National Park Service," he said. "It's an opportunity to marry my professional expertise and interests with my personal interests, and being a steward of our public lands is really special. Plus," he added, "there's never a dull moment." ■

LORI SCHAEFER is Friends of Acadia's Vice President of Communications and Marketing.



SPECIAL PERSON

Remembering Dick Broom

Consummate Journalist, Community Member, and Friend

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

Sometimes journalists strike fear in their interview subjects. Are we going to say the right thing in the right way, and will it be reflected accurately?

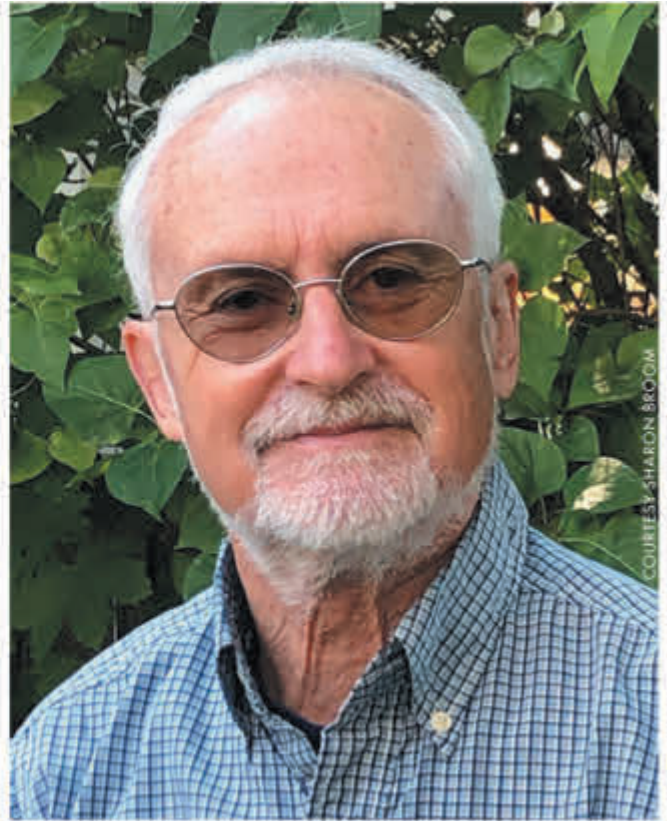
For more than 20 years, Mount Desert Island (MDI) was lucky to have Dick Broom as one of the most friendly, insightful, inquisitive, and precise reporters from the *Bar Harbor Times* and *Mount Desert Islander*.

Dick covered many park issues, from visitation numbers to storm damage to emergencies in the park. John Kelly, Acadia National Park's management assistant said, "Dick covered every aspect of Acadia National Park for almost 15 years. He was always a consummate professional, writing news stories that were accurate, thorough, and impartial. Most of all, he was a kind gentleman whom I will always remember as a friend."

Dick also covered how MDI towns interfaced with the park, including meetings of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, and discussions about topics such as fire management and housing partnerships.

Earl Brechlin, former communications director for Friends of Acadia and former editor of the *Bar Harbor Times* and *Mount Desert Islander*, said, "Dick Broom was the consummate community journalist. His dedication to telling the stories of others was second to none. With an unassuming style, he always kept the focus on the topic at hand, never on himself. His body of work all over Mount Desert Island helped educate and motivate multiple generations of informed citizens."

With credit to the *Mount Desert Islander* for arms-length coverage, Dick did not report on Friends of Acadia's programs



COURTESY SHARON BROOM

during the nearly 14 years that his wife, Sharon Broom, worked as Friends of Acadia's Development Officer. However, we always enjoyed his visits to the office with a golden retriever leading the way—first Eden and then Lizzie.

Dick loved the national parks, and his vacation plans with Sharon often centered on park visits. He could often be seen exploring Acadia's trails with his canine companions. MDI's ocean shorelines and freshwater ponds were favorite destinations for swims and games of fetch. Dick also authored two mystery novels, "Death Once Removed" and "The Gandhi Lodge," the second of which prominently features a beaver lodge in the park. Undoubtedly, the hours spent around Acadia's ponds spurred Dick's imagination.

Dick was diagnosed with ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease, in 2020. He was devoted to the MDI community and continued to write for the *Islander* right up to his death in early May of 2024. As the disease progressed, Dick used adaptive software and assistance from Sharon for logging into Zoom meetings, typing articles, and dialing phone numbers.

We at Friends of Acadia are grateful to have known Dick personally and professionally. Our hearts go out to Sharon, our friend and former colleague, and Lizzie, Dick's "fuzzface" sidekick. Dick gracefully documented Acadia's issues of the day, and his words will live on for future generations. ■

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

DICK AND SHARON BROOM during a visit to Monument Valley Navajo Tribal Park in Arizona.



COURTESY SHARON BROOM

NEW MEMBERS

January 1 - May 31, 2024

Anonymous (1)
Madeleine and Nicholas Allen
Anthony Alvis
Lori Andersen
Kimberly Andrejco
Kathleen Andrews
Maya Andrews
John Bailey
Jonathan Barry
Beverly Bartlett
Lindsay Batcheller
Jill Baxter
Helene Begley
Ned Book
Eric Boberg
John Borchert
Barbara and Roger Bremekamp
Gary Brookman
Samuel Brown
Robert Bryan
L.A. Bykowski
Christine Castle
Suzanne Church
Ann Cantole
Bill Coppess
Karen Cronan
Anna Davies
Susan and John Davis
Paul Detwiler
Diana DiMeo and Gordon Rowse
Janet Dinerman
Anne Dunham
Alison Eckert
Gladys and Tom Ettinger
Linda Felt
Alex Fernberger
Eugene Fiset
Joseph Gaudrault
Andrew George
Bobby Gibbs
Dale Glass
Elizabeth Goeselt
Carla Goodheart
Cynthia Goss
Linda Govannicci

Ruth Grasfield
Janet Grlica
Lizbeth Guenot
Tom Hannan
Gail Harmon
Helene Harton
Phyllis Harwell
Katharine Heckscher
Elizabeth Henning
Margaret Heppe
David Hitchcock
Christy Hurst
Bill, Lyn, and George Hutchinson
Rebecca Johns
Ann and Scott Keep
Kathryn Kelly
Anna Kennedy
Dawn Kielb
Audrey Klimkowski
Rota Knott
William Knowlton
James Koryta
Brenda and Marc Kouyoumdjian
Sheila Lamb
Karen Lazar
Nancy Le
Susan Leavens
Carmella Lewis
Susie Lowe-Stockwell
Jon Lowrance
Rithy Lu
Kelly Macauley
Christine and Michael Maher
Ann Manheimer
Mann Family
Peter Mann
Elizabeth Markonas
Mary McCarthy
Anthony McChesney
Robert McDonald*
Katrin McGee
Diana Mcnamara
Bruce McWaters
Jennifer Meshna
Eugene Meyer
Janice Morison
Mark Mullen
Patricia Mullen-Smith

Melissa Nelson
Richard Noble
Heather Norwood
Sandra Notz
Michele Occhiuti
David O'Neill
Nicie Panetta
Lori Paparteys
Rebecca Perkins
Greg Piduch
Julia Plunkett
Dana Pound
Elly and Scott Preston
Rishi Ramano
Carol Readinger
Lissa Ready
Alison Reddy
Roseann Ronnan
Judith Rosen and Chuck Dresner
Russell Roy
Nancy Sampson
Colin Samuel
Sophie Saunders
Sibylle and Tom Saunders
Elizabeth Schenk
Haley Schorer
Lesia Seipt
Nicholas Shadowen
Diane Silber
Marsha Simchera
Suzanne Siner
William Skuski
Kristine Slater
Brandon Smith
Dennis Smith
Sharon Smith
Andrea Soccorsi
Robert M. Spann*
Charles Steedman
Linda Steele
Donald Stern
Kate Stookey
Bernice and John Strain
William Studley
Heather Sultanian
Magaret Summers
Danielle Syvertsen
Zachary Talioferro

Michele Terino
Lauren Todaro
Jillian Trujillo Hernandez
Jodi Turner
Clara Urbahn
Beth Van Pelt
Tracy and Christopher Venezia
John Veres
Cathy Wales
Lisa Walker
Tamsen Brooke Warner
Mary Lou Weaver
Kaitlyn Webster
Mark Weitholer
Danine Welsh
Ruth Winders

* deceased

NEW TRAILBLAZERS

January 1 - May 31, 2024

Anonymous (1)
Jennifer Blair
Martha and Alan Blume
Ethel Coggeshall
Mindy Gosselin
Susan and Tom Hayward
Katherine and Patrick Notley
Graham Ober
Faith Pulis
Lissa Ready
Jan and Christopher Robald
Marsha and LeRoy Tabb
Tash Family
Jillian Trujillo Hernandez
Rose and Gregory Washak

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WILL NEWTON/FOA

CONFRONTING CLIMATE CHANGE With Indigenous Knowledge

BY REBECCA COLE-WILL

Acadia National Park is addressing climate change threats to archaeological resources in collaboration with the Wabanaki Tribes, whose cultural heritage these important landscapes represent.

All along the coast, fragile archaeological sites are being destroyed by climate change impacts from steadily rising sea levels and increasingly intense and frequent storm events. The now-infamous storms of January of this year are only the most recent of ongoing events that demonstrate the challenges that need to be addressed.

Acadia recently received funding from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). This federal fund source allotted \$20 million to the National Park Service (NPS) Cultural Resources Stewardship and Science (CRSS) program for climate change response. Acadia's project was one of 14 in the NPS nationally. Acadia was recognized for a unique approach to integrate Indigenous archeology practice into co-stewardship of vulnerable archaeological sites.

There are at least 24 ancestral Wabanaki archaeological sites in Acadia. A few have been studied by academic archaeologists with a perspective on the past formed by Western science archaeological theory.

This new project is a deep collaboration with the Wabanaki Nations (Houlton Band of Maliseet, Mi'kmaq Nation, Passamaquoddy Tribe, and Penobscot Nation) led by Dr. Bonnie Newsom, Associate Professor of Anthropology and Climate Change at the University of Maine.

Since the mid-2000s, Dr. Newsom has partnered to expand consultation and documentation of Wabanaki heritage sites

in Acadia (see the winter/spring 2023 *Acadia* magazine for more about Dr. Newsom's work). Dr. Newsom's work centers Wabanaki perspectives on these traditional cultural landscapes to enrich our understanding of their value and historical context.

Wabanaki Tribal historic preservation officers (THPOs), fluent speakers, elders, and youth will participate in a five-year project to braid Western science information with Indigenous knowledge. This approach is sometimes called "Two-Eyed Seeing."

The funding will support collaboration to bring Wabanaki people back to the park for place-based experience of heritage landscapes, build communication products that are informed by Wabanaki knowledge, language, and interests, and co-create a research agenda that integrates archaeological science with Indigenous knowledge. Dr. Newsom is mentoring new graduate students who will work on aspects of this project, such as technical analyses of cultural materials from these sites that inform Wabanaki interests in the past.

Outcomes will include new educational and interpretive material about archaeological sites as cultural heritage resources, a framework for other NPS sites to expand co-stewardship consultations with affiliated Tribes, and a model for decision-making for managing archaeological sites rapidly being lost to climate change effects. ■

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

LEFT: Passamaquoddy archeologist Natalie Dana Lolar, Passamaquoddy language expert Madonna Soctomah, and UM graduate student Catherine Matassa use a mapping app to monitor archeological site erosion. **RIGHT:** Natalie Dana Lolar and Madonna Soctomah integrate Passamaquoddy language into archeological terminology.





CLOCKWISE: Kari Goraj of Acadia by Carriage, LLC, operator of Wildwood Stables in Acadia National Park, secures Ed Wood's wheelchair in the back of the wheelchair accessible carriage. • Riders on the accessible carriage (L-R) Margy Vase, Jamie VanderMolen, Ed Wood, and Janet Wood enjoy the ride on the carriage roads. • Wildwood Stables Wheelchair accessible carriage • The horse-drawn accessible carriage crosses over the Stanley Brook carriage road bridge in Seal Harbor. PHOTOS BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides for Wheelchair Travelers Plus Online Reservation Option at Wildwood Stables

Wheelchair travelers visiting Acadia National Park can enjoy a ride on a horse-drawn carriage this season. A wheelchair-accessible carriage is available by reservation at Wildwood Stables, which features a ramp on the back accessible to many types of wheelchairs.

Wheelchair users ride on the carriage at no cost thanks to a generous grant to Friends of Acadia from the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation. And, up to three guests accompanying the wheelchair user will receive 25 percent off the cost of the carriage ride.

Designed for Acadia's historic carriage roads, the horse-drawn carriage is comfortable for all park visitors. In addition to wheelchair travelers, several additional passengers (an additional 2-3 passengers, depending on the size of wheelchair and comfort level) may join on the carriage's bench seats. All are welcome to examine the carriage before a visit to decide whether the experience matches their capabilities and interests. Those hoping to reserve a tour must contact Acadia by Carriage by phone or email to reserve in advance, as spaces are limited.

Diana Davis Spencer, a seasonal resident of Mount Desert Island, started the program in honor of her late husband, John

Spencer, who was a wheelchair user and had fewer travel options due to his disability.

"Acadia is one of my favorite national parks, because there is so much to enjoy as a wheelchair user. I love rolling on the accessible trails and taking in the views from Cadillac Mountain, and having wheelchair-accessible carriage rides in Acadia now will be a fantastic addition to the park. I have never seen a wheelchair-accessible horse-drawn carriage throughout my travels, so this is very exciting!" said wheelchair travel expert and international influencer Cory Lee of Curb Free With Cory Lee. "It's a unique addition and will continue making Acadia one of the best national parks for wheelchair users."

Acadia By Carriage is now accepting online reservations for daily horse-drawn carriage tours, including the Rockefeller's Bridges Tour, Day Mountain Summit Tour, and Around Day Mountain Tour. The online option makes booking simple and efficient for most tours, although the wheelchair-accessible carriage still must be reserved by phone or email.

To make a reservation for the wheelchair-accessible carriage, please **email info@acadiabycarriage.com or call 207-600-7204.**

To reserve online for other tours, go to **acadiabycarriage.com.**



SAM MALLON/FOA

IN MEMORIAM

January 1 - May 31, 2024

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- Peter Welles
- Curtis Wells
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- Charles Winters
- Justine Cobb Winters
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IN NOMINE

January 1 - May 31, 2024

We gratefully acknowledge gifts received in honor of:

- La Vonda Bailey
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- Katharine Bassney
- Jared Belsky
- Pamela Brannick
- Bucky and Maureen Brooks
- JC Camelio and Ellen Gellerstedt
- Stephanie Clement
- 2024 COA Graduates
- Monica Croghan
- Reya Eden Eberhart
- Peg Emple
- Dr. David H. Evans
- Becky Heden
- Annie Kozak
- Sally Lagoy
- Geneva Langley
- Ralph Larsen
- Sara McDonald
- Richard Mayer*
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- Weslea Sidon
- Lisa Sprague
- Genevieve Stokes
- Leslie Strange
- Tony Vittocia
- Helen Weaver
- Peter Welch
- Fabio Simao

* deceased

Getting Acquainted with Acadia Photo Essay of Seasonal Staff Orientation

BY EVIE LINANTUD

The first few weeks as a seasonal employee with Friends of Acadia were a whirlwind of park tours, trainings, and explorations.

After arriving on Mount Desert Island in late May, I joined other Friends of Acadia seasonal employees—Recreation Technicians, Summit Stewards, Stewardship Coordinators, and Wild Gardens of Acadia intern—for in-the-field experiences where we learned what makes Acadia National Park what it is.

Not only were the tours fun, but we got to speak with park staff along the way to see what a typical workday looks like for them. I also learned some historical tidbits that I can now share

with others to make their experience at Acadia even better.

We each gained a better understanding of the area and its history, all while building lasting connections with those in the field and each other. ■

Scan to read the full story online.

EVIE LINANTUD is Friends of Acadia's seasonal photographer.



JULIA WALKER/FOA

CLOCKWISE: FRIENDS OF ACADIA SEASONAL EMPLOYEES Amanda Hathaway, Kyra Parker, Lilly Abbott, and Jillian Trujillo climb up a ladder on the Beech Cliff trail. • Charlie Jacobi, retired Acadia National Park visitor use manager, leads a cairn-building training with seasonal employees near the South Ridge Trail on Cadillac Mountain. • Seasonal employees practice the Leave No Trace principle signs. • Seasonal employees Ella Skolfield and Kyra Parker carry a rock during a training on cairn building with Jacobi on the North Ridge Trail. PHOTOS BY EVIE LINANTUD.





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1 Including Mount Desert Island, how many islands contain land owned by the National Park Service?

2 Which of the four Porcupine Islands is not owned by the National Park Service?

3 How many lighthouses does Acadia National Park manage?

4 Of the park's 37,000 acres of fee-owned land (i.e., not including easements) what percentage of that land was donated?

5 Acadia's boundary is complex (what with all those islands, shoreline, and dispersed tracts). How many miles does it stretch?

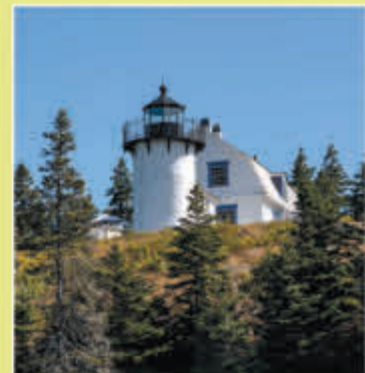
1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____



ANSWERS ON PAGE 50

Updates

Join Us for Pints for a Purpose, a Lively Speaker Series

Gather around the fireplace, sip a beer, and hear stories about the history and future of Acadia National Park and Mount Desert Island every Thursday evening at Terramor Outdoor Resort in Bar Harbor.

This free series runs weekly into October and invites attendees to delve into a range of topics with local experts, from "Whatever happened to the Cooper's Hawk?" to the history of the park through historic postcards. It's an excellent way to learn more about the park and the island in a splendid social setting. Plus, \$1 of every beer purchased benefits Friends of Acadia (although having a beer during a talk isn't required).

Pints for a Purpose talks begin at 5 p.m. Upcoming topics include "The Life Changing Power of Nature on Young People" with Juan Martinez, environmentalist and educator; "Wild Acadia and Climate Change" with Chris Nadeau, climate change adaptation scientist at Schoodic Institute; "Acadia's Buildings" with Keith Johnston, chief of maintenance at Acadia National Park; and "History of the Wild Gardens of Acadia" with writer Anne Kozak. For the full schedule of speakers and topics, go to friendsofacadia.org/p4p



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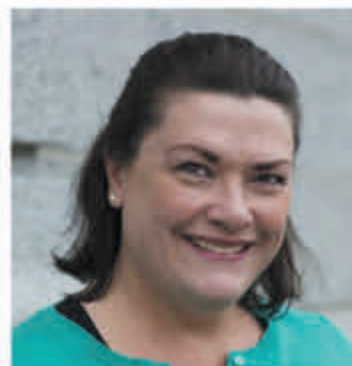
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Updates Friends of Acadia's Team Grows



ELIZA WORRICK joined Friends of Acadia as its Digital Marketing Manager, helping to implement a digital-forward approach to communicating with and engaging members, volunteers, visitors, and the community. She manages Friends of Acadia's social media channels, email marketing, and online advertising campaigns. Born and raised in Bar Harbor, Eliza moved away to Austin and Denver, but returned to MDI in 2020. She most recently worked for Mount Desert 365 in Northeast Harbor.



JOANNE WOOD has been promoted to Development Manager. JoAnne first joined Friends of Acadia in 2018 and was most recently Development

continued on next page.

Updates

Coordinator. In her new role, she's managing our annual fundraising programs—including membership, annual fund, and business support campaigns—as well as our Membership Table volunteers. JoAnne brings her passion for promoting accessibility, stewardship, and preservation of the precious resources we have at Acadia National Park, to this role.



JODI MICHAEL joined the development team at Friends of Acadia as our new Corporate and Foundations Relations Coordinator. Jodi serves as our primary grant writer—researching grant opportunities from corporations and foundations, drafting proposals and reports, and working closely with Friends of Acadia staff, board members, and volunteers to identify, cultivate, and steward grant funders. Jodi brings over two decades of national non-profit fundraising and public policy experience to this role.



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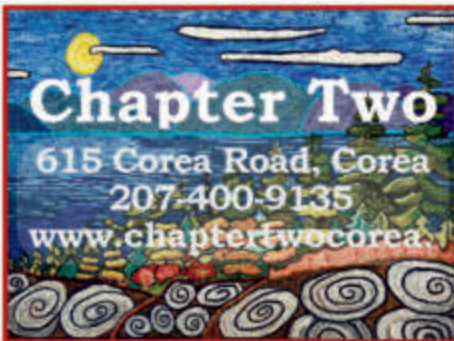
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Updates

Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute Seasonal Staff 2024



STAFF WORKING WITH FRIENDS OF ACADIA AND SCHOODIC INSTITUTE for the 2024 season gathered along with their supervisors at Woodlawn Museum.

On June 18, staff working with Friends of Acadia and Schoodic Institute for the 2024 season gathered along with their supervisors for an afternoon of education, refreshments, and networking. This group of both seasonal and seasoned staff met at The Woodlawn Museum's new Baker Center at The Barn in Ellsworth to learn about how each organization

supports Acadia National Park and how the two organizations work together. There was also plenty of networking across groups. It takes many hands and strong partnerships to make Acadia National Park the place we know and love, so this was a wonderful chance for these two groups to come together and celebrate the season ahead.



2024 FRIENDS OF ACADIA SEASONAL STAFF: Back Row (L-R) Evie Linantud, Jillian Trujillo, Nora Marasco, Luke Fiermonti, Kyra Parker, Ella Skolfield, Katie Laska. Front Row (L-R) Eli Shahan, Emily Padden, Teghan Oswald, Amanda Hathaway, Lilly Abbott.

Updates

Acadia Gateway Center on Track to Welcome Visitors in Spring 2025

The long-anticipated Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton is coming to life, and Friends of Acadia delivered its \$1 million pledge to MaineDOT for the project in May.

The Acadia Gateway Center will serve as a welcome center where visitors can plan their trips through Acadia, purchase park entrance passes, and board the Island Explorer to visit the park car-free.

Construction began on the center last spring, and this spring Friends of Acadia leaders joined our partners at Acadia National Park, as well as representatives from Downeast Transportation, Maine Office of Tourism, the Maine Tourism Association, and MaineDOT for a tour of the building and grounds, and a discussion of future operations.

Expected to open in May 2025, the facilities will include an 11,000 square-foot building with regional tourism and park information, restrooms, and an Island Explorer transit hub along with a parking for 250 cars.

The center incorporates several sustainability features, including a geothermal heating and cooling system, a rooftop solar panel array (for which Friends of Acadia will contribute \$225K), and electric vehicle charging stations.

This project has been decades in the making and it's so exciting to see it coming together. It's really an impressive space!

Friends of Acadia donors who've supported this work can feel incredibly proud.

In addition to private support from Friends of Acadia and public support from MaineDOT, the National Park Service, the Federal Transit Administration, and Efficiency Maine are also providing funding.

Friends of Acadia's leadership team joined Acadia National Park leadership, partners from Downeast Transportation, the Maine Office of Tourism, Maine Tourism Association, and MaineDOT for a tour of the new **ACADIA GATEWAY CENTER** in Trenton, Maine.



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Leading the Way, Together

As chair of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors for a year now, I continue to be struck and gratified by how frequently Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia are cited as national leaders in tackling the many challenges facing our national parks.

These challenges include managing the park through climate change impacts, navigating a severe lack of affordable housing for our workforce, handling increased visitation, ensuring that our parks are accessible to all, and exploring co-stewardship of these special places in partnership with Tribal nations.

At the National Parks Friends Alliance meeting this spring, National Park Service Director Chuck Sams listed the lack of workforce housing for park staff, volunteers, and concessionaires as the top challenge the National Park Service (NPS) is facing. In doing so, he cited the work of Friends of Acadia to bring new housing to Acadia National Park as an example of leadership on the issue. In July, Friends of Acadia President Eric Stiles was invited to testify before the U.S. Senate National Parks Subcommittee on the need for affordable workforce housing, and to cite proposed solutions based on Friends of Acadia's work.

Acadia and its partners continue to lead the way when it comes to managing protected lands in the face of a changing climate. This spring, Acadia hosted a group of Society for Conservation Biology Smith Fellows under the leadership of Schoodic Institute's Climate Change Adaptation Scientist Chris Nadeau.

A 21st Century International Capacity Building Initiative brought individuals from parks and protected areas around the world. The group discussed storm damage at Sand Beach, how the Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) framework is used in park management at Thunder Hole, visitor use challenges at Jordan Pond, and climate-smart, partnership-based restoration and co-stewardship at Great Meadow.

And Sierra—the national magazine produced by the Sierra Club—featured a story on the impacts of

the winter storms in Acadia and how the park and its partners are implementing the RAD framework to manage through climate change.

In June, Acadia hosted a dozen members of the Biodiversity Funders Group—a professional association of environmental, conservation, and climate and energy grantmakers. They spent a day touring the park to learn about our climate-smart restoration work in Great Meadow and on the park's summits. They learned how we're using the RAD framework to make decisions about how to manage and repair damage in the park suffered during severe winter storms. And they learned more about the park's co-stewardship efforts with the Wabanaki Tribes.

Leadership in conservation, or any endeavor, starts with innovation and collaboration, being willing to listen and to learn, to try new things and to adjust as needed. Most importantly, it's about building strong partnerships, because we are stronger together than alone.

Friends of Acadia is fortunate to have exceptional partnerships with Acadia National Park and the Schoodic Institute and to have earned the trust and support of our nearly 5,000 members and donors, thousands of volunteers, and the park's surrounding communities.

That's what we mean when we refer to the Power of Friends.

I hope you are as gratified as I am in these accomplishments and that you take great pride in supporting Acadia and in leading the way forward as our national parks and public lands face some daunting challenges.

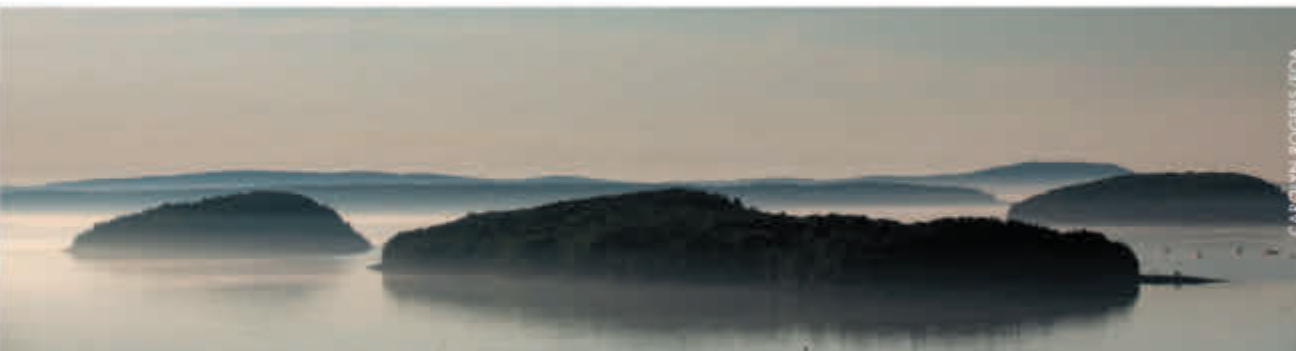
Speaking of accomplishments, if you haven't done so already, please visit the Friends of Acadia website to review our 2023 Impact Report at friendsofacadia.org/impactreport.

Together, we're making great things happen, and there's so much more to come.



—Bill Eacho

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



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ANSWERS to Acadia Land IQ Quiz on page 40

1. 20 (NPS owns 15 whole islands; it owns varying amounts of acreage on the other five).
2. Burnt Porcupine Island is privately owned. Sheep Porcupine, Rum Key Porcupine, Long Porcupine, and Bald Porcupine are owned by the NPS.
3. Three: Bass Harbor Head Light Station, Baker Island Light Station, and Bear Island Lighthouse.
4. 78%
5. 220 miles

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Updates

Friends of Acadia Supports Co-Stewardship Practices with Federally Recognized Tribes

The National Park Service announced, via an Environmental Assessment (EA), plans to develop and enter agreements for the gathering of sweetgrass within Acadia National Park by enrolled members of the five federally recognized tribes of Maine. This EA represents the next phase in Acadia National Park's long-standing efforts to pilot a co-stewardship approach for sweetgrass harvesting in the park's salt marshes.

Friends of Acadia submitted comments that acknowledged the importance of incorporating traditional Wabanaki knowledge and cultural practices into management decisions related to sweetgrass harvesting. Friends of Acadia supported the EA's finding that the traditional gathering of sweetgrass would not impact existing visitor activities or preclude park visitors from using designated harvesting areas.

In its comments, Friends of Acadia supported implementation of the preferred alternative, which would facilitate agreements between the tribes and the National Park Service, enabling traditional harvesting of sweetgrass in designated park areas.



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READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IN ACADIA?"



Deer Brook Bridge

Thanks to the readers who responded to our "Where in Acadia?" question in the winter/spring magazine and correctly identified the location as the Deer Brook Bridge as seen from the Deer Brook Trail in winter. This bridge is an eye-catcher, and one of the few bridges in the carriage road system with more than one visible arch. Built in 1925, it was the first bridge for which John D. Rockefeller, Jr. sought the approval of the National Park Service, founded just 10 years earlier, since he was building it on park land.

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!

"What a wonderful image of the Deer Brook Bridge in the snow! This is one of our favorite places in the park, and we visit it every time we are in Acadia. It is the perfect location to pause and soak in all that the park offers. Whether on a bike ride or hiking up from Jordan Pond, in the spring or fall, or after a rain, it is a wonderful spot."

- Joanne and Scott Hemenway, Rochester NY

"Deer Brook Bridge. I've been coming to Acadia for 25+ years. This year I was able to get to this bridge in the freezing cold in February. Such an awesome sight. Wore my Yak Trax due to the frozen carriage roads. So worth the trip!"

- Angela Timmann, West Warwick, RI

"The 'Where in Acadia?' pictured in your winter/spring edition is of the Deer Brook Bridge, taken from the Deer Brook Trail. I recognized the bridge right away. The bridge is unusual in that it has two arches, unlike other carriage road bridges in the park. I have been hiking the trails of Acadia for the past forty-or-so years and consider the Deer Brook Trail one of my favorites. I looked back through photos and came across one taken on April 26, 2019 from just about the same spot as the photo in your magazine. I fondly remember that day as Lilith, my dog, and I continued on the Deer Brook Trail past the bridge to summit Penobscot and Sargent."

- Phil Crevier, Newtown, CT

"It looks like Deer Brook Trail. We had to take it on the way back from Sargent Pond because another trail was closed. We nicknamed it 'Broken Ankle Trail' because every footfall is on a jagged, slippery and sometimes loose rock. We made it down without incident, but you really have to pay attention to every step. Otherwise, it is a beautiful wooded hike that winds back and forth across a lovely brook."

- Keith W Briggs, Southwest Harbor, ME

"It's the Deer Brook Bridge. It has been more than 50 years since my first visit to Acadia National Park. Over the years I've hiked the Deer Brook Trail from Jordan Pond and walked the carriage roads. A few years ago, my friend Lisa and I challenged ourselves to cross every carriage road bridge. And we did it!"

- Diana Strange, Los Gatos, CA

"I recognize that bridge as Deer Brook Bridge. My husband and I have driven our horse and carriage over that many times. It is very unassuming until you hike around in the woods to view it then it is just amazing to see. We have gone to Acadia since 2006 and only missed three years going, one due to government shut down and another due to my horse passing away and having to train a new one. We enjoyed our 13 years of carriage driving at one of the most unique places in the world to do that thanks to Mr. Rockefeller."

- Carol Carpenter, Monson, MA

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LILY LAREGINA/FOA

