

# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal SUMMER 2023

## 50 YEARS LATER

ACADIA YOUTH  
CONSERVATION CORPS

## SCALING UP

CLIMATE-SMART RESTORATION IN ACADIA  
(SPECIAL FEATURE PAGES 24-29)

## RIDE ON

MDI WHEELERS HELP PEOPLE  
UNABLE TO RIDE A BIKE GET OUT



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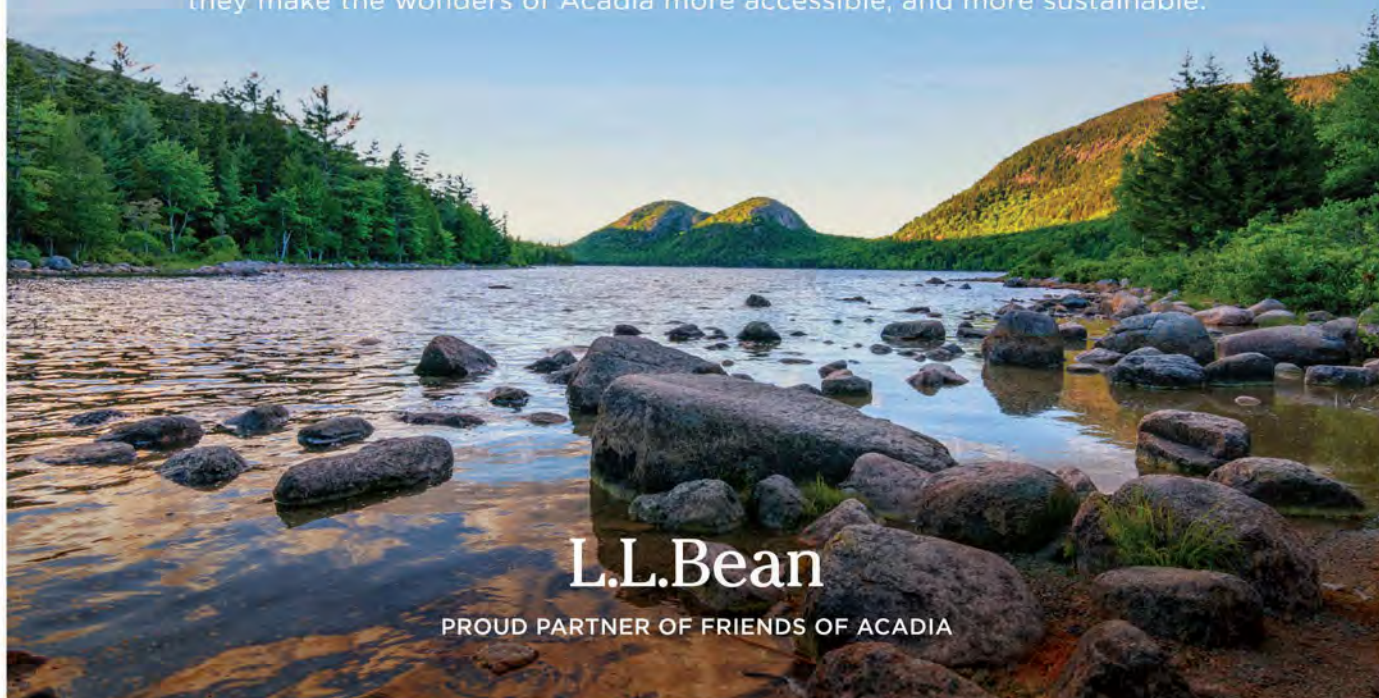
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# ACADIA

The Friends of Acadia Journal

SUMMER 2023

Volume 28 No.2

*A Magazine about Acadia National Park  
and Surrounding Communities*

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

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Visitors watch the sun rise from the top of Cadillac Mountain in Acadia National Park. Read related story on Research and Resiliency in Acadia on page 24.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

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# WHERE IN ACADIA?

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

Bubbly cotton candy views of this lake, body of salt water, and mountains beyond are seen from near the top of an iconic Acadia scene. In the fresh water, no swimming is allowed as it is a drinking water source for a nearby town. Where is it?

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



# READERS RESPOND TO "WHERE IN ACADIA?"



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

## Compass Harbor

Thanks to the readers who responded to our "Where in Acadia?" question in the winter magazine and correctly identified the location as Compass Harbor, a stony cove that looks out onto the Porcupine Islands. Park founder George B. Dorr's family estate, known as Oldfarm, was located here, and visitors walking on the Compass Harbor Trail can wander by the remains of the old foundation.

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](mailto: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!

"In regards to the Where in Acadia in the newest *Acadia* journal, my 12-year-old son Tobias McLean says, 'That's obvious! It's storm beach by Oldfarm!'" (The guest house at Oldfarm is known as Storm Beach Cottage.)

— Ashley and Tobias McLean, Mount Desert, ME

"The photo is a view of Compass Harbor Beach. It's near the remains of the old Dorr estate and is one of the first places my family went in Acadia when I was little. It's also the first place I ever took my son to visit in Acadia when he was a young boy. My son is now a new father himself, and I'm looking forward to a trip this year with our three generations represented at Compass Harbor Beach."

— Gordon Ward, Winter Harbor, ME

"The picture is the beach in front of the Dorr estate. When I was a student at the College of the Atlantic around 1973, I was walking on that beach when I saw a man on crutches, unbelievably, struggling over the boulders trying to drag around some heavy camera equipment. He must have been capturing the wildlife and birds. I asked him if he needed help, and he not only accepted my offer but ended up offering me a summer job at his photography studio! I didn't end up taking it, but it was an interesting way of connecting."

— Barbara Acosta, Trenton, ME

"I believe the picture in the most recent magazine is Compass Harbor, which you get to via the Compass Harbor Trail. I hiked that trail last in July 2019 with my then six and eight-year-old boys. We have been to Acadia 3 times as a family and always find something new to explore. On this trip, we loved checking out the Oldfarm's foundation and grounds, imagining what it would have been like in its heyday. We made it to the beach, and the boys played on the rocks. It's a beautiful and quiet spot, and we look forward to visiting it again!"

— Melissa Whitford, Pittsford, NY



COURTESY WHITFORD FAMILY

"I believe the photo in this issue is of Compass Harbor. Reportedly, neighbor George Dorr swam there every day. Though I love to swim in Acadia, I can't imagine how cold the water must have been for many of Mr. Dorr's swims."

— David Dowd, Needham, MA



# The Power of Friends

I'm celebrating my first anniversary with Friends of Acadia this summer, and I'm truly grateful to be part of this vital, vibrant, and forward-looking organization and the broader Acadia community.

I'd like to dedicate this column to those of you who have been part of Acadia's network of "Friends," some of you since before Friends of Acadia's formation in 1986. YOU are the power behind Friends of Acadia—all that we do, and all that we bring to bear for our beloved Acadia National Park.

You've likely heard the term "it takes a village." Well, I believe that we are stronger together than any one person, organization, community, or entity alone. And never has this been more true in my career than here in Acadia. When you start with an incredibly strong partnership between the park and Friends of Acadia, and extend it to our surrounding gateway communities, the dedication and passion for this place is palpable.

We come together in support of our mission to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of this amazing place both now and for future generations. We volunteer, we give, we support, we organize, advocate, innovate, catalyze, and lead. We have immense challenges, but together, we offer immense solutions.

Whether you're a volunteer, member, donor, business owner, partner, community leader, policymaker, local resident, and/or one of the dedicated National Park Service staff at Acadia National Park—you are an important part of this shared mission. You are indeed a 'friend' of Acadia.

When I first heard the term, the 'Power of Friends,' it was in a planning session to prepare the 2022 Impact Report highlighting our accomplishments in support of the park and its surrounding communities. But I've seen the 'Power of Friends' in action in just about every aspect of this job. In fact, it's what drew me here.

It was the 'Power of Friends' in 1999 that helped co-fund and co-develop the Island Explorer bus system—taking a first step toward addressing Acadia's transportation challenges. It's that same power that helped Friends of Acadia establish the country's first-ever trails endowment in 1999-2001.

In 2014-2016, it was the 'Power of Friends' behind Friends of Acadia's Second Century Campaign to establish permanent endowments to help protect Acadia's resources, support youth engagement, enhance visitor experience, and help maintain our historic trails and carriage roads.

We saw the 'Power of Friends' behind the leadership and fortitude that Friends of Acadia showed over decades to get the Acadia Gateway Center built (see article page 41). It's the force behind our Wild Acadia initiative, where our partnership with the park and Schoodic Institute tackles invasive plant removal and leads in climate-smart restoration, leveraging federal funding to ramp up the work (see story pages 24-29).

The 'Power of Friends' helps us work to ensure that Acadia is welcoming and accessible to all (see story on our DEI work on page 16-17). And it's the motivation and muscle behind our strategy to address the seasonal workforce housing crisis so that Acadia can recruit and retain a quality seasonal workforce (story on pages 21-23).

YOU are the force behind our impact for the park and I can't wait to see what we'll accomplish together next!

As you read this magazine, I hope you'll see that our collective impact is powered by your efforts and dedication. If you're at all in doubt about your impact, read more in the 2022 Impact Report, now published online at [friendsofacadia.org/impactreport](https://friendsofacadia.org/impactreport).

And thank you!

*Eric Stiles*  
—Eric Stiles

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**"YOU are the power behind Friends of Acadia—all that we do, and all that we bring to bear for our beloved Acadia National Park."**



**VOLUNTEERS COME TOGETHER** to help out at the Earth Day Roadside Cleanup.



## IN MEMORIAM

# Remembering Former White House Counsel and Ambassador C. Boyden Gray

## Friends of Acadia Board Member 2012-2023

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

Earlier this spring, Friends of Acadia lost a longtime friend, supporter, and board member, former White House Counsel and Ambassador C. Boyden Gray.

Ambassador Gray had a long and distinguished career in the legal field and in public service. Educated at Harvard and the University of North Carolina School of Law, he clerked for Chief Justice Earl Warren and then became a partner in the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He served as Legal Counsel to Vice President George H.W. Bush in the 1980s and advanced to White House Counsel to President Bush from 1989 – 1993. He served as Ambassador to the European Union from 2006 – 2007 and as Special Envoy for Eurasian Energy Diplomacy and as Special Envoy for European Union Affairs from 2008 – 2009.

Ambassador Gray also had a lifelong love of Acadia National Park.

He joined the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors in 2012. Board Vice Chair Hannah Sistare Clark said, “Boyden started hiking the mountains of Acadia National Park in his youth. He was on the trails and up the mountains throughout his life. Naturally he was enthusiastic when asked to join the board of Friends of Acadia.”

Lisa Horsch Clark, Friends of Acadia’s vice president of development and donor relations, pointed to Ambassador Gray’s generosity and calm nature in working with staff on events and committees.

“Boyden served for many years on the Development Committee. He was a major patron of the Annual Benefit



and a champion of the Acadia Second Century Campaign. He hosted events at his homes in Washington, D.C., and on Mount Desert Island, and he was a dedicated ally to Acadia through philanthropic support and advocacy.”

As a member of Friends of Acadia’s Advocacy Committee, Ambassador Gray provided sage advice on many of the policy issues facing national parks. Throughout his career, he worked on clean air issues and clean fuels and is credited as being one of the architects of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments. Much of Ambassador Gray’s focus was on bringing market-based solutions to environmental issues.

Ambassador Gray was generous with his time and talents, helping Friends of Acadia with policy concerns both in Washington, D.C., and at the local level. “Boyden helped Friends of Acadia leadership connect with key decision makers in Washington, D.C., and he dug into the scientific and legal questions raised by the attempt to build industrial-sized salmon farms in the immediate view of Acadia Park,” said Vice Chair and Chair of the Advocacy Committee Hannah Sistare Clark

All of us on the Friends of Acadia staff and board are grateful to have known Ambassador Gray and to have worked with him for 11 years. His thoughtful, kind, and generous support of Friends of Acadia will be deeply missed. ■

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



# Electric Buses En Route

This May, after nearly 25 years of planning and preparation, partners broke ground on the Acadia Gateway Center (AGC), which will serve as a transit hub for Mount Desert Island (MDI) and a regional visitor center.

So many things about this project excite me! Not only will the building be powered by renewable energies and host electric-vehicle charging stations, but we are hopeful this will transform the way visitors will access the park by encouraging visitors to ride the Island Explorer bus.

This summer, as you visit the park, you may notice a bus that does not look like the typical Island Explorer vehicle. That's because from about July 23 to September 30, Downeast Transportation, the operator of the Island Explorer, will pilot five different battery-powered electric buses to learn about how they function on their routes.

Acadia is partnering with the bus manufacturers, the National Park Service, the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center, and the U.S. Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory to obtain the buses on loan so that we can help analyze their performance. The pilot of electric buses will help us develop a strategy to convert from propane powered buses to battery-powered electric buses over the next 10 years or so.

As the owner of a fully electric car, I'm excited about the push toward electrifying our bus fleet. It is a natural extension of our efforts to improve visitor experiences and preserve Acadia for future generations. Electric buses not only have zero emissions, they are also quieter, which will be a huge improvement for Acadia's visitors.

Electrification and renewable energies are on the minds of many institutions in the Acadia region, and local organizations like A Climate to

Thrive have helped bring them to the forefront of our minds. The National Park Service is also prioritizing the transition to renewable energies.

In April 2023, the National Park Service published an updated Green Parks Plan, which aligned the goals to recent legislation. One of the key goals outlined in this plan is to "Green our rides"—or adopt zero-emissions transportation methods—with the ultimate goal to attain net-zero carbon emissions.

Parks across the country are transitioning to 100 percent zero-emission vehicle acquisitions by 2035. Here at Acadia, we will acquire EVs as we replace our fleet when it is possible to do so.

Parks are also striving to transition to 100 percent carbon-free electricity on a net annual basis by 2030, including 50 percent 24/7 carbon-free electricity. The new maintenance facility design also allows us to add a rooftop solar photovoltaic system to the structure. We have resubmitted an application for a grant through the U.S. Department of Energy to acquire and implement this system. These solar panels would not only help power the building but would also provide power to electric-vehicle charging stations in the parking lot. Friends of Acadia has committed to purchasing three fully electric vehicles if this project is funded, which will add to the park's existing electric-vehicle fleet.

As we confront climate change, it is important that the NPS demonstrate leadership in greening our own operations. With partners like Friends of Acadia, we will be better equipped to tackle these challenges!

So if you happen to ride one of our new battery-powered electric buses this summer during the pilot, let me know what you think.

—Kevin Schneider

## SUPERINTENDENT'S VIEW



**"The pilot of electric buses will help us develop a strategy to convert from propane powered buses to battery-powered electric buses over the next 10 years or so."**



A CYCLIST makes his way toward the Egg Rock Overlook in Acadia National Park.

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



# Ride On!

**MDI Wheelers Help People Unable to Ride a Bike Get Out on Acadia's Carriage Roads**



SAM MALLON/FOA

BY SHANNON BRYAN

**E**d Wood finds bike riding on Acadia's carriage roads to be magical.

For years he regularly biked miles in the park with friends, marveling at the views while the carriage road gravel crackled under his bike tires and sunlight flickered through the tree canopy.

"Riding on Acadia National Park's carriage roads has always been a great blessing to me," he said. "The park is a unique gem. It's one of the great assets of the U.S."

Twelve years ago, Wood was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease. Among his symptoms over the years, he found his balance progressively worsened, so he switched to an electric-assist recumbent bike. Around that same time, Wood met Rick Smith who had experienced a devastating stroke 10 years ago. Wood turned Smith on to the electric-assist recumbent, and that changed everything.

"Ed and I were out on the carriage roads laughing and even crying—it was so enjoyable," said Smith. They were

soon joined by George Woolley, who's living with a chronic neurological condition that affects his balance. Friends Art Worster and Dave Edson rode along as safeties. Since Wood and Smith both live in the town of Tremont on Mount Desert Island (MDI), the group was aptly dubbed "Tremonsters."

"It's been a joy to discover adaptive biking and get back on the carriage roads with my good friends," said Woolley.

"These bikes gave me the chance to get back into the park," said Smith, who adds that it's also wonderfully therapeutic. "Riding in the park again has been great therapy for me. It makes me feel whole again."

Eventually, though, Wood's Parkinson's made riding even the recumbent unfeasible, and Wood thought his rides on Acadia's carriage roads had reached their end.

But the Tremonsters—Wood's caring and determined group of friends—are a generous lot who believe the splendor of Acadia's carriage roads are for everyone. They wanted to make sure Wood could still get out for a ride.





JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA

**FACING PAGE:** Winston Holt of Seal Harbor, ME, bicycles Marty Mendis during a ride on the carriage roads surrounding Eagle Lake during an outing with the MDI Wheelers.

**ABOVE LEFT TO RIGHT:** MDI Wheelers volunteers, Elly Andrews as pilot and Dave Edson riding along as safety, cycle with Emily Russell of Bernard. Gloria Higgins of Southwest Harbor, ME, has a huge smile after her first experience with the MDI Wheelers.

## Bringing Adaptive Biking to the Community

Thus began MDI Wheelers, born from a perfect blend of solution-finding and serendipity. Now that group of friends has formed a 501(c)3 nonprofit in hopes to help more people from the community who are unable to ride a bike get out on Acadia's carriage roads with adaptive bikes.

MDI Wheelers is an entirely volunteer organization, propelled by dedication and generous donors. Tremonsters Dave Edson (also a Friends of Acadia board member), Art Worster, Ed Wood, and Rick Smith all serve on the MDI Wheelers board of directors, along with Janet Wood, Linda Woolley, and Josie Briggs.

They've benefited from support from Portland Wheelers, an organization with a similar mission in southern Maine. Started in 2015, Portland Wheelers organizers have been generous with sharing their expertise.

Two years ago, MDI Wheelers purchased their first OPair electric-assist wheelchair tricycle, or E-trike, at a discounted

rate from Portland Wheelers. They purchased a second last year, thanks to an anonymous donation.

The E-trikes have three wheels for stability (one in the back, two in the front) and feature a wheelchair-like seat in the front for a rider. The "pilot" pedals from the back seat and has an overview of the road and the rider.

The bikes are class 1 trikes, which is the model with the least powerful electric motor and the only kind allowed on Acadia's carriage roads. The park has also granted MDI Wheelers with a special-use permit for their rides. And Friends of Acadia recently donated funds to purchase a trailer to haul the trikes.

With the safety and comfort of riders a top priority, MDI Wheelers dedicated last season to hosting 20 "proof of concept" rides to work out logistics and learn best practices. On one of those rides was a longtime Friends of Acadia member who was able to visit a trail in Northeast Harbor that has great importance to her family. Had it not been for MDI Wheelers, she would have missed her first visit in the last 16 years.



## Volunteers are a Key Component

MDI Wheelers have also been training volunteers—16 as of this May—to serve as pilots and safeties (safeties ride with the E-trikes). They team up on the carriage roads in a “pod” consisting of two riders and two pilots on the two E-trikes, along with two safeties who ride their own bikes.

Rides are slow and gentle and will mostly take place on the carriage roads around Eagle Lake and Paradise Hill, although Edson notes that routes will vary to help ensure riders and volunteers maintain enthusiasm. Rides are also always free.

“We want not only riders but volunteers to benefit from this,” said Edson. “They will get as much out of this as the riders.”

This season, the MDI Wheelers aim to offer bi-weekly rides to people in the community and are working with Birch Bay Retirement Village and the Ellsworth and MDI Housing Authorities. They’re quick to note that while enthusiasm is high, there is still much to learn and they’re taking it slowly and focusing locally.

MDI Wheelers can’t provide transportation to and from the carriage roads. “That is a limitation that is most evident,” said Edson. For now, they’re welcoming volunteers, particularly for administrative and fundraising assistance. And they’re providing people engaging experiences in Acadia that felt out of reach to some just a couple of years ago.

“It’s important how vital public space is. Nature brings people together,” said Smith. He adds that it’s vital that public

spaces be accessible to everyone, and that’s a driving force for MDI Wheelers and the program’s potential. Perhaps MDI Wheelers could help lead the way for other national parks; that’d be icing on the cake.

“If the program doesn’t go anywhere else, so be it. But if it does, we feel honored to just help initiate it,” Smith said. “Ed has been the inspiration to keep going.”

Either way, this collaborative effort has already brought the magic of Acadia’s carriage roads back to the lives of Ed Wood and others who treasure it.

“It’s been a great feeling,” Wood said. He describes riding on the carriage roads a “return to childhood” that raises his spirits. “They opened a door I thought was permanently closed,” he added. “I’m very grateful to my friends.”

For more information about donating or volunteering, visit [mdiwheelers.org](http://mdiwheelers.org). ■

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

**BELOW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Dave Edson of Tremont, ME, Art Worster of Seal Cove, ME, Winston Holt of Seal Harbor, ME, and Jake Jacobson of Manset, ME, all volunteers with the MDI Wheelers, relax after a ride around the carriage roads by Eagle Lake. Winston Holt hugs Marty Mendis of Bar Harbor, ME, after taking Mendis on a ride. MDI Wheelers volunteers and riders enjoy the carriage road near Eagle Lake. Pictured from left to right are Dean Read as pilot with George Woolley; Elly Andrews pilot with Emily Russell and safeties Josie Briggs and Dave Edson.







# Taking A BITE OUT OF Invasives

ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

**GARLIC MUSTARD** is removed from the Great Meadow loop by Jim Burka, Acadia National Park biological science technician.

BY JULIA WALKER THOMAS

**J**apanese knotweed is an extremely tenacious invasive plant. It grows at a break-neck pace and quickly crowds out its native counterparts by blocking sunlight and consuming large amounts of nutrients and minerals from the soil. Suffice it to say, it's an unwelcome presence in Acadia National Park and the entire region.

But when the plant's shoots are cooked up with sugar, lemon zest, and water into a tangy jam, Japanese knotweed is splendid on toast.

While the park's approach to invasive plant suppression doesn't include eating them—and foraging in the park isn't allowed—some invasives you might find in your own backyard can be transformed into flavorful soups, compotes, and crumbles. It's a tasty way to "take a bite out of invasives" and help prevent their spread.

In Acadia, more than a quarter of the plants growing in the park are not native. Some are considered invasive,

meaning that, if time and conditions allow, they would take over the landscape and wipe out native plants and shrubs, as well as the complex ecosystems dependent on them. To learn about all the work the park is doing to combat invasive plants in Acadia, see Wild Acadia story pages 24-29.

Invasives distract pollinators from native plants, provide wildlife with less nutritious fruit and foliage than native plants, and even create physical barriers for wildlife, making it harder for them to move freely through an area, find shelter, or detect and evade predators.

If you're new to foraging, be sure to do your research first (see recommendations in the sidebar).

To help inspire your invasive-eating, Chef Bobby Will from Salt and Steel in Bar Harbor shares some delicious ideas for two of the Acadia region's most prolific and edible invasive plants.



## JAPANESE KNOTWEED

Once established, this perennial herbaceous plant can grow up to 10 feet in one growing season. Its young shoots are the most consumed part, as they are tender and have a tart flavor reminiscent of rhubarb.

### Japanese Knotweed Compote

Similar to rhubarb, Japanese knotweed shoots can be used to make a tangy compote. Chop the young shoots into small pieces and cook them down with sugar, a bit of water, and optional spices like cinnamon or ginger. Simmer until the shoots are tender and the mixture thickens. The compote can be used as a topping for pancakes, yogurt, ice cream, or incorporated into pies and tarts.

### Japanese Knotweed Crumble

Create a delicious crumble by combining chopped shoots with sweetened berries or apples. Toss the fruit and Japanese knotweed together with a bit of sugar, lemon juice, and spices. Top it with a crumbly mixture of flour, oats, butter, and sugar. Bake until the topping is golden and the filling is bubbling. Serve it warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream.

### Japanese Knotweed Jam

Turn Japanese knotweed into a tangy jam that can be enjoyed on toast, pastries, or used as a filling in baked goods. Cook the chopped shoots with sugar, lemon zest, and a small amount of water until the mixture thickens and reaches a jam-like consistency.



TOP: "WALKING THROUGH ACADIA," a dish created by Chef Bobby Will features Japanese knotweed purchased from foragers in Hancock County. Middle: Chef Bobby Will in the kitchen at Salt and Steel, his restaurant in Bar Harbor. BOTTOM: Japanese knotweed growing near a roadside.





## GARLIC MUSTARD

Garlic mustard is a biennial, which means it produces seed on its second year that spreads by seed dispersal and can grow up to six feet tall. It's best to harvest when the plant is younger and the taste is less bitter—in addition to the unpleasant taste, the stems of older plants also contain cyanide. But be sure to harvest the whole plant to help prevent its spread! And note that the recipes call for the leaves, NOT the stems.

### Garlic Mustard Pesto

Use garlic mustard leaves as a flavorful substitute for basil in a traditional pesto recipe. Blend the leaves with garlic, pine nuts or walnuts, Parmesan cheese, olive oil, salt, and pepper. This pesto can be used as a spread, tossed with pasta, or used as a sauce for grilled meats or vegetables.

### Sautéed Garlic Mustard

Heat some olive oil or butter in a pan and sauté garlic mustard leaves (NOT stems) with minced garlic until wilted. Season with salt, pepper, and any other desired herbs or spices. Sautéed garlic mustard can be served as a side dish or used as a topping for grilled meats, fish, or roasted vegetables.

### Garlic Mustard Soup

Use garlic mustard leaves as an ingredient in a creamy soup. Sauté the leaves with onions and garlic, then add vegetable or chicken broth and simmer until the leaves are tender. Puree the mixture, season with salt, pepper, and herbs of your choice, and stir in cream or coconut milk for added richness.

*Don't want to forage? Visit Salt and Steel in Bar Harbor and try "Walking Through Acadia," a dish featuring Japanese knotweed, roasted maitake mushrooms, sherry vinegar, hazelnuts, and tarragon "moss."* ■

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



MADELINE STEINBACH

## Foraging of Wild Plants and Mushrooms in Acadia is Prohibited

Foraging on private property should be conducted responsibly. Be mindful of conservation guidelines, protected areas, and local regulations. Respect private property and obtain permission before foraging on someone else's land.

Accurate plant identification is crucial when foraging wild plants—native or invasive. Mistakenly consuming toxic plants or misidentifying look-alike species can have severe health consequences. Be certain of a plant's identity before consuming it, and if you are unsure, consult with a local expert, botanist or foraging guide.

Wild plants can be exposed to environmental pollutants such as pesticides, heavy metals, or industrial waste. Avoid foraging in areas with a known history of contamination, such as near roadways, industrial sites, or agricultural fields.

When disposing of invasives, do not throw leftovers or discarded plant parts in your compost pile. It's best to put them in a sealed trash bag which will prevent any accidental spreading. It's important to not create new infestations by tending a garden of garlic mustard or knotweed. Garlic mustard was established here after being planted as a culinary herb.

**LEFT:** A jar of homemade Garlic Mustard Pesto.

**BELOW:** Jim Burka, Acadia National Park biological science technician, removes garlic mustard off the Great Meadow Loop.



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA





# OVER 50 YEARS LATER...

BY LYNN FANTOM

**A Look  
Back at the  
Acadia Youth  
Conservation  
Corps**

**I**n 1970, Congress approved a three-year pilot called the Youth Conservation Corps to employ teens, ages 14 to 18, in summer conservation jobs.

Acadia National Park was one of nine sites chosen and so began “the most outstanding program for boys and girls—ever,” according to Bob Chaplin, who served as what is today known as the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC) head of environmental education. His passionate bias can be forgiven.

The new decade held promise, despite inflation and unemployment. The United States had ended its involvement in the Vietnam War, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act, and more.

The first Earth Day had occurred just a year earlier. “I helped arrange some of the speakers and the teach-ins at my own campus,” said Ron Beard, one of the four crew leaders in the AYCC, who later became a community development expert at University of Maine Cooperative Extension. “We really felt both a responsibility and an opportunity to teach high school students about the environment and to work collaboratively with the environment.”

Fellow crew leader Cathy Johnson, who in 2020 received the Natural Resources Council of Maine’s Conservation Leadership Award for Lifetime Achievement, called the program a “wonderful opportunity” to get work experience, learn about the environment, work as a team, and have fun.

She recalled that recruits were primarily from Bangor and Portland, “kids who had not generally been in the outdoors

and not done a lot of physical labor.” The 1970 law itself specified the program would promote “gainful employment during the summer months of American youth, representing all segments of society, in the healthful outdoor atmosphere” of national parks and other public lands.

Assignments—like clearing leaf litter and maintaining Acadia’s historical sites—were coordinated through Martin Beavers, the program’s first director. Support was strong from both park superintendent Keith Miller and chief ranger Tom Hobbs, who “was really fired up about doing this,” said Chaplin. The first year enrolled 34 teenagers, with an equal number of girls and boys.

## **All Segments of Society, Equal Work**

The new Youth Conservation Corps channeled the public works commitment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a program that put over three million men to work during the Great Depression. But in 1970 the mandate was to hire both young women and men. Female and male crew leaders assigned work equally to co-ed work crews. “That was by design, not accident,” added Chaplin.

“We had a number of girls who arrived thinking that they couldn’t do a lot of things and left feeling very empowered,” said Johnson. They learned they could use chainsaws, drive buses, and remove boulders. Some even had the opportunity to climb Mount Katahdin.

Unlike today’s program, the early AYCC was residential, with housing at the national park headquarters. There were





strict rules: no alcohol and no leaving the premises without permission. One young woman, who broke both rules, was sent home. (Her father was in the Maine legislature, Chaplin remembered). There were no further infractions.

The crew leaders, who were in their early 20s, and the high school participants were given “a lot of responsibility,” said Johnson. It took many out of their comfort zones. But they had support as well.

From the CCC, they inherited shovels, rakes, pry bars, buses and trucks—ancient stuff, but it functioned thanks to the skill of Acadia’s maintenance chief Ted Staples. “He really loved the kids,” said Chaplin. An ex-Navy chef named Gene Foster also ensured they were well fed.



## “Meaningful” Projects

The early AYCC crews restored Shore Path and other trails. They cut cedar trees in swamps to build log steps.

They shingled the 1852 Blue Duck ship hardware store in Islesford.

Each project offered an opportunity for education, a serious commitment of the program. Before cleaning leaf litter from carriage road culverts, for example, the crew learned about erosion and the contributions of John D. Rockefeller, Jr. “If they could learn about it before they did the physical labor, the more enthusiastic they were and the better the project became,” said Chaplin, whose subsequent

teaching career in Bar Harbor earned the national recognition of a Presidential Award for Excellence in Science Teaching.

Another time, the AYCC restored the historic house on Baker Island where William Gilley became the first keeper of the 1828 light station. At the project’s end, Gilley’s great granddaughter, then in her 80s and living in Bar Harbor, was invited to see the renovation. To everyone’s surprise, her trip back to Baker Island was led by a parade of lobster boats blowing their horns. “We tried to do very meaningful projects,” Chaplin said.

## A Lasting Legacy

Federal support for the AYCC continues, despite a hiatus in the 1980s. For two decades, its work in Acadia focused on trails. But after COVID shuttered activities during 2020 and 2021, leaders broadened its scope to include multiple areas. Through an anonymous gift in 1999, Friends of Acadia now helps fund the program, which welcomed 13 participants in 2023.

“Almost any local islander I talk to knows someone who did AYCC growing up. The influence is widespread. Several of our current [National Park Service] employees were participants,” said Erica Lobel, AYCC coordinator.

As if on cue, Jesse Wheeler walked through the doors of the McFarland Hill headquarters. Today’s Acadia vegetation ecologist and specialist in invasive species, he was a member of the AYCC in the 1990s. Asked if it changed his life, he replied, “It’s why I’m here now.” ■

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



**OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT:** AYCC staff and participants in 1973 included the highly regarded cook, Gene Foster, here in his white chef hat. **RIGHT:** Restoration of the Gilley House on Baker Island, which included repainting, was a major AYCC project.

**ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM:** Education head Bob Chaplin, here shaking hands with Smokey, was sometimes called Uncle Bob. Hardhat and bell-bottoms were a common uniform of the AYCC in the 1970s. 1995 AYCC group photo. Jesse Wheeler, vegetation program manager at Acadia, is at



center in the green jacket and no hat. He’s behind Pete Colman and to the left of Chris Bater, both of whom work in the park today as part of the trails crew. 2022 AYCC rehabilitates and replaces a section of the bog walk along the Duck Harbor Trail on Isle au Haut.



# Helping Make Acadia More Welcoming and Accessible to All

## 'Acadia for All' Task Force Builds on a Decade of Work



COURTESY JODELIN DULAURIA

BY PAIGE STEELE

Since its formation in 1986, Friends of Acadia has partnered with Acadia National Park to connect and engage surrounding communities through initiatives such as funding school field trips, restoring the carriage roads, helping fund the Island Explorer bus service, and more.

These efforts increased access to Acadia for a wide audience, but more work is needed to welcome under-represented communities to Acadia—and all our national parks.

Friends of Acadia's diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts began in earnest nearly a decade ago. We started by looking internally and asking why so few students from Maine were applying for our seasonal jobs and realized that, to attract more diverse applicants, we needed to reduce barriers to employment.

We increased seasonal staff pay rates, provided uniforms and field gear, which can be quite costly, and began collaborating with the park, our members, and partners to develop seasonal workforce housing solutions. This work is ongoing, but we're proud that our efforts have started to increase both socioeconomic and cultural diversity among Friends of Acadia's seasonal staff.

Friends of Acadia also supported the park's efforts to build more equity in park education by providing Outdoor Classroom Grants to schools. These grants create outdoor

educational spaces on school campuses so students can learn about Acadia right at their school, allowing time in nature without the need for bus transport to the park. These spaces were particularly important during the COVID pandemic, and Friends of Acadia continues to award about five grants per year as outdoor learning becomes the new standard.

For the past seven years, our Urban & Diverse Youth Grants have assisted new groups visiting Acadia who participate in ranger-led programs, study climate science, improve trails through volunteer service projects, and enjoy the beauty of the park through hiking, biking, boating, and more. In 2022, we provided grants to four youth groups, and we've already reached that same number of groups this year.

We have also collaborated with the park to expand the number of National Park Service Academy interns working in Acadia. The Academy is a branch of AmeriCorps that brings more diversity to front-line staff in national parks and opens a path into conservation careers.

With our support, Acadia will have five NPS Academy interns this year working in several divisions of the park, including invasive plant management, trails and carriage roads, and the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps.

Making Acadia more accessible and welcoming to visitors with mobility or neurodiverse challenges is also a core



value. That's why Friends of Acadia funded a comprehensive accessibility study in Acadia National Park in 2021- 22. The study's recommendations are being implemented, along with a new accessible Cadillac East West Trail that is in the design phase.

In addition, a wheelchair accessible carriage was donated by the Diana Davis Spencer Foundation for use by reservation at Wildwood Stables on the famous carriage roads. Friends of Acadia has also funded the purchase of a trailer for the new MDI Wheelers organization that is providing carriage road rides on adapted electric-assist tricycles for people unable to bike themselves (see related story on page 8).

## The 'Acadia for All' Task Force

Thankfully, these endeavors are championed by Friends of Acadia board members who participate in an 'Acadia for All' Task Force with several Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park staff members. Together, we are continuing our educational journey to gain a better understanding of what a welcoming Acadia National Park means.

Several board members and staff have participated in the 'First Light Learning Journey,' a collaborative between Maine leaders, conservation organizations, and Wabanaki Nation communities. The discussions in this series and the relationships established are a good step toward realization of Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland's directive to co-steward national parks with local tribes.

Another notable endeavor is a virtual listening tour with other park partners, such as the Grand Canyon Conservancy, to hear about DEI challenges and successes in their parks. Looking ahead, Friends of Acadia will receive guidance from DEI consultants in the fall, guest speakers will assist staff and board with continued learning, programs will continue to be co-created with the communities they serve, and best

practices will be shared amongst national parks and their partners.

We're excited to share the progress that we have made and our commitment and dedication to this ongoing DEI journey. Change can be uncomfortable, but this culture shift is making space for wonderful new relationships and an exchange of ideas, sparking innovative ways to protect and connect with our shared national treasure, Acadia National Park.

A more welcoming Acadia is a more resilient and enjoyable Acadia, for all. ■

PAIGE STEELE is Friends of Acadia's Conservation Projects Manager



COURTESY THE CHILDREN'S GARDEN

**FACING PAGE:** Registered Maine Guide Kareem A. Dieng sea kayaks on Frenchman Bay with Jodelin Dulauria (front). Jodelin is a youth participant of Groundwork Bridgeport from Connecticut. This is the third year the organization has visited Acadia National Park with help from Friends of Acadia's Urban & Diverse Youth Grants. **ABOVE:** The Children's Garden in Hancock, ME, is part of Outdoor Classroom program. **BELOW:** Lee Academy students benefit from an Outdoor Classroom grant this past winter.



COURTESY LEE ACADEMY



# LOCAL EXPERTS SHARE IMPORTANT SAFETY TIPS WHEN VISITING ACADIA



JULIA WALKER THOMAS/FOA



COURTESY MDI SAR



COURTESY MDI SAR

**TOP:** A **MASS CASUALTY DRILL** was conducted by Acadia National Park and emergency responders from Mount Desert Island and beyond on the Otter Cove Causeway in 2019 to practice multi-agency collaboration. **BOTTOM LEFT:** Members of MDI Search and Rescue conduct a simulated rescue as part of a training with Acadia National Park staff. **BOTTOM RIGHT:** Acadia National Park Staff, Friends of Acadia Summit Stewards, and MDI Search and Rescue Volunteers, including Lili Pew, perform a rescue in the park.



BY LYNN FANTOM

**A**fter walking along the base of Norumbega Mountain to Lower Hadlock Pond, we stopped to enjoy the waterfalls at an arched footbridge. Though it was a sunny day, a stunning halfmoon caught the attention of my hiking companion.

As he positioned me to see it, he stepped back and fell six feet into a crevice. Fortunately, his backpack cushioned the blow and, shaken up but with nothing broken, he was able to walk away and finish the loop. It could have been a lot worse!

And that's why hiking safety lists always remind us to look where we step and not to back up blindly to take a photo—or point to interesting things in the sky.

Hiking inherently has hazards, and Acadia National Park has conditions that can surprise even the most experienced hikers.

Sadly, injuries and even fatalities do occur. Cases in Mount Desert Island Hospital's emergency room range from frost bite to trauma, including head injuries.

According to Physician Assistant Gordon Murphy, most are sprains with some broken bones, usually ankles and wrists. "It's heartbreaking sometimes because people have been looking forward to their vacations all year...But I try to buoy their spirits."

Local experts who know Acadia well—and who often find themselves on the front lines when injuries occur—have formulated simple tips that will help people safely enjoy Acadia's unique blend of ocean, rocky coastline, and mountains.

## Acadia's Safety Resources

Acadia National Park's Visitor and Resource Protection division provides emergency services in the park, including law enforcement, emergency medical services, and search and rescue. "And if we need additional resources, we will get them," says Seamus Russet, a law enforcement ranger who also serves as Acadia's search-and-rescue (SAR) coordinator.

One such group is Mount Desert Island Search and Rescue (MDISAR), a Bar Harbor nonprofit that is skilled in wilderness search and rescue, technical rope rescue, and medical aid.

SAR volunteers train more than 20 hours every month so that they can successfully conduct operations such as using rope belays for a rescue on a cliff side and carrying a litter down a trail from a rocky outcropping. Acadia National Park calls MDISAR into service about 40 times a year, according to SAR team member and Friends of Acadia board member Lili Pew.

Back-up can also come from Maine Warden Service, town police and fire departments, Maine State Police, Maine Forest Service, LifeFlight of Maine, U.S. Coast Guard, and Friends of Acadia. "It's really an incredible feat of teamwork and communication" when individuals from these organizations work together, putting themselves at risk when they do, says Russet.

In addition, Mount Desert Island Hospital in Bar Harbor provides 24-hour emergency care, but those who are seriously hurt must be flown by helicopter to Bangor's Northern Light Eastern Maine Medical Center, a Level II trauma center.

## BEYOND SUNSCREEN, INSECT REPELLENT, AND WATER...

### Recreate Safely by Following Our Local Experts' Safety Tips

- **Prepare for the terrain** and don't underestimate Acadia's trails. They may not be as tall as mountains in the West, but ascents can be straight up. Wet granite is very slippery.
- **Bring a good topographic map** so that you can identify valleys, peaks, and ridges, which are plentiful. Stay on the marked trail.
- **Agree where to meet if family members or friends are separated.** You do it at the mall, so why not on a mountain?
- **If you hike alone, let someone know where you are going** and estimate when you'll finish. Text a photo along the way to share the fun.
- **Pick the proper footwear** to avoid turning an ankle or slipping. Many emergency room visits result from wearing flip-flops.
- **Choose polypropylene instead of cotton** to keep dry and warm.
- **Pack a first aid kit** that includes tape to wrap a sprained ankle plus essentials like antiseptic wipes and bandages.
- **Anticipate darkness and bring a headlamp** for afternoon hikes. If you are injured, alert rangers to avoid a rescue in the dark.
- **Consider bringing a sports drink** that can help replace water and electrolytes that your body loses through sweating.

**And remember you'll need energy to descend!**





COURTESY MDI SAR

## A lot of Trails, A lot of People

Acadia's trails are well maintained and marked, so it's hard to get "truly lost," says Russet. Calls to 911 work on any tower. "The 911 coverage is better than if you are trying to get on Facebook at Jordan Pond," he notes.

With almost four million visits to the park in recent years, the sheer number of emergencies can challenge resources. During a recent Fourth of July holiday, four serious events occurred in less than four hours, including a woman losing consciousness from heat stroke and a man sliding down a 40-foot slope and then falling off a 20-foot cliff. Later in the afternoon, a young child was locked in a hot car.

Most incidents are not so dramatic; in fact, many people rescue themselves. Someone with a sprained ankle who has a first aid kit can wrap the ankle with strapping tape and walk out.

**ABOVE: MDI SEARCH AND RESCUE** perform a simulated rescue near Little Hunter's Beach. **RIGHT LEFT TO RIGHT:** Acadia National Park Search and Rescue Coordinator Seamus Russet. Friends of Acadia Board Member and MDI Search and Rescue Volunteer Lili Pew. MDI Hospital Physician Assistant Gordon Murphy.

A "full-blown carry-out," however, will require equipment, people, and time—which vary depending on location, weather, and available resources. Last summer, for example, shortly after rescue experts had been called to the top of Cadillac for an injury, another emergency occurred on the Cadillac's West Face trail. Although personnel were already nearby, the operation lasted five hours, with 13 park rangers and 15 MDISAR members.

## Rock 'n' Roots

"The vast majority of our rescues are lower leg injuries—ankles, knees, legs—that result from simple slips, trips, and falls," says Russet.

"Think about where your feet are going," advises Pew, because surfaces are often uneven and debris may hide mini potholes.

"Read about a trail before you go," adds Murphy, who is an avid hiker himself. Trail descriptions online and in guidebooks specify challenge level, distance, and—importantly—terrain. For example, Great Head is less than two miles but has some intimidating steep sections during the descent.

"Starting slow helps you understand what our trails are like," says Russet. He encourages first-time visitors to hike around Jordan Pond, Ocean Path, or Great Head, which is a great example of rocks and roots without the vertical of Sargent or Cadillac Mountains.

Some of Acadia's more challenging trails feature rungs and ladders to aid hikers—but not all. To navigate these, Murphy advises having three good holds between your hands and feet before you move the fourth extremity.

## Not Only Hiking

Hurling down a hill on a bike and hitting some debris caused one accident Murphy recalls. Hairpin turns can also be hazardous. "The importance of wearing a helmet goes without saying, but try not to be taking a picture when you ride," Murphy adds.

Speaking of which, the first time I met Murphy was actually in the emergency room at MDI Hospital—an experience that made me want to write this story. Learning the hard way, I had a new ocean kayak that proved tippier than I anticipated. As I stepped into it, it rolled, gashing my leg. Eight stitches later, I was happy that Murphy's mother had always made him sew on his own Boy Scout badges. ■

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





# Home Seasonal Home

## FRIENDS OF ACADIA PARTNERS TO PROVIDE SEASONAL HOUSING SOLUTIONS



SAM MALLON/FOA

BY LORI SCHAEFER

Rachel Hartman feels incredibly lucky that she was hired by Acadia National Park as a seasonal law enforcement ranger this year. She was able to secure housing in one of the coveted spots in existing park housing.

Park officials informed Hartman when she interviewed that there was a severe housing shortage on MDI, and she knew she would not have been able to accept her dream job unless she secured housing.

“Being from Reno, NV, I’m incredibly thankful that the park could provide seasonal housing to me. Without park housing, I’m not sure how I would be able to work here,” Hartman said.

With only 93 bedrooms available in existing park-owned housing (81 bedrooms on MDI, 10 on the Schoodic Peninsula, and two on Isle au Haut), the other employees the park hires must fend for themselves in the local real estate market where long-term rentals have been disappearing as units are converted to more profitable weekly rentals.

It’s no secret there is a severe housing shortage on MDI and its surrounding communities.

For the past several years, the lack of affordable seasonal workforce housing has been a key factor in Acadia’s inability

to fill its seasonal positions. And now, a tight labor market on top of the housing crisis is making it even worse.

This year, Acadia had funding to hire 165-175 seasonal employees and could only hire about 115—a shortage of 50-60 employees. Two of the areas with the biggest shortages are maintenance of trails and carriage roads. Downeast Transportation—the operator of the Island Explorer bus service—is short about 40 bus drivers.

“Seasonal employees are essential to operating the park and providing visitor services from April through October,” said Park Superintendent Kevin Schneider. “And we simply do not have enough housing to support our desired summer seasonal workforce.”

When the park can’t hire enough staff to operate, it can limit Acadia’s ability to provide a quality visitor experience, care for cultural and natural resources, make progress on diversity and inclusion initiatives, keep up with trail and carriage road maintenance, and advance other strategic priorities.

That’s why Friends of Acadia has stepped up to help tackle the housing crisis head on.



## 130 BEDROOMS FOR SEASONAL WORKERS

Friends of Acadia formed a Seasonal Workforce Housing Committee in late 2020 and last year developed a housing strategy with the goal of adding 130 beds for Acadia National Park and its partners over the next decade.

Friends of Acadia, in collaboration with Acadia National Park, hopes to achieve that goal using a multi-pronged approach that involves short-term, mid-term, and long-term actions, including:

1. Renovating existing park units to add bedrooms;
2. Purchasing commercial facilities like a B&B or motel;
3. Constructing new housing units on carefully selected sites within park boundaries; and
4. Adding more RV trailer pads to Acadia National Park campgrounds.

While the ultimate solution is to construct new housing units on NPS land that will have minimal impact on park resources and visitors, more immediate and interim measures are needed to help get there. It will take time to raise funds, complete design and planning, and build new units.

The good news: progress is already being made and there's a bright ray of sunshine on the horizon.

## EVERY BED COUNTS

Acting quickly, Friends of Acadia added 13 beds for seasonal workers.

Thanks to support from Friends of Acadia, a house the park recently acquired in Seal Cove was renovated, adding two bedrooms. Another house in Bar Harbor was renovated to add an additional bedroom. More renovations are planned in 2025 that will add another 5-7 bedrooms.

In March, Friends of Acadia purchased the Kingsleigh Inn in Southwest Harbor to house 10 more seasonal park employees. Though Friends of Acadia owns the property, it is being managed and operated by Acadia National Park in similar fashion to existing park housing.

"By expanding housing options, the Kingsleigh property increases our capacity to recruit and retain seasonal staff members," Schneider said at the time of the ribbon cutting. "We are incredibly grateful to Friends of Acadia for helping to support this need."

Additionally, several Friends of Acadia members have stepped up to help house Friends of Acadia employees this season.

"We have five seasonal employees living in three different properties owned by Friends of Acadia members this year," said Stephanie Ley, summit steward coordinator and member of the Friends of Acadia Seasonal Workforce Housing Committee. "Two of those are in properties owned by Pat and



Bob Foster who have been helping Friends of Acadia with seasonal housing for years. And we're grateful to Jeff Sterba and Geri and Don Wagner who are new to the mix this year."

## A WORK IN PROGRESS

Friends of Acadia is also exploring the purchase of a parcel of land from Seal Harbor Properties (members of the Rockefeller family) on Jordan Pond Road in Seal Harbor as a possible site for seasonal housing.

It is currently used as a storage pit by the owners and by the Land & Garden Preserve for gravel, stone, vehicles, and other materials.

Because the site is served by town sewer and water, has already largely been cleared and leveled, is reasonably removed from immediate neighbors, and provides easy access to Acadia, it appears to be a good fit for Acadia employee housing. Friends of Acadia reached out to residents from the area this spring to find out what questions, concerns, or suggestions they might have about the project.

The idea is to build housing for eight seasonal park employees—a primary residence with five bedrooms and an accessory dwelling with three bedrooms, as allowed under





**FACING PAGE TOP:** The former Kingsleigh Inn in Southwest Harbor will now provide seasonal housing for up to 10 employees. **FACING PAGE BOTTOM:** Ribbon Cutting at Kingsleigh Inn. **ABOVE LEFT:** Current Acadia National Park housing at Harden Farm. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Friends of Acadia staff, board members, and Acadia National Park staff review the proposed site plan for new housing at Harden Farm.

current zoning. No design contract had been awarded at the time this article was written, but the vision is that the design of the buildings blend into the surroundings, with a low profile and healthy setbacks from the road.

## PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IS KEY

The housing crisis is not unique to Acadia National Park. It's an issue faced by many national parks across the nation. Friends of Acadia believes that federal funding and action is needed to help solve it, and is aiming its investments to attract, leverage, and maximize federal dollars.

Last July, National Park Service Director Chuck Sams visited Acadia and several board members joined park staff to share with the Director the urgency of the housing situation and the need for federal action. They also shared their hope that Acadia can become a national model for other parks and philanthropic partners to emulate.

At its June Acadia Advisory Commission meeting, the park announced that it has funding to hire a firm to design housing units to accommodate an additional 50-60 seasonal employees at its Harden Farm location just off Kebo Street in Bar Harbor.

The park already has eight one-bedroom apartments on the site, which has been identified since the 1960s as a location that could accommodate additional workforce housing without significant impact to park resources and values.

"The Harden Farm property is advantageous because we are building housing on existing park land as opposed to going into the community on land that could otherwise be available

for others to build housing," said Deputy Superintendent Brandon Bies at the Advisory Commission meeting.

Another property ripe for long-term development is a 55-acre tract in Town Hill. U.S. Senators Susan Collins and Angus King of Maine sponsored a bill that became law in December 2022 to change the intended use of this parcel so that it can be used for both park and workforce housing for the communities of MDI. The park will be working with the town of Bar Harbor and other stakeholders on the future of this site.

## HOUSING CRISIS WON'T BE SOLVED ALONE OR OVERNIGHT

While the urgency around housing need is extremely high, this is a complex issue that will not be solved overnight.

Year-round workforce housing is also a major issue and Friends of Acadia is committed to finding solutions that do not exacerbate the housing market on MDI and negatively affect working families trying to find year-round housing here.

"It will take all hands on deck to provide housing for our workforce on MDI and surrounding communities," said Friends of Acadia President and CEO Eric Stiles. "In doing this work, we are not just addressing the housing problem, but also the equity issue. We're removing a huge barrier to employment and helping to ensure that employment here remains available and affordable to all." ■

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



# RESEARCH AND RESILIENCY IN ACADIA

PROTECTING ACADIA IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING ENVIRONMENT

BY SHANNON BRYAN

**Acadia's forests, lakes, and coasts are being altered through land use, pollution, over-tourism, invasive species, and climate change.** These changes are likely to continue and accelerate.

Through its Wild Acadia initiative, Friends of Acadia has partnered with the park and Schoodic Institute to help park ecosystems be resilient to the changes.

For nearly a decade, thoughtful science, forward-thinking management, organizational collaboration, and strategic investments at Cadillac Mountain, Great Meadow Wetland, and Bass Harbor Marsh have positioned Acadia National Park as a leader in climate-smart restoration.

Now, the park and its partners are scaling up for even greater impact.



# THE PLOT THICKENS

## CLIMATE-SMART RESTORATION SCALES UP IN ACADIA

**Y**ou can learn a lot from a plot. Like how summit vegetation will naturally propagate in degraded areas—if you provide the soil and an effective way to keep it there. Or how planting native shrubs might provide just enough competition to keep invasive seedlings at bay.

Scientists in Acadia National Park have gleaned a good deal from study plots over the last several years.

On the summit of Cadillac Mountain, where decades of wandering foot traffic and the changing climate have diminished the vegetation, researchers experimented with soil blends and seedlings, testing which methods were the most effective. Now those learnings are being extended to Sargent and Penobscot Mountains.

Closer to sea level, dedicated efforts to suppress invasive plants in Great Meadow and Bass Harbor Marsh are being amplified, too. Study plots implemented this spring at ecologically diverse locations are being monitored to see how well native shrubs inhibit the resurgence of invasive plants like glossy buckthorn.

The current expansion of work is a testament to ongoing collaborative science and partnership between Acadia National Park, Schoodic Institute, and Friends of Acadia over the last decade.

“For those first several years, we were doing a lot of pilots, a lot of learning on a small scale,” said Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing, science coordinator at Acadia National Park. “What’s exciting about now is we’re taking all that learning and we’re scaling it up.”

That initial work by Acadia and its partners enabled the park to take advantage of federal funding opportunities. Acadia has received \$900,000 through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law for projects at Great Meadow and Bass Harbor Marsh, with another \$250,000 expected.

“It’s the kind of funding that really only comes along once or twice in a generation for resource management in the federal government,” said Miller-Rushing.

**FACING PAGE: GREAT MEADOW** is warmed by early morning sunlight with Bar Harbor in the background as seen from Schiff Path.

**RIGHT: CADILLAC SOUTH RIDGE** trail markers.

That early work has also positioned Acadia as a leader in climate-smart restoration.

“The park service has tended to manage things to keep things the way they were in the past,” said Miller-Rushing. Now the approach is more deliberate, and it takes inevitable future change into consideration.

The new framework is officially known as Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD). It asks resource managers to consider differing options: Where do we want to hold the line and resist and try to prevent changes from happening? Where do we want to accept those changes? And where do we need to push things in a new direction?

There’s solid scientific basis for this climate-smart approach, and other parks around the country—and the globe—are taking note.

Acadia is sharing insights with other parks in the northeast and beyond. A team from Parks Victoria in Australia came to Acadia in June to learn about the work happening here. This summer, Dr. Chris Nadeau, climate change adaptation scientist at Schoodic Institute, is organizing a symposium at the Ecological Society of America meeting in Portland, OR, and Miller-Rushing is traveling to the biennial International Congress for Conservation Biology in Rwanda, all to share the lessons they are learning on the summits and in the wetlands of Acadia.

It’s work worth celebrating, but researchers recognize that it’s still early in a process that will be decades long.

“With climate change, we don’t know. It’s hard to predict which things are going to work and which aren’t,” said Miller-Rushing. “We’re trying to be as proactive as we can and to set ourselves up to learn as we go, knowing that conditions will be changing, and we’ll get surprised along the way.” ■



EMMA FORTHOE/FOA





SAM MALLON/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA

## SOIL MATTERS

### RESTORING THE HEALTH AND DIVERSITY OF ACADIA'S SUMMIT VEGETATION

**T**he low-lying, berry-producing shrubs, wildflowers, and lichens on Acadia's summits are accustomed to harsh weather. But even hardy subalpine vegetation has its limits.

In addition to a changing climate, the trampling of vegetation by increasing numbers of visitors further challenges those summit ecosystems.

Simply roping off those areas—an effort tested for decades—did little to help vegetation rebound. The plants didn't return because the seeds found no soil to grow in.

"When the vegetation died, soil washed or blew off the mountain," said Dr. Chris Nadeau.

But collaborative on-summit research at Cadillac has led to a critical learning that's now being expanded to the summits of Penobscot and Sargent Mountains. The key takeaway: If you provide the soil, the plants will come.

It's a simple approach that enables nature to take its course—not to mention saving the cost and effort of not having to grow and transport seedlings or grown plants. But it's not without complications.

"It's the plants that really hold the soil on the mountain," said Nadeau. "The soil needs the plants, and the plants need the soil."

It's a summit restoration rendition of the chicken and the egg: when soil is brought up to the summit, how do you keep it from eroding away again before seeds have a chance to take hold and grow?

And since neither Penobscot nor Sargent Mountains boast roads to their summits, as Cadillac does, what's the best method to get and keep the soil up there?

The answer: Covering the plots with a coconut-fiber mesh helps keep the soil in place until vegetation can take root. The mesh additionally helps trap seeds and retain moisture, which is crucial in an environment that's increasingly hot and dry.

**LEFT TOP TO BOTTOM:** Volunteers reach the summit during the June Save our Summits hike up Sargent and Penobscot Mountains. Ethan Lewis, of Los Angeles, CA, who hiked with the Groundworks Bridgeport program, tosses a bag of soil into the pile atop Sargent Mountains. Mara Halloran, Schoodic Institute ecology technician, counts the number of plants in a quadrat while monitoring the restoration efforts on Cadillac summit.



The soil-and-mesh combination establishes a welcoming environment and allows nearby plants to naturally seed the plots—an approach decidedly easier and less expensive than growing, transporting, planting, and maintaining seedlings.

“If you plant shrubs where there was nothing, that kind of jumps nature’s natural process of succession,” said Nadeau. “What we found was that jumping the succession didn’t help.”

Instead, he said, they are setting the stage. “It’s passive restoration. The plants will be whatever naturally colonizes those areas.”

These learnings are now being implemented on Penobscot and Sargent Mountains, where 20 plots are being spread across both summits.

## SOIL TO THE SUMMITS

A critical first step—getting soil up there—started this spring. It’s a human-powered effort with volunteers and staff carrying bags of soil to both summits.

June’s Save Our Summits event, a collaboration between Acadia National Park, Schoodic Institute, and Friends of Acadia, welcomed the public to participate. More events like that are in the works, both because many hands are needed to get an estimated 2,000 pounds of soil up two mountains, but also because communicating about these efforts is an important part of the work.

New methods are being tested on all three summits as well, like experimenting with mosses and lichens to see if they provide a nature-based solution to help hold in moisture during hot and dry spells.

To reduce soil erosion around the plots, they’ve switched to using biodegradable burlap bags instead of plastic sandbags. The burlap bags are filled with the same soil as the restoration plots, with seeds tucked in on top. “The bags naturally grow roots, and they biodegrade,” said Nadeau.

Experimentation is ongoing, and the process is a long one. “It takes decades,” said Jesse Wheeler, Acadia’s vegetation program manager and biologist. “That’s just the nature of growing on a windy, cold mountain summit. It’s just a hard place for a plant to live.”

But the park and its partners are dedicated to it.

“We’re aiming to prevent more loss. We can see the trajectory into the future with increased rainstorms and climate change,” said Wheeler. “So, let’s try to figure out what methods will work, what kinds of things we can do to hold the line for what’s there now, and hopefully improve and keep the habitat.” ■



**ABOVE TOP TO BOTTOM:** Jim Burka, Acadia National Park biological science technician, waters sterilized soil recently added to areas that will be revegetated near the summit of Cadillac Mountain. Jess Moskowitz, Schoodic Institute ecology technician, marks off which plots still need monitoring for the restoration efforts on Cadillac summit.



# REHABILITATION AND RESILIENCY

## ACTIVE RESTORATION RAMPS UP IN GREAT MEADOW AND BASS HARBOR MARSH

**A**t the base of Dorr Mountain, the 100-acre Great Meadow Wetland is part of a network of wetlands, streams, and ponds in the Cromwell Brook watershed. For most visitors who meander the lush paths or linger to bird watch, the ecosystem appears robust.

“To most of us, it looks pretty good,” said Jesse Wheeler, Acadia National Park vegetation program manager and biologist. “There are plants growing; there are beautiful sights to see.”

Understanding how the park’s ecosystems are changing requires a deeper look.

Human modifications to the Great Meadow Wetland over the last hundred years have altered the flow of water and initiated a domino effect of changes. It’s a wetland that no longer functions like a wetland, which in turn allows invasive species to thrive.

Invasive plant suppression consumes a good deal of resources in most parks—Acadia included. But consistent funding from Friends of Acadia and other sources has allowed Wheeler’s team to manage more aggressively and stay relatively on top of the expeditious spread of invasives in areas like Great Meadow and Bass Harbor Marsh.

With the addition of federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, they’re now able to advance the work, taking an active restoration approach by experimenting with replanting natives where invasives have historically taken over.

This spring, Wheeler and Nadeau developed study plots to experiment with a diverse variety of native shrubs and grasses that can provide coverage and shading and give the invasive seedlings some competition. Glossy buckthorn happens to love sunny spots.

Plots are spread amongst wetter and drier areas, including an area close to the intersection of Jesup Path and Hemlock Road. Starting with shrubs helps managers get a slight jump on the effort, rather than waiting for seeds to take root and grow.

“We’ll still be here to manage invasive plants,” said Wheeler. “But this intervention should give our native plants a boost so that they are better positioned to keep glossy buckthorn or other invasive shrubs at bay with less help from us.”

## MORE STABLE HYDROLOGY FOR GREAT MEADOW

Rehabilitation in the wetlands also means creating a more stable hydrology and reducing other stressors.

In recent years, water depth has fluctuated greatly from season to season, draining too quickly during dry periods and flooding during heavy rains. This January, following a heavy rainfall that fell on top of snow, flooding in Great Meadow was significant.

A big step toward reinstating a more natural water flow is taking place in 2024, when an undersized culvert is scheduled to be replaced with a larger one that’s better suited for the task.

Acadia’s Science Coordinator Dr. Abe Miller-Rushing said, “With a more stable hydrology in Great Meadow, we expect extreme floods like the one in January to become less frequent. We also expect native plants sensitive to disturbance to slowly move in, plants like those found in many of the park’s other healthier wetlands but currently missing from Great Meadow.”

## ENGAGING AND EDUCATING PARK VISITORS

In the meantime, says Miller-Rushing, “We want the public to know that we’re shifting to managing change. That’s a big part of the story of Acadia right now. Acadia is changing and how we approach managing our natural and cultural resources is changing, too.”

The public can now see that shift with the plots on Acadia’s mountain summits, the Great Meadow Wetland, and Bass Harbor Marsh.

Newly placed informational tripods on top of Cadillac Mountain and at Great Meadow help tell the story of the work and its impact. The public can actively participate, as well, by helping to move soil or assisting with planting and monitoring.

“I think that’s really exciting,” said Miller-Rushing. “People are becoming more aware but are surprised at just how much it’s changed. I think that seeing and participating in the work can help bring that point home. ■

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





SAM MALLON/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA



SAM MALLON/FOA



CATHERINE SCHMITT/SCHOODIC INSTITUTE



COURTESY VHB

**LEFT TOP:** Jesse Wheeler, the vegetation program manger at Acadia National Park; Chanti Max, a plant technician with the Acadia National Park vegetation program though the ACE NPS Academy, and Taylor Palmer, a restoration technician with the Schoodic Institute, determine the boundaries of plots where fencing will go up to monitor the growth of glossy buckthorn, an invasive plant species, in comparison to native plants in the Great Meadow. **LEFT MIDDLE:** Materials from members of the Acadia National Park Vegetation Crew and the Schoodic Institute lay at their field site as they put fencing around a plot to monitor the growth of glossy buckthorn. **LEFT BOTTOM:** Digital simulation of restored wetland at the Great Meadow outlet culvert capturing the new design for the stream channel and nature-like weir, in addition to the plant revegetation on the stream banks. **ABOVE TOP:** Evening light at Bass Harbor Marsh. **ABOVE:** New signage about restorative work on Cadillac Mountain.



## SPECIAL PERSON

# Chris Nadeau

Climate Adaptation Scientist at Schoodic Institute

Chris Nadeau has worked in natural resource management and science for nearly 25 years. He's studied how best to monitor and manage rare wetland birds and owls, administered rabies vaccines to raccoons and skunks, and pet a dolphin. But climate change science captured his attention.

Last fall, Nadeau joined Schoodic Institute as the Climate Adaptation Scientist and says he's thrilled to work so closely with the National Park Service to conduct science with a purpose.

### Q. Tell us about your job. What is the focus of your work?

A. Acadia National Park, like many places around the world, is changing. Climate change, invasive species, and increased park visitation are all producing new stresses on the unique natural resources in the park. Park staff are working diligently to incorporate these changes into their management, but there's no playbook for dealing with rapid change. Luckily, we have an opportunity to apply creative solutions in such a way that we can learn as we go.

As the Climate Adaptation Scientist at the Schoodic Institute, I work closely with park staff to apply cutting-edge conservation and restoration science that helps us learn to better manage park resources in a changing world. This involves staying up to date on recommended best practices in the field, but also using science-based approaches to evaluate which practices work best in Acadia.

For example, I'm evaluating how best to preserve and restore vegetation on mountain summits, and how to ensure the restored vegetation persists during increasingly common dry summer heat waves. I am also testing multiple techniques to slow the spread of a persistent invasive shrub—glossy buckthorn—that has plagued two of the largest wetlands in the park: Great Meadow and Bass Harbor Marsh.

### Q. How did your background prepare you for this role?

A. I've been working in natural resource management and science for nearly 25 years. Most of my work has involved working directly with natural resource managers to provide science-based solutions to natural resource challenges.

My career started by working many short-term positions,



COURTESY CHRIS NADEAU

ranging from radio tracking mallard ducks in the Canadian Prairies to administering rabies vaccine to hundreds of wild raccoons and skunks. I then spent 10 years working as a Wildlife Biologist at the University of Arizona, where I studied how best to monitor and manage rare wetland birds and owls that live in underground burrows (aptly named burrowing owls).

After being exposed to academia in Arizona, I was hooked. I moved on to complete a master's degree at Cornell University, where I developed a method to evaluate which species of greatest conservation need are most vulnerable to climate change and how we can reduce their vulnerability. I completed my PhD at the University of Connecticut, where I was introduced to Acadia and the Schoodic Institute.

While completing my PhD, I received a Second Century Stewardship (SCS) Fellowship. My fellowship research showed how small, but cooler, locations in the park—for example, areas in the shade of a rock crevice—can conserve and accumulate biodiversity under climate change. Small, cool locations might therefore be critical for biodiversity conservation in the future.

I continued my work with the National Park Service and the Schoodic Institute as a postdoc, where I started a long-term study evaluating whether collecting plants from warm locations and planting them in Acadia can make restorations on mountain summits more resilient to climate change. I continue this research now in my position at the Schoodic Institute.



### Q. What do you enjoy most about the job?

A. All too often, groups of experts disagree on the best practices for habitat restoration or natural resource management. The thing I like most about my job is turning those disagreements into something we can test.

For example, experts have suggested multiple methods for slowing the spread of invasive species. This summer, I'll be working with park staff to compare some of those methods side-by-side to understand which one works best and why. I find resolving disagreements through science incredibly rewarding.

I also love spending so much of my time outside and mentoring early-career professionals. Most importantly, I enjoy working with an amazing team at the Schoodic Institute, Friends of Acadia, and the National Park Service who are all doing inspiring work. To be honest, I can't think of a part of my job I don't love. Getting to do science in a National Park is a dream come true!

### Q. What are the biggest challenges of your work?

A. So much is changing in Acadia and beyond, from rapid declines in the abundance of birds to the shifting distributions of many species. Many of these changes require new research to understand how best to manage natural resources for the future. But we can only study so much at one time. Moreover, not all research will lead to improved management. Prioritizing the research that will have the biggest impact is the most challenging part of my job.

### Q. What do you want our readers to know about 2023 and the park moving forward?

A. 2023 will very likely be one of the hottest years on record globally, and the Acadia region is warming especially fast. Warming and other climate changes are stressing park resources. Friends of the park can be especially helpful in

documenting these changes. For example, they can use apps like iNaturalist and eBird to document how biodiversity is changing in the park on their next hike.

2023 will also be a big year as we ramp up research to understand how to restore ecosystems under rapid change. You will likely see our work in the Great Meadow, Bass Harbor Marsh, and on multiple mountain summits in the park (see "Research and Resiliency in Acadia" on pages 25-29"). There are lots of new signs at these sites explaining our work, but if you see us in the field, don't hesitate to stop by and ask us what we are up to.

### Q. Do you have any fun facts you want to share as we get to know you?

A. I was born in Canada, about an hour east of Toronto, Ontario, but I've lived in the United States for 20 years. My wife and I have been moving progressively north and east since we met in Yuma, Arizona at a bird-monitoring workshop.

I also love animals and have had the opportunity to interact with many interesting critters up close throughout my career. I've held hundreds of birds, pet a dolphin, played a game with a baby grey whale, and kissed a skunk.

### Q. What are you most looking forward to this summer?

A. Until this summer, I have only been to the Acadia region for intense research trips. I've rarely taken the opportunity to enjoy the area. My wife and I are so excited to be living in Ellsworth and learning about the region's fascinating natural history. We already enjoy spending countless evenings trying to identify the many warblers calling in our yard. This summer we hope to spend a lot of time hiking, biking, canoeing, and kayaking in the region.

I'm also super excited to be starting new studies in the park. As a scientist, starting new studies is a thrilling part of the job. The culmination of months of planning and the anticipation of learning is energizing. ■

BELOW LEFT: Chris Nadeau checks the plot near the Blue Hill Overlook on Cadillac Mountain. BELOW RIGHT: Nadeau takes measurements of a plant at the plot near the Blue Hill Overlook on Cadillac Mountain.





# FRONT & CENTER

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



## MEET JOHN DELMASTRO MAINTENANCE WORKER AT ACADIA NATIONAL PARK

BY SHANNON BRYAN

When visitors regale their wanderings in Acadia National Park, they don't typically spend much time applauding the cleanliness of the bathrooms or the lack of litter in the picnic areas. But they certainly could.

In addition to its abundance of greenery and scenery, Acadia's facilities are kept mighty sharp, too.

John DelMastro is a maintenance worker at Acadia National Park. He's part of the roadside division of the buildings and utilities department, the crew who makes sure the roads are free of debris, garbage is picked up, and park facilities are clean and sanitized.

He'll jokingly call himself a "bathroom refurbisher," but he's aware of how his team's work matters to the park and the people who come here to enjoy it.

"I'm a physical steward of this park," he said. "I pick up the garbage and clean up the facilities." And that work influences a visitor's experience. When visitors arrive and stop off at Thompson Island, for example, "that's the first image people get from the park."

Those experiences, whether a person's first visit or their 50th, should be filled with an excitement and awe that's unfettered by errant debris.

"The park is designed to take a beautiful place and inject people into it," he said. That's the greatness of parks like Acadia and what they offer people. "It doesn't matter what your skill set is, you can get a beautiful view."

But with people come food wrappers and water bottles

and the need to use the bathroom, and Acadia sees a lot of people every year. That means well-kept facilities are particularly critical to the function of the park and the pleasurable experience of those who visit.

DelMastro started working in the park in 2009, not long after he and his wife, Dominika, moved to Maine from Nantucket. They were married in the park in 2008 at Balance Rock.

"We came to Acadia once before, and she fell in love," he said. DelMastro understood why. "It has mountains, lakes, forests. It has it all."

He was initially hired as part of the seasonal staff, and during his first year he acquired a brand-new work truck, which he named Lola and still drives today. Five years in, he landed his current year-round position.

Most days, he works with a partner in the western side of Acadia National Park—an area that includes Iles Point, Acadia Mountain, Beech Mountain, and Ship Harbor. Some of his crewmates move among the different routes from day to day, and while he'll fill in elsewhere when needed, he likes working this side of the park.

"When you're in the central area of the park, you're in the park," he said, "In Acadia's western side, you're in the community."

A typical day begins at Thompson Island to scan for litter and clean the bathrooms—wash counters, mop floors, polish and sanitize surfaces, check stocks of toilet paper. Then it's



across the street to the information center. From there he and his partner divide and conquer the stops on the route.

At each stop they pick up garbage around the parking lots, clean the bathrooms, replenish the soap and toilet paper and occasionally do some light repairs. They meet up again at Echo Lake. After lunch, they do the loop again; it's a twice-a-day cleaning schedule that began during Covid and stayed.

In the last several years, he's noticed the uptick in visitors—increased congestion on the roads and parking lots. Particularly in August, he says, navigating a busy parking lot can feel like landing a plane on an aircraft carrier. But he's always cautious, aware there are kids running around, people backing up their cars. "You're a servant of the people," he said.

Certainly, he has a job to do, but sometimes it's better to adjust the route and come back to an area later, when it's less busy. That's an aspect of his work he appreciates. "I enjoy the freedom of the job," he said.

He also values being a part of the park team. DelMastro grew up playing football—from the age of 8 on through college—so he's been on a lot of teams. "I've been on good ones and bad ones," he said. "We're all park employees. We're all on a team, especially my division."

DelMastro has an intriguing slew of interests outside of the park, too. He's an artist (he draws with Prismacolor pencils, including a series of the Rockefeller bridges of Acadia). He and his wife own Middle Earth Mushrooms and grow shiitakes in Seal Cove, and he's a writer, currently writing a book about space exploration.

One of his colleagues rightly referred to him as a "renaissance man."

Whatever he's working on, DelMastro says his father always instilled in him the idea of doing your job well. And he does.

"I get far more compliments than complaints," he said. ■

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

**FACING PAGE:** John DelMastro on the radio in his Acadia National Park work vehicle.

**RIGHT:** DelMastro sweeps out the bathroom at the Pretty Marsh Picnic Area as part of his maintenance duties for the day.

## 3 WAYS PARK VISITORS CAN EASE THE BURDEN ON HARDWORKING PARK STAFF

### 1 Dispose of your trash in trash cans

It's a carry-in, carry-out philosophy when on the trails, but there are trash cans at many of the frequented trailheads, picnic areas, and parking lots that make it easy to dispose of trash.

### 2 Use the bathrooms – and keep them clean

Acadia boasts bathrooms at an abundance of locations. Use them with courtesy to the other visitors in the park who, like you, appreciate having a clean restroom to use.

### 3 Be a Steward

Cleaning up after yourself helps keep Acadia looking sharp. If you come across trash left by someone else and can grab it and put it in a trash can, that's helpful to park staff, other visitors, and the park itself.





# All Aboard

## Friends of Acadia's 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Benefit is Back Under the Tent

BY LORI SCHAEFER

It's almost time to bring our amazing community together to share and celebrate our love for Acadia and support critical conservation work that helps protect and preserve it. Plus, we can't wait to see you!

The Friends of Acadia 34th Annual Benefit will be held in-person at the Asticou Inn in Northeast Harbor on Saturday, August 12. The Friends of Acadia Benefit Committee, led by co-chairs Laura Clark Katona and Kathleen McIntyre, has planned what we know will be a memorable night.

Expect a fun-filled evening with many of your traditional favorites—a cocktail reception, delicious dinner, the live auction and paddle raise with celebrity auctioneer Lydia Fenet, the silent auction back under the tent, plus live music and dancing.

A very special thank you to the Annual Benefit's presenting sponsor Chilton Trust, who has been with us for a decade. We are immensely grateful for Chilton's ongoing dedication and support.

### All Hands on Deck for This Year's Paddle Raise: A New Boat for Acadia

The paddle raise will support the purchase of a new and much needed modern boat for Acadia. All hands are needed to make this happen and contributions of any amount are welcome.

As you know, Acadia National Park is known for the striking and complex patchwork of park lands across Mount

Desert Island, the Schoodic Peninsula, and Isle au Haut. The park also currently holds conservation easements on 184 properties in 18 towns, most of which are on offshore islands and need to be accessed by boat.

Transporting people and equipment to those locations requires one of the park's two boats, both of which are aging and inefficient. An upgraded boat would allow the park to access more safely and effectively just about any island. It would also allow for the unloading of people and equipment directly on the rocky shorelines for maintenance, resource management, wildland fire fighting, and law enforcement.

Additionally, the new boat would help the park reduce personnel time by providing ample seating and cargo space to limit the number of necessary trips. Plus, a newer, modern marine engine will burn cleaner and more efficiently.

If you can't attend the Benefit in person, absentee bids are welcome.

For additional questions about the Paddle Raise or Annual Benefit, contact Jen Byer, special events coordinator, at 207-370-4910 or [jen\\_byer@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:jen_byer@friendsofacadia.org). Scan the QR code to learn more about the Annual Benefit and click to the Benefit Auction site where you can see silent auction items and learn more about the Paddle Raise. ■

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



## A Very Special Thank You

Thank you to our presenting sponsor, Chilton Trust Company, our Benefit Committee Co-Chairs Laura Katona and Kathleen McIntyre, as well as the entire Benefit Committee for support of our beloved event.

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FRIENDS OF  
ACADIA  
34<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL BENEFIT



# Create a Legacy in Your Lifetime: Charitable Remainder Trusts

DONOR PROFILE

**Editor's Note:** Lisa Horsch Clark interviewed retired Friends of Acadia President and CEO Ken Olson about his decision to establish a charitable trust naming FOA co-beneficiary. Here is a condensed version of their conversation.



**LISA:** Please describe a charitable remainder trust for people unfamiliar with this giving tool.

**KEN:** An individual creates an irrevocable trust and names a nonprofit (or nonprofits) to receive the net principal on his or her death, and funds it by deeding an appreciated asset to the trust, such as real estate or securities. The trustee—in my case Bar Harbor Bank and Trust Wealth Services—sells the asset, invests the proceeds in income-producing instruments and annually pays me six percent of the principal.

**LISA:** What are the tax advantages for the donor?

**KEN:** Favorable capital gains treatment plus a federal deduction equaling the fair market value of the gifted asset, which you can write off over several years. There also are positive state tax consequences.

**LISA:** In summary, then, a remainder trust benefits the “remainderman”—the nonprofit—and gives the donor a life income and favorable tax treatment, a good deal all around. Please discuss naming Friends of Acadia and the University of Maine’s Fogler Library your beneficiaries.

**KEN:** I wanted to support the park via Friends of Acadia, which I was privileged to lead for a decade-plus. While mulling how, I donated my papers, fifty file-boxes’ worth—a cheerily cathartic downsizing—to Fogler Special Collections, and I sought to endow their curation. Having run three nonprofits during my conservation career, I understood keenly the imperative to manage business in the black. It requires fluid operating funds, the hardest kind to raise.

**LISA:** Describe your Fogler collection.

**KEN:** It comprises materials from my times heading The Nature Conservancy of Connecticut, American Rivers, and Friends of Acadia, and from when I held executive posts at the Appalachian Mountain Club and The Conservation Fund. I hope scholars, students, and nonprofit and agency professionals will be interested, plus anyone curious about conservation history.

**LISA:** And your more personal papers?

**KEN:** They include published and unpublished essays, reviews, op-eds, fiction, honest poems, and frivolous ditties.

**LISA:** What is the link between endowing Fogler and endowing Friends of Acadia operations?

**KEN:** Both organizations enact good—and they are good at it. The conservation ideal itself motivated me. Conservationists try to think centuries ahead. My paid occupation and my scriben symbols of it embody that objective. I was asking myself: Could my life work continue after my work life? Though a niche oeuvre, might the documents inform others, including after I’m ashes and dust?

**LISA:** What’s your conservation philosophy in a nutshell?

**KEN:** Thoreau said, in the male slant of the day, “A man is rich in proportion to the number of things he can afford to let alone.” Humanity will be richer for what we—today’s pilots

continued on next page



## NEW MEMBERS

January 1 – May 31, 2023

Jill Adams	Lisa Leavitt
Sue Aripotch	Gillian Lewis
Sam Barker	Kent Libby
John Beaulieu	Marianne and Lou
Kimberly Blunda	Lowenkron
Lee Bonta	Diane Mackie
Gay Boylston	Deb Manning
Nancy Brandt	Megan Markgren
Tim Brewer	Todd Martin
James Brown	Mark Masselink
Lynne Brown	Susan McKinley
Rebecca Buchanan	Edward Medicke
Michael Byrd	Donald Melchior
Lydia and John Byrne	Lynn and David Mirisola
Sabrina Calas	Hélène and Chris
Mary and Jim Carnie	Mogridge
Michael Catania	Jodi Moore
Nancy Chapin	Robert Morris
Rebecca Cherry	Meital and Mayer
Amee Christensen	Nazarian
Susan Coan	Alberta Neilson
George Danforth	Kim Nolan
Rachel D'Angeli	Adriana O'Brien
John DeVol	Catherine Orme
Susan Diballa	Vivian Patterson and
Taylor and Kareem	Lynn Stiles
Dieng	Tiffany Petrino
Mary and Tom Dineen	Amanda Reed
Adrienne Doane	Dana Reed
Noelle Dorton	Mary Reed
Spencer Egan	Toni and Bill Rehrig
Peter Emerson	Loralie and Isaac
Janette and Francis	Robbins
Engelhardt	Michael Rosa
Annamarie Fisher	Beth and Jack Rosenthal
Christina Fitz	Lynn and Zeek Ruzicka
Joan Fitzgerald	Charlotte Salley
Sarah Fox	Alice Savage*
Jane Gaillard	Ellen Sax
Lisa Garvin	Andrea Schober
Benjamin Graham	Beverly Schultz
Lisa Gralnek	Philip Seib
Roy Gruver	Virginia Shea
Bette and Lonnie	Michael Shellow
Hanauer	Maryellen and Bob
Tracy Haskell	Smith
Andrew Hein	Bill St. Cyr
Brian Herbst	Christine Stanley
Jill Herndon	Troy Sterk
Jay Hilyard	Mrs. John Stewart
Cassandra Hopkins	Michael Sweeney
Charles Houston	Jennifer Tamedl
Paula Huntsman	Christopher Tessier
Lisa Hurst	Sherrie and Jimmy
Rose Iuro-Damon	Thomas
John Jacob	Sari Thomas
Vicki Kane	Kathleen Turan
Dennis Kelleher	Christine Walika
Kelly Kennon	Carolyn Yelich
Avril King	
Leon Knore	
Caroline Knowles	
Valentina Kopop	
Michael Lawler	

\*Deceased



**BIRCH TREES** line the old Hemlock Road through Great Meadow.

of Spaceship Earth—either let alone or treat with managerial kindness: harvest and succor the fruit but leave the resource verdant and sustained.

### LISA: How do you understand the idea of philanthropy?

**KEN:** Let's deflate the puffery of the term philanthropy right away: its dictionary meaning is "love of humankind generally." Charity is not about money only, it's more about intent to serve. I'm not wealthy in the conventional sense, but my modest trust can, I hope, do a bit for nature and for people I'll never know.

### LISA: How did you fund your trust?

**KEN:** I donated my Washington, D.C., Capitol Hill condo, which was providing me steady rental income. Amazingly, the trust's net annual payout exceeds that.

### LISA: What is your takeaway from having set up a charitable trust?

**KEN:** You don't have to be rich to establish one. Many Friends of Acadia members may be unaware they have the wherewithal to do it. Shortly after I hired you, Lisa—18 years ago—you created the George B. Dorr Society honoring people who have named Friends of Acadia in their wills. Perhaps some would consider setting up an irrevocable trust like mine, as might FOAers not yet introduced to this wonderful method of giving, which provides an endless legacy for our splendid Acadia, starting in their lifetimes no less. They will be enriched.

### LISA: Thank you.

**KEN:** Keep up the grand work. ■

KEN OLSON was President and CEO of Friends of Acadia 1995-2006. A guide to his Fogler papers is at "Olson (W. Kent) Conservation Papers, 1931-2011 " by Special Collections, Raymond H. Fogler Library, University of Maine (umaine.edu).

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



# Stocking Density Limits for Ocean-Based Finfish Farms

The Maine Legislature recently enacted stocking density limits of 30kg/m<sup>3</sup> per pen for ocean-based finfish farms. These limits are higher than many other countries but represent a small step forward in preventing industrial-scale finfish farms near Acadia. American Aquafarms had proposed farming at densities as great as 40kg/m<sup>3</sup> in Frenchman Bay.

Friends of Acadia worked with several conservation groups and Senator Nicole Grohoski on this legislation, which originally proposed to establish limits on biomass/farm, as well as stocking densities/pen.

The Maine Department of Marine Resources did not support limits on biomass. Due to this opposition - and therefore a likely defeat of the bill in the Legislature's Marine Resources

Committee - Senator Grohoski submitted an amendment to focus the bill solely on stocking densities.

Senator Grohoski also submitted a bill this session that passed the Legislature requiring the Department of Environmental Protection to review "applicable state laws and rules regulating the licensing of waste discharge from proposed finfish aquaculture facilities," as well as requiring the agency to develop recommendations for the establishment of minimum standards for waste discharge modeling.

While Friends of Acadia would have liked to have seen greater legislative action to curtail industrial ocean-based finfish farms in the waters surrounding Acadia, these two initiatives are steps forward.

SUNRISE OVER FRENCHMAN BAY viewed from the Precipice Trail.



LILY LAREGINA/FOA

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January 1 – May 31, 2023

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LEFT: Lead Recreation Technician Becca Stanley surveys visitors at Cadillac Mountain summit. RIGHT: A family participates in the reservation system survey.

# Cadillac Vehicle Reservation System Improves Visitors' Experiences

## Visitors Appreciate Available Parking and Exploring at Their Own Pace

BY BECCA STANLEY

Acadia National Park's implementation of a timed-entry vehicle reservation system for the Cadillac Mountain Summit Road introduced a new way to experience this popular attraction. The reservation system was developed to reduce parking, congestion, and safety issues at the summit of Cadillac, but how did visitors feel about their experiences using it?

My master's degree research helped answer that question. It involved conducting a visitor survey on the Cadillac Mountain Summit from June to August 2021 during the first year of implementing the new vehicle reservation system.

The aim was to understand visitors' experiences with the new reservation system, with a focus on evaluating its effectiveness in addressing transportation-related concerns and assessing the overall visitor experience. It's important to note that these results specifically pertain to personal vehicle reservation permit holders.

In 2021, 53 percent of respondents were first-time visitors to Cadillac Mountain, and 66 percent had never been in a U.S. National Park managed access system (reservation system) prior to their visit.

Visitors learned about the new vehicle reservation system through various channels, including the Acadia National Park website (46 percent), word of mouth (22 percent), mixed methods (8 percent), the visitor center (6 percent), social media, and lodging establishments (5 percent each).

From the respondents' sources of information, the study

revealed that 26 percent purchased their permits one to two months before their visit, while nearly 60 percent purchased within 48 hours of their visit. Among those who purchased permits, 58 percent did not encounter any issues, while the remaining 42 percent mentioned that their first-choice time slot or day was unavailable, faced limited cellular connectivity or other issues.

When asked to rate the importance and level of satisfaction of certain attributes, some were deemed more important than others. Those variables were the "ability to explore at their own pace at the summit" (97 percent), "ability to enjoy unobstructed views of the scenery" (93 percent), and "ability to find parking at the summit" (92 percent) were regarded as extremely important components of their visits.

Moreover, the attributes deemed important also garnered high satisfaction ratings. The same attributes, including the "ability to explore at their own pace at the summit" (99 percent), "ability to enjoy unobstructed views of the scenery" (96 percent), and "ability to find parking at the summit" (93 percent), were reported as extremely satisfying aspects of their visits. A majority of respondents rated multiple attributes as extremely important and reported highly satisfying experiences.

While many visitors provided positive feedback on the timed-entry reservation system, highlighting the convenience of advance purchase and avoiding long traffic lines, some expressed disappointment in not being able to secure



reservations for their preferred times, especially for the popular sunrise block. However, this outcome was anticipated by Acadia National Park managers as part of their strategy to redirect visitors from high-traffic times (such as sunrise, mid-day, and sunset) to other periods (like after sunrise but before midday), aiming to evenly distribute visitors throughout the day for a safer and more enjoyable experience.

Visitors who arrived during lower-demand times reported high satisfaction levels, particularly in areas such as finding parking spots (93-94 percent satisfaction rating).

The survey findings demonstrate that the reservation system at Acadia National Park has mostly addressed various transportation-related concerns and enhanced the overall visitor experience on Cadillac Mountain.

Visitors prioritize attributes related to freedom of access and transportation matters, which collectively contribute to highly satisfying experiences. The reservation system has proven to be a valuable tool in managing parking, congestion, and safety, ultimately ensuring a positive visitor experience at Cadillac Mountain.

Additional information can be found in the 150-page master's thesis located in the University of Maine institutional repository, DigitalCommons@UMaine coordinated by Raymond H. Fogler Library.

*Disclaimer: The data depicted in this article was obtained from an independent study conducted by the University of Maine School of Forest Resources with the support of Friends of Acadia. The National Park Service did not supervise or fund this research project. ■*


BECCA STANLEY is Friends of Acadia's Recreation Technician Lead.

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ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA





# Construction Begins on New Acadia Gateway Center

**DECADES OF PARTNERSHIP, PLANNING, AND PERSISTENCE** are coming to fruition as construction begins at the Acadia Gateway Center site in Trenton. Gathered in front of the "Future Home of Acadia Gateway Center" sign, from left: Peter Butler, regional administrator at Federal Transit Administration; Kevin Schneider, superintendent, Acadia National Park; Hannah Collins, deputy director, Maine Office of Tourism; U.S. Senator Angus King; Fred Ehrlenbach, first selectman, Town of Trenton; Paul Murphy, executive director, Downeast Transportation, Inc.; Bruce Van Note, commissioner, Maine Department of Transportation; and Eric Stiles, president and CEO, Friends of Acadia.

BY STEPHANIE CLEMENT

In 1999, Friends of Acadia joined 19 organizations in signing a project agreement to build a regional public transportation system for Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. Thus began the Island Explorer bus service.

The project agreement outlined that Phase 3 of the transit system should include a regional transportation hub, visitor center, and maintenance center and office space for Downeast Transportation, the operator of the Island Explorer and other county-wide transit services.

Fast forward to May 22, 2023, and many of those organizations gathered again on the west side of Route 3 in Trenton to break ground on the Acadia Gateway Center. The Center will include a Maine visitor information center, park entrance pass sales and information, a bus boarding area, and electric-vehicle charging stations in the parking lots. It will open to visitors in May 2025.

Friends of Acadia's donors can feel proud of the key role they played in making the Acadia Gateway Center possible.

In 2004, Friends of Acadia purchased a three-year option on the 369-acre Crippens Creek property, while the Maine Department of Transportation (Maine DOT) completed an Environmental Assessment on the Acadia Gateway Center project. Friends of Acadia purchased the land in 2007 and immediately sold the easternmost 152 acres bordering Route 3 to Maine DOT for the project. Maine DOT opened the maintenance center and offices for Downeast Transportation

at the rear of their property in 2012.

Friends of Acadia retained the remaining land behind the property and built the Trenton Community Trail with assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Conservation Assistance Program, the Stewardship Volunteers, and the Trenton Recreation Committee. In 2013, Friends of Acadia donated a conservation easement on the remaining land to Maine Coast Heritage Trust, and then donated the underlying land to the Town of Trenton.

Friends of Acadia donors stepped up again in 2016 as part of the Acadia Second Century Campaign. Funds raised as part of the Acadia Experience pillar are being used to cover \$1 million of the \$27.7 million construction price for the new center. Friends of Acadia also pledged up to \$225,000 from the "Greening Acadia" Paddle Raise from the 2021 Benefit Auction to help fund rooftop solar

panel installation on the Center.

The Acadia Gateway Center will be a critical transportation and information link for thousands of visitors each year. It will serve as a literal and figurative gateway, providing transfers to the Island Explorer, as well as an introduction for visitors to easy, safe, and smart ways to enjoy Acadia and the surrounding communities. ■

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

**"It's partnerships that make this bus go," said Acadia Superintendent Kevin Schneider.**





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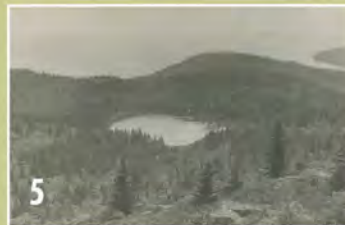
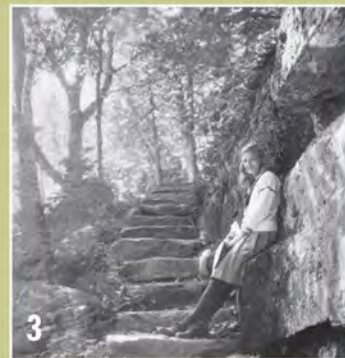
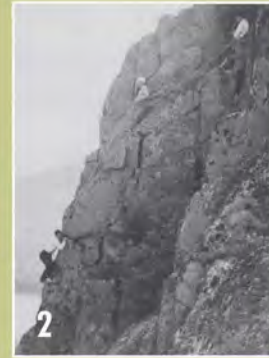
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# TEST YOUR ACADIA IQ

Can you identify  
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Acadia National Park?



\_\_\_\_\_ Overlook above what is now the Bear Brook Picnic Area,  
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\_\_\_\_\_ Steps on Kurt Diederich's Climb, \_\_\_\_\_ Park Loop Road Bridge near  
Cadillac Mountain Entrance, \_\_\_\_\_ Satterlee Tea House at Great Head,  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sieur de Monts, \_\_\_\_\_ Rock Climbing at South Bubble

Answers on page 47



# Book Review

## Anne Kozak with Josh Winer and Sam Putnam

BY LISA HORSCH CLARK


In a way, reading Anne Kozak's new book *Images of America: Acadia National Park* was like visiting an old friend. Seeing familiar photographs from long ago was a surprise as I turned the pages, but I wasn't prepared for the sheer number of new photographs Kozak shared from private collections, Harold MacQuinn Inc., Leo Grossman papers, local historical societies, and the Library of Congress.

One might see the signature sepia tone cover from the *Images of America* series and think it's just another picture book of Acadia, but Kozak's detailed captions accompanying each photograph are like a fresh history lesson.

Leave it to this seasoned writer to stitch together three dramatically different themes—the role of women in establishing Acadia who either through gift or inspiration added key parcels of land and memorial trails in the early years of the park, rarely told stories of construction in Acadia like widening the Eagle Lake Bridge and building the park's iconic Loop Road, and the more informal but also important candid scenes of local and summer residents and visitors to the park over the years. (Note: the images in our Acadia IQ quiz were selected from Kozak's new book.)

The paperback book, stretching from the 1880s to the 1970s, deserves a spot on every Acadia lover's bookshelf. It can be purchased locally at an array of shops in Bar Harbor or directly from the publisher. ■


LISA HORSCH CLARK is Vice President of Development and Donor Relations.



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## Updates

# New Maintenance Building is Under Construction!

Construction began this spring on Acadia's new 32,000-square-foot maintenance facility. Slated for completion in fall 2024, the facility will equip the park with workshops, equipment storage, meeting rooms, and offices. It will also demolish more than 20,000 square feet of unsafe park structures and eliminate \$4.4 million of deferred maintenance and repairs.

The project is made possible with a \$32.6 million investment from the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA), and Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau, Senator Angus King, Congresswoman Chellie Pingree, and other community leaders celebrated the project's groundbreaking in April.

The new maintenance facility is critical to supporting the mission of Acadia National Park and will make it possible for the park to provide frontline services to visitors and protect park resources over the next 60 years.



**VIPS PREPARE TO BREAK GROUND** on Acadia's new maintenance facility, funded by the Great American Outdoors Act. From left to right: Carol Woodcock, staff of Senator Susan Collins; Congresswoman Chellie Pingree; Superintendent Kevin Schneider; Deputy Secretary of the Interior Tommy Beaudreau; Senator Angus King; Zack Schmesser, staff of Congressman Jared Golden; and Friends of Acadia President and CEO Eric Stiles.



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## NEW TRAILBLAZERS

January 1 – May 31, 2023

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# A Privilege to Preserve and Protect Acadia

I've been a member of the Friends of Acadia Board of Directors for 13 years. My good friend and past Friends of Acadia Board Chair Ed Samek pointed me toward this wonderful organization, and I was fortunate to be asked to join the board in 2010. I've never looked back.

I've had the privilege to serve on our board under the leadership of Lili Pew, Ed Samek, and then Anne Green, and to work with park superintendents Sheridan Steele and now Kevin Schneider. David MacDonald and Eric Stiles have led Friends of Acadia's very capable staff as President and CEO.

We are joined by about 90 permanent Acadia National Park staff, 20 Friends of Acadia staff members, hundreds of volunteers, and more than 4,600 Friends of Acadia members—all in pursuit of our mission to preserve, protect, and promote stewardship of Acadia's outstanding natural beauty...for current and future generations.

It is rewarding to be a part of this mission and an honor to have served as chair of the board these past two years. Each Friends of Acadia board meeting begins with reciting our mission statement, as well as that of the National Park Service. Collectively these statements serve as our audacious goal and a challenge that we stand ready, willing, and able to meet.

It's true that "it takes a village," and I would suggest that the village consists of families. Our family has a remarkable "can do" attitude and its effectiveness is "best in class" nationally among supporters of the National Park System.

Friends of Acadia has worked diligently to effectively utilize the resources with which we have been entrusted by our members and donors, while maximizing our impact for the park.

In the past two years, we've accomplished many key milestones, including:

- We were successful in the almost impossible task of replacing David MacDonald with incoming President and CEO Eric Stiles (Eric is doing a great job).

- Participated in a successful visit by National Park Service Director Chuck Sams and the National Park Foundation Board, which helped raise awareness of Acadia's challenges such as lack of workforce housing, record visitation, and climate change.
- Ramped up our diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and formed a joint Acadia for All Taskforce, which includes members from the board and Friends of Acadia staff, as well as the park.
- Are participating in a housing strategy to add 130 additional bedrooms for Acadia's seasonal workforce over the next decade AND added 13 additional beds in 2023 with the purchase of the Kingsleigh Inn and renovations of existing park housing. We are now developing plans to build housing at Dane Farm on northern Jordan Pond Road.
- Celebrated the groundbreaking for both Acadia's new maintenance facility funded by the Great American Outdoors Act and the Acadia Gateway Center in Trenton—both major capital investments in the future of Acadia National Park.
- Welcomed 24 new members (since 2021) into the George B. Dorr Society planned giving program.

All of these milestones are in addition to the ongoing programs Friends of Acadia manages and/or supports in partnership with the park. It's all great stuff!

It has been truly an honor serving as board chair during this time and, while I'm signing off as Chair, I look forward to continuing to serve on the board and to all the great things we'll accomplish together under the direction of my successor, Bill Eacho.

In closing, I want to particularly thank Hannah Sistare Clark for standing in as board chair while I was on medical leave. She was fearless in the face of adversity.

It is truly a privilege to be a part of this 'family.'

*Jack Kelley*

— Jack Kelley

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



**"The 'can do' attitude of this family is remarkable, and its effectiveness is 'best in class' nationally among supporters of the National Park System."**



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## Updates Governors Across the Country Champion Native Plants

BY HANNAH SISTARE CLARK,  
CHAIR, FRIENDS OF ACADIA'S  
ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Virtually every governor in the United States declared April 2023 as Native Plant Month. This was the remarkable result of a seven-month advocacy campaign by individual state clubs of the Garden Club of America. With 18,000 members and hundreds of clubs across the country, the Garden Club of America is an advocacy powerhouse for conservation.

Native plants are an important tool in fighting climate change. Natives require less water than non-natives. They are more hardy, thriving longer and stronger with less work required by the gardener. If they need any, natives need far less fertilizer and pesticides than do non-natives.

As reported in this magazine in the Wild Acadia story on pages 24-29, Acadia National Park has dedicated itself to supporting native plant growth in the park and has a rigorous program to remove invasive non-natives. Friends of Acadia and the Garden Club of Mount Desert have been longtime partners in this effort. ■

WILD BLUE IRIS



ASHLEY L. CONTI/FOA



## 2023 ACTIVE STEWARDSHIP VOLUNTEER CREW LEADERS

Lee Allen  
JC Camelio  
Joey Engling  
Mike Engling  
Randy Ewins  
Peter Fleisher  
Doug Heden

Jim Lemmon  
Jim Linnane  
Mark Nadel  
Barb Nealon  
David Opdyke  
Ruth Yeiser

## TEST YOUR ACADIA IQ

### ANSWERS to quiz on page 42

1. Satterlee Tea House at Great Head
2. Rock Climbing at South Bubble in the 1930s
3. Kurt Diederich's daughter Elsa is seen here along the steps on Kurt Diederich's Climb, circa 1920
4. Cadillac Summit Road Construction
5. The Bowl
6. Overlook above what is now the Bear Brook Picnic Area—Robin Hood Park is in the background
7. Katherine Pulitzer and her son at Sieur de Monts
8. Park Loop Road Bridge .1 mile north of the Cadillac Mountain entrance



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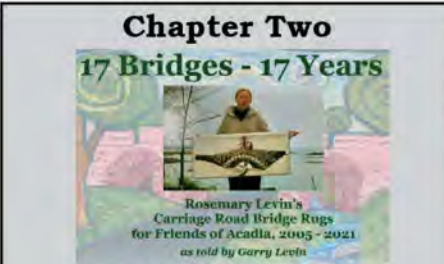
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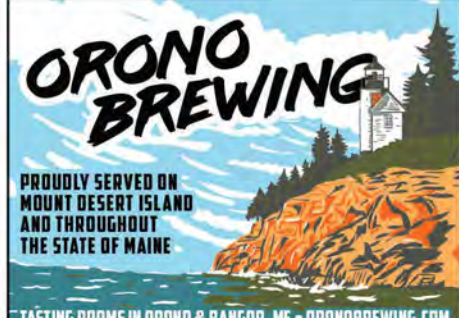
**Chapter Two  
17 Bridges - 17 Years**



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

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## Friends of Acadia Welcomes Two New Team Members



**DEVIN LUEDDEKE** joined Friends of Acadia in June as its new Development Officer for Major Gifts. His role includes working closely with the development team, board, and volunteers to cultivate and build relationships with members and donors.

Devin grew up on Mount Desert Island (MDI) and graduated from MDI High School and then Bowdoin College. He's been working for the Middlebury Institute in Monterey, CA for the last 16 years, rising to the Senior Director of Global Recruiting.

We're thrilled to welcome Devin back to Maine and MDI, and to have him join our Development Team. Many of you will have a chance to meet Devin at our summer events.



**LAUREN GIBSON** is the new Wild Acadia Coordinator. She'll work closely with Acadia's Resource Management Team, as well as Friends of Acadia and at Schoodic Institute. Lauren has a background in project management, public outreach, and coordination, having served multiple roles at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Monitor National Marine Sanctuary in North Carolina. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Biology from the College of Charleston and a Master of Science in Human Dimensions of Natural Resources from Colorado State University.

## Welcome to Our Friends of Acadia 2023 Seasonal Staff

**BACK ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Luke Fiermonti, Silas Cochran. **MIDDLE ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Lucie Marshall, Kate Prisby, Ellie Jackson, Becca Stanley (Recreation Technician Lead), Molly O'Neil, Molly Bogner, Ryan Nascimento, Stephanie Ley (Summit Steward Coordinator). **FRONT ROW LEFT TO RIGHT:** Ollie Morrill, Lucy Martin, Nikki Burtis (Stewardship Crew Coordinator), Miriam Nelson.



STEPHANIE CLEMENT/FOA



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**MISSION** 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.

AN AMERICAN  
BULLFROG rests in  
Upper Hadlock Pond.



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