

Friends of  
ACADIA  
Journal

Fall 2006  
Volume 11 No. 2

A Magazine about Acadia National Park and Surrounding Communities



Tom Blagden

# Purchase Your Park Pass!

Whether walking, bicycling, driving, or riding the fare-free Island Explorer through the park, all must pay the entrance fee.

The Acadia National Park \$20 weekly pass (\$10 in the shoulder seasons) and \$40 annual pass are available at the following locations in Maine:

- **HULLS COVE VISITOR CENTER** (off Rte. 3 in Hulls Cove)
- **THOMPSON ISLAND INFORMATION STATION** (Rte. 3 before crossing onto MDI)
- **SAND BEACH ENTRANCE STATION** (on the Park Loop Road)
- **BLACKWOODS CAMPGROUND** (off Rte. 3 in Otter Creek)
- **ACADIA NATIONAL PARK HEADQUARTERS** (on the Eagle Lake Road/Rte. 233 in Bar Harbor)
- **SEAWALL CAMPGROUND** (off Rte. 102A in Southwest Harbor)
- **JORDAN POND AND CADILLAC MTN. GIFT SHOPS**
- **MOUNT DESERT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
- **VILLAGE GREEN BUS CENTER** (next to the Bar Harbor Village Green and Island Explorer transfer location)

Your park pass purchase makes possible vital maintenance projects in Acadia.

## Partners

Friends of Acadia, Island Explorer and L.L.Bean have formed a partnership to preserve and protect Acadia National Park for future generations.



Many species of birds live in the Mount Desert Island area



## Protect

Acadia National Park with approximately 35,000 acres, includes 41 miles of coastline, 16 islands, more than 200 species of birds, and numerous historic buildings and trails.

Join us in protecting our national parks.



Jordan Pond and the twin curves of the Bubbles

## Preserve

Island Explorer is propane powered for cleaner air and a healthier environment.



Fragrant water lily, found in fresh water ponds throughout Acadia National Park

## Participate

Buy a park pass  
Your contribution helps:

- rebuild trails and carriage roads
- protect natural and cultural resources
- support the fare-free Island Explorer



Acadia's coastal landscape provides opportunities for hiking, biking and kayaking



## TWENTY YEARS AND COUNTING

In glacial terms, two decades is an infinitesimally short period of time. By comparison to the average human life span, 20 years is a respectable chunk of time, longer sadly than some lives, but rarely less than about a quarter of a human life span.

Simply put, we humans understand a 20-year period of time. Most of us reading this issue of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* have lived longer than 20 years. We were alive at the time of the founding of Friends of Acadia in 1986, though perhaps few of us were paying attention when the event occurred.

Friends of Acadia is 20 years old this year. We celebrate the crossing of that chalk stripe with much pride. What strikes me as remarkable is how many good people who were there at, or near, the founding are still energetically associated with Friends of Acadia.

We know much about the “founding moment” of Friends. It all started very simply. For who could have known in those early days what Friends would become within two decades.

A Massachusetts lawyer, Steve Koster, happened to be out in the park one day in 1985, with a random group of fellow park users; he mentioned in passing to his fellow travelers that maybe Acadia National Park should consider organizing “a friends group.” One of the persons who heard his comment was Marianne Edwards, a long time park volunteer. Soon, Marianne took this idea to park officials, inquiring whether something like a friends group might be possible for Acadia National Park. Lois Winter, then deputy chief of interpretation, responded warmly and positively. Lois, along with other supportive park officials, worked with Marianne in researching and evaluating various options and later in planning how best to launch the friends organization.

So simple. A good idea articulated. A thoughtful person listening. Follow-up conversation about “what-ifs” with a park official. The preparation and filing of the necessary papers. The beginning of legal existence. That was the easy part.

What was far more difficult was to build the

record of success that Friends achieved over its first 20 years. If you imagine some of the possible scenarios of how Friends of Acadia might have developed, or not, once formed, what actually happened is—*improbable*.

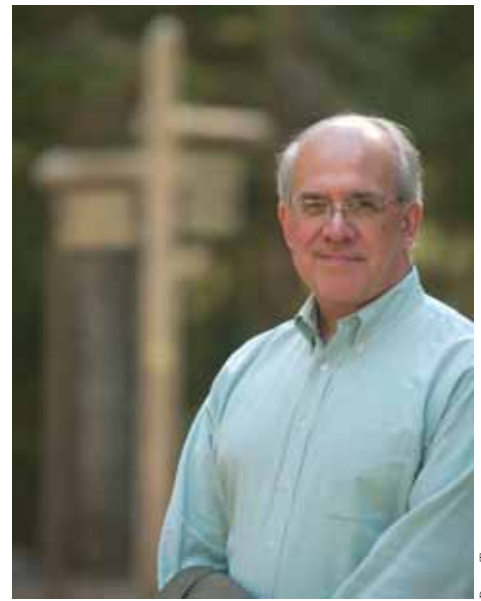
The remarkable successes that Friends has enjoyed over its first two decades were due to a great summoning of human will and resolve as well as to much discipline and high spirit in the leadership ranks.

When launched, the mission of Friends of Acadia was much needed, focused, and powerful. And that hasn't changed. Protect this great park. Defend it. Secure its future. Repair and restore those glorious carriage roads. Repair and restore the network of trails that are interwoven into the fabric of the park. Give voice to the concerns and passions of the citizenry on issues relating to this park and its surround. Over time, work to complete the park and to help acquire the missing parcels within the park's longstanding boundary.

Within the first years of its existence, more than 500 citizens stepped forward to become members of Friends of Acadia—citizens who said “I care deeply about this park today, and I care about its future.” Each put a bit of their personal treasure into an organization that was fledgling, mostly just a good idea, not yet a proven success.

In the never-ending effort to help keep pristine an extraordinarily beautiful place, we stand on many shoulders including the worthy efforts of our immediate forebears over the past century in seeking to retain a goodly portion of this island as a natural preserve for the public to enjoy forever.

The building of Friends of Acadia took much hard work over many years. A series of strong and effective leaders served as board chairs—each outstanding in his or her own way, and each providing a brand of board leadership that was just what the organization needed at the time. No duds. That too was improbable. Starting with Marianne Edwards who did the founder's duty, on through John Kaufmann, Linda Lewis, Jeannine Ross, Charlie Tyson, Lee Judd, all



Peter Travers

**“When launched, the mission of Friends of Acadia was much needed, focused, and powerful. And that hasn't changed.”**

the way to the present “can-do” era of Dianna Emory who has served as board chair over the past five years—superstars all.

Notably, beginning with Lois Winter's thoughtful response to the good idea that Marianne Edwards brought to her one day, innumerable park officials have nurtured and supported Friends during its infancy, during its early growing years, and right through to the present day.

Today, Friends of Acadia is still a young organization. But it has its feet solidly on the ground; it is off to a great good start. Much has happened during its first two decades. And if you are reading this *Journal*, the good fortune that Friends of Acadia has enjoyed over its first two decades is probably due in part to you. Thank you.

—John Courtin

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## HAPPY 100TH

No, not Acadia and certainly not me! The Antiquities Act of 1906. What the heck is the Antiquities Act you ask and why do we care about its 100-year history?

The short answer is that Acadia probably wouldn't be a national park without this important law that was passed back in 1906. Like many other national parks, Acadia officially began as a national monument, Sieur de Monts National Monument, established by the stroke of President Wilson's pen (a Presidential Proclamation) in 1916. All other categories of national parks require an Act of Congress; only national monuments can be established by a formal declaration of the President of the United States. This power is the result of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the first United States law to provide general protection for any kind of cultural or natural resource. It arose out of fears that significant archeological treasures were being lost to pot hunters and others seeking profit from what should be protected as the public's heritage.

George Dorr and Charles Eliot wanted to protect the best of this area from timber cutting, water degradation, and other development and, therefore, created the Hancock Trustees for Public Reservations. Dorr began aggressively assembling land that would be preserved, using his own money to purchase some properties and convincing landowners to donate others. Soon local developers began to worry that their economic interests might be at stake. They went to the state legislature to have the Hancock Trustees for Public Reservations annulled. A friend called Dorr about this surprise threat and he immediately went to Augusta to stop the legislation.

On his return to Bar Harbor, Dorr concluded that "the only way to make safe what we have secured" would be to seek federal protection that would be less susceptible to local pressures. With the Congress "loaded up" at the time with proposals for national parks and the politics difficult, Dorr was advised not to await uncertain congressional action but to use the power of the presi-



Peter Travers

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**“Like many other national parks, Acadia officially began as a national monument, Sieur de Monts National Monument, established by the stroke of President Wilson’s pen in 1916.”**

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dent to set aside any tract of “exceptional historic, prehistoric, scientific, or scenic interest” as a national monument. Dorr decided to offer the land as a gift in order to promote such status, and even offered to manage it for no compensation to overcome concerns about the cost of any federal action. Dorr and Eliot worked together to remove political obstacles and finally on July 8th, 1916 President Wilson signed the Proclamation establishing Sieur de Monts National Monument. Dorr continued his efforts to create a true national park, and in 1919 Sieur de Monts NM became Lafayette National Park. After a prospective donor raised a concern about the French name “Lafayette,” Dorr went to Congress again to

have the name changed to Acadia National Park (1929).

Over 100 national monuments have been designated by presidents over the last century. Devil's Tower, El Morro, Montezuma Castle, and Petrified Forest were all designated by President Theodore Roosevelt during the first year after he signed the law establishing the Antiquities Act on June 8, 1906. There are only 73 national monuments today in the National Park System because many have been re-designated national parks. Grand Canyon, Zion, Bryce, Death Valley, Arches, and Black Canyon are just a few of the parks that, like Acadia, began as national monuments. President Carter used the Antiquities Act to force Congress to deal with preserving large parts of Alaska in 1978. Lake Clark, Katmai, Glacier Bay, and Gates of the Arctic National Parks were all named national monuments by Carter when Congress was too slow to act. At over 43 million acres, Carter gets credit for the most acreage named national monuments. His actions forced Congress to deal with the many contentious land issues in Alaska, resulting in the passage of the Alaska Lands Act. Teddy Roosevelt named 18 national monuments and Franklin Roosevelt named 28, the most of any president. More recently, President Clinton named 19 national monuments, protecting more than 5 million acres, most of which are managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

This little known law—the Antiquities Act—has been extremely significant in the history of the national parks. Without this law, it is likely that some of the magnificent national treasures that we call national parks would not be protected today. It is also possible that Acadia National Park would not be here today. So, we should all celebrate the 100th birthday of the Antiquities Act... please pass the champagne.

—Sheridan Steele

**Acadian Accessibility**

We understand that you are part of the movement that brought the buses to Bar Harbor and Acadia. Thank you. What a joy to go somewhere and not have to fight traffic, look for handicapped parking, or get lost! My daughter, who is in a wheelchair, especially enjoyed the fact that we could get around with her. We enjoyed the [wheelchair] accessible horse-drawn carriage ride. So much was available to us and accessible. We will definitely return and relish your wonderful area.

—Barbara, Douglas, and Emily Willis  
via email

Yesterday we took our collie, Mist (12½ years old, no left hip) to the summit of Cadillac Mtn. She's always enjoyed going up and down each year, but this day the stone steps were too challenging. Imagine our pleasure in encountering the newly constructed handicapped accessible areas. An unexpected benefit—accessibility for handicapped dogs! Thanks!

The Hubrigs  
— Florida and Maine

**Lifetime Inspiration**

I'm so happy to learn of your organization and be able to donate to a cause so dear to my heart! I worked at the Jordan Pond House for several seasons back in the '60s . . . and that experience was certainly a highlight of my life! I fell hard for the awesome beauty of Acadia National Park and am thrilled to know of your

group whose purpose is to conserve and protect it. . . . I've been to many other places in my travels but Mount Desert Island is by far the most beautiful and unique. It just has a way of never letting you go.

—Nancy Patterson  
Tennessee

**Using the Park Pass**

I am interested in buying a pass for Acadia, but was wondering if it can also be used if we decide to ride the Explorer. Is it detachable from the car so we won't have to pay again if we decide to not use the car a certain day?

—Lee Clein  
Maine

*Stephanie Clement, FOA conservation director, responds: The park pass— whichever version you buy: annual, 7-day, Golden Age, National Parks pass— should be sufficient whether you are in your car, on your bike, or riding the Island Explorer. Most of these passes are designed to stay with your car, but the park pass system is generally an honor system. Passes are checked at the Sand Beach Entrance Station and the campgrounds, but not on the Island Explorer. If you bike the Park Loop Road and go through the Sand Beach Entrance Station, tell them you have a pass on the car. They will ask you for the expiration date. You're doing the right thing by purchasing a pass, and that's the most important step. Thank you!*



Nicole Talaferro photo

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Friends of Acadia is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby ensuring a high quality experience for visitors and residents.

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Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Sumac with Dorr and Champlain Mountains  
Cover photographs by Tom Blagden



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## GROWING UP IN ACADIA

Camilla Rockefeller

Acadia National Park was the first wild place I knew. My parents built a summer house on Mount Desert Island when I was only a few years old, so my first hike, my first trail ride, my first sighting of an animal bigger than a Boston squirrel, were all in Acadia. This was a mixed blessing, I think, because in some senses I have been spoiled. I grew up thinking it was normal to live in such unblemished natural beauty, to be able to walk out of your front door in the summer and cross the street into a national park. It also meant that I took its existence for granted. It wasn't until I was older and heard my father and grandfather talk about my great-grandfather's role in the creation of the park that I considered the possibility of it not being there.

One of my favorite spots on Mount Desert Island is the terrace of the old Eyrice house. It boasts blueberry bushes, stone benches, and a broad view of the Seal Harbor shoreline. The best thing about it is how out of place it seems. Carefully laid bricks meet rough granite, and carved stone benches seem to rise out of a rock ledge. I assumed when I first saw it that it had been built just like that, but in truth it was the balcony of my great-grandfather's summer home. I can't say I regret the change, though, seeing as he left his most important legacy intact: the park.

Even in the short time that I've known the island, much has changed. Many more cars line the road by Little Long Pond, groups of people hike past me even in the early hours on Dorr Mountain, and more people I talk to out of state know about Acadia. The island my great-grandfather knew is very different from the one I know, but then again, so is our family.

My aunts and uncles share John D. Rockefeller Jr.'s commitment to philanthropy and conservation, but their scale of action is modest by comparison. They have given of their time and their expertise, as much as they have fiscally. This is consistent with the perception I have of their generation, that



**...this is why my relatives and I love Acadia so much—not only because we feel connected to it through JDR Jr., but because it offers a sanctuary from the way most of us live.**

they are often the guardians and perpetuators of our family's past work, as much as they are entrepreneurs in their own right.

I have grown up hearing them talk about their involvement with various organizations dedicated to the island and park, and from them I have inherited the idea that the park is a living entity, something that needs to be protected and maintained rather than a gift from the past to be taken for granted. Happily for me, this lesson hasn't come from lengthy sermons, but just from being with them in the park. All my father's siblings are what can only be described as "energetic" and the surest way to get to see them is to agree to go along for a hike, ride, paddle, or swim. I have gotten to know them best through conversations while walking up Day Mountain, or while

riding with my Aunt Eileen around Little Long Pond. They were the ones who pointed out all the landmarks from the top of Cadillac Mountain, and it is through them that I came to feel at home in Acadia, and to love it.

It can be a welcome change at times to ride by myself, with no one but my thankfully mute horse to listen to me sort out what's occupying my mind. I've come to be especially grateful for the park's existence in the past two years, since I've been at college in New York City. Living in the city is exciting and keeps me busy, but the best part of my year is now the moment when I get to the island in August and take that first step onto the Sargent Mountain trail. Hiking up to the top before the sun rises can be painful, having been accustomed to a college lifestyle, but it is always worth it to get to Sargent Pond, and then reward myself with terrible coffee from a thermos that nevertheless manages to taste better than any Starbucks could offer.

The difference between what Acadia is and what it could have been is felt especially keenly after coming from a city where we live stacked on top of one another, where silence is impossible and movement is impeded by grids. I think this is why my relatives and I love Acadia so much—not only because we feel connected to it through JDR Jr., but because it offers a sanctuary from the way most of us live. We do our best thinking, decompressing, and reconnecting with family there. It was the best gift my great-grandfather could have left us, and I am proud to see my family continuing to be involved in its preservation. ♣

CAMILLA ROCKEFELLER is the great-granddaughter of John D. Rockefeller Jr. She is a junior at Columbia University in New York City where she is studying Archaeology. When not in New York or her hometown of Cambridge, Massachusetts, Camilla can be found hiking and riding around Mount Desert Island.

## I START BY UNPACKING MY BOOKS

Mimi White

I start by unpacking my books. I have brought two by the Vietnamese Buddhist monk Thich Nhat Hanh: *call me by my true names* and *Peace Is Every Step*. These, along with books by Stanley Kunitz, Gerald Stern, and Emily Dickinson—all to work my brain into new ways of seeing and thinking. But it is Schoodic Peninsula that will work its way into my imagination, and surprises me with its insistence. The ride into the park is enough to make one pull off the road and set up housekeeping, right there, by the crashing sea. I set up my computer and store my provisions, food stuff that is easy to prepare: eggs, canned soups, boxes of macaroni. Later, I will find a small blue teapot at the local hardware store, and then the kitchen will feel like home.

I have come to Acadia National Park as an artist-in-residence, the first poet to participate in the program. My cabin in the woods is remarkably comfortable: large bedrooms upstairs and down, a well equipped kitchen, a bright living room which will become my study, drafts of poems spilling onto the sofa and chairs. There is enough quiet for me to hear the poems arrive, as they will, on their own terms. I must wait for the music to start, inside my head, and then a poem will form around it. Images that I remember from home and journeys, those that are waiting for me on this rocky coast, will come together and become the nexus of a new poem. I decide to keep a daily journal; it will keep my hand busy, my mind engaged on this remote and tranquil peninsula.

September 8, 2005

*No words yet to describe what I felt as I drove along the shore on my way in. Last night's moon, off the end of the earth, might be a beginning. I know the sheer spectacle of beauty is related to mortality. Just to be able to be here is a gift beyond measure.*

## Settling In

When the moon hung its nail  
at the end of the world  
we turned off the lights  
and let the stars  
replace what we had been saying.  
Then a deer (which was once  
darkness) stepped  
across the road  
and became forest  
again. If I practice  
walking I am footsteps  
on the lively fungus.  
When I gaze at the white  
lichen I am the moon.  
When blackberries  
print seeds on my lips  
I am the sweet season  
that houses summer,  
fragrant, waiting to close.



Steve White

My husband, who has joined me for the first few days, gets out the map and we take off in the truck into a clear, blue September day. With a pang of guilt for not working at

my desk, we drive out to Corea to get a feel for the area. A random visit to a local weaver's studio helps me see that I am gathering. When we walk into the studio, a friendly voice from upstairs says to come in. A woman greets us a few minutes later and introduces herself. When she hears that I am an artist out at Schoodic she is especially interested in what I am doing. I confess to my wanderings and that I have yet to begin my work. She smiles and reassures me that I am gathering material. Soon the poems will come.

The next day my husband and I poke down every road that promises views to the sea. In Winter Harbor and Corea I check out the libraries. We picnic at Frazer Point where I will later take tai chi classes. We hike up Schoodic Head; we drive over to Mount Desert Island and hike Champlain and Gorham Mtns.; the hike down Champlain is especially beautiful. The trail is made up of a series of switchbacks of graduated stone steps, steps trail crews (volunteers and rangers) placed for the convenience of the hikers and to protect the natural habitat. It winds its way along the edge of the mountain so with every step we had views of the sea.

Finally it is time for my husband to leave and for the real work to begin.

September 12, 2005

*Steve dropped me off at the trailhead parking lot for Schoodic Head. It was time for him to leave. I wanted to walk the blackberry path because I thought there might be a poem there. When he drove off, he turned and waved. When I looked again he was gone. All the sadness of the world that I had left behind, the colossal sadness and shame of our country in New Orleans, rushed right in where the sea and islands and trees had taken root.*



### The Path Your Hand Makes

When you left  
 I stood in the furniture of light  
 And held your wave,  
 Dazzled by the contemplation  
 Of space, your fingers pressed  
 Against a vacant now,  
 And it seemed  
 All the missing and the dead  
 Had traveled up the river to my feet.  
 Everything I say  
 Drives off in the wrong direction  
 But you.  
 So many days  
 Pass through  
 The snow-stream of my mind.  
 The stepping stones  
 That were yours  
 Are now mine.

The next ten days fly by. The sun flees as well. Days of fog close in and I take refuge in my cabin. My radio is my one constant companion. I listen to stories of survival and disaster in New Orleans. I hear Justice Roberts' confirmation hearings. The world feels distant, yet its political and social machinations enter my poems.

My days become routine: morning yoga, breakfast, write, walk the Sundew Trail, find company at the school or with my fellow artist neighbor. On one of my last hikes on Sundew it seems as if the trail itself, the vistas to the sea, the lichen, the overhanging trees, have entered me, physically. I stand on the trail and shut my eyes. I want to take that sense of peace home with me. The world is waiting and ready; I hope I am ready, too.

September 21, 2005

*I walked the sundew trail late yesterday afternoon. In the fog and wind it was beautiful. The spot on the trail where I stood was a tangle of trees, moss, white lichen, mushrooms, small red berries, the wind racing around the periphery. When I got to the last vista, the tide was out and the waves more dramatic than at high tide. The wind was blustery, the sky trying to clear, the yellow hint of the sun burning off the vast white haze. It was a sky in flux and I felt I had caught it at its best.*

In the Mineral Dark

In the cold petals of sleep,  
 without mystery or trepidation,  
 they fly. Fastened to whiteness,  
 fugitive stars guide them  
 to my empty meadows.

They brush my eyes  
 with their heated bodies  
 and forests rise from stone,  
 the luminous flux of history  
 written in flecks and swirls.

They trace the mineral dark  
 with their soft wings  
 and leaf by leaf trees root  
 in the freshet of the night.  
 Blackbird by blackbird,

branches feather  
 the unfurnished dream.  
 A small stream rises,  
 ample, impossibly clear.



Artist-in-residence Mimi White with her husband, Steve, at Schoodic.

MIMI WHITE was an artist-in-residence at Schoodic in 2005. A poet and teacher, she has been working for over 25 years with students of all ages to help them create original and authentic work, and has worked in a variety of settings including schools, libraries, prisons, residences for the elderly, and universities. She has been on the faculty of the University of New Hampshire, Northern Essex Community College, and Lesley University. Mimi is the author of two poetry chapbooks, *The Singed Horizon* and *Into the Darkness We Go*. She is the Poet Laureate of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, [www.pplp.org](http://www.pplp.org).

## OF CURIOSITY AND STARLIGHT

Peter W. Lord

Within weeks of opening Island Astronomy in Bernard, I heard an imploring voice on the phone ask a big question. Anne Welles, a teacher from Southwest Harbor's Pemetec Elementary School, was having difficulty filling a hole in their curriculum. She knew her students were eager to learn astronomy, but the staff needed to know the material first. Might we be able to hold classes for the teachers, then help them develop a grade-by-grade curriculum for their students? I thought I was dreaming.

That was the beginning of the nonprofit Island Astronomy Institute, which has since provided dozens of programs to five elementary schools, one college, and two universities. With an active board and volunteers, the Institute has delivered more than 100 public lectures across Mount Desert Island and beyond. This spring, College of the Atlantic's new "Philosophy of Astronomy" course challenged students to place their experience of a fixed earth against Galileo's evidence for a moving planet—some felt the earth shift

under their feet. The Institute's programs reflect a mission to encourage people of all ages to see life on this island from new perspectives. Seemingly insignificant issues like outside lighting are transformed when we see the earth floating in space like an island in the Gulf of Maine.

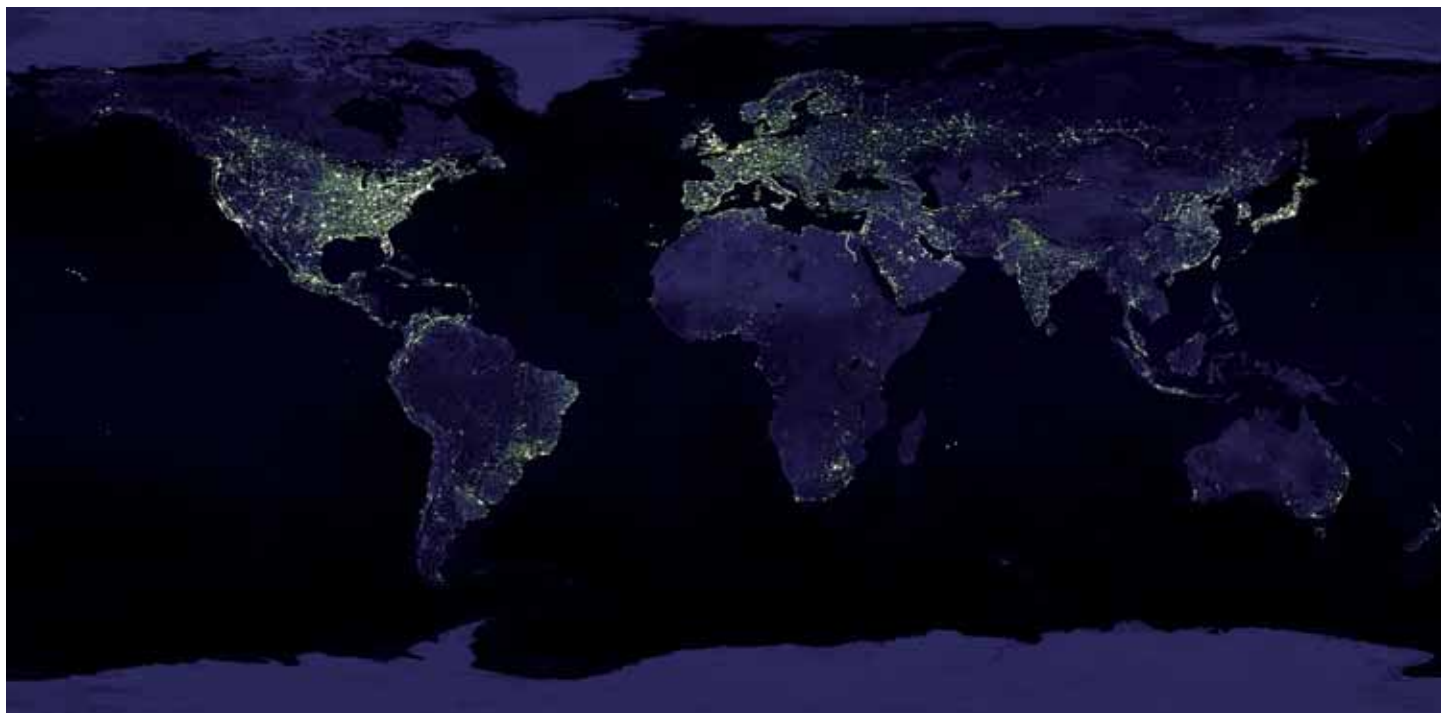
Seen from outer space, Earth's night side has been dark for billions of years. Today much of Earth's surface is glowing. Light, mostly from fossil fuels, is shining into space. The eastern half of the United States is now heavily illuminated.

Light shining up into space creates a glow called light pollution, which obscures starlight that has traveled millions of years to reach us. In the skies over New York and Boston the universe has dwindled to a tiny handful of stars. We have replaced the primordial spectacle of the universe with the bright lights of progress. In planetariums, children are known to burst into applause at their first look at "the stars." Across the entire eastern seaboard the majestic Milky Way has been lost to a generation.

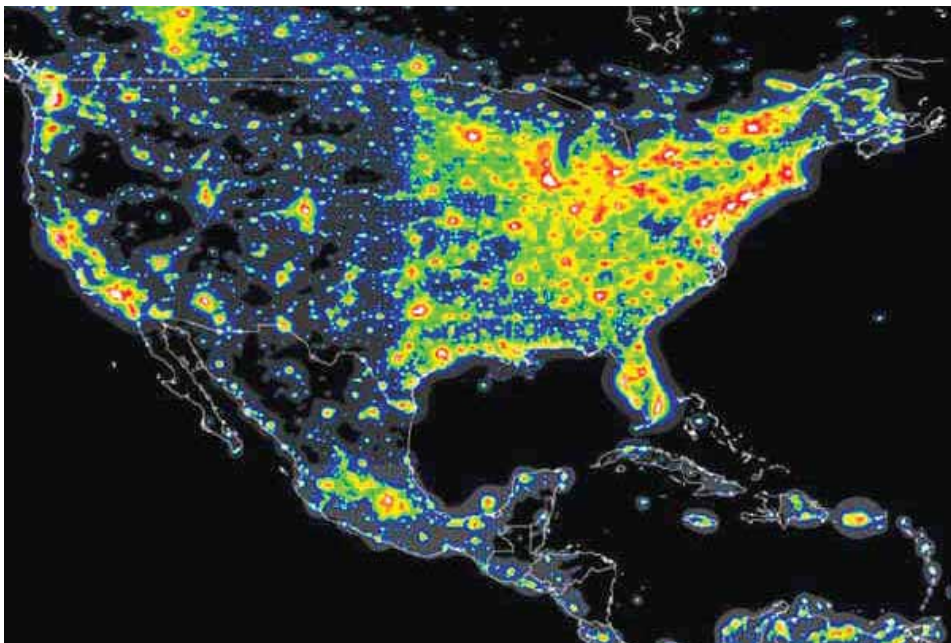
Here in Maine we retain the last of New England's naturally dark skies. As the loss continues, Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park are becoming increasingly isolated. Spots of light pollution are already glowing along Route 1, east of Ellsworth.

In 2001 dark skies or "nightsapes" were first recognized as natural resources by the National Park Service's General Management Plan. In Acadia, all new park construction is now required to protect the park's "nightsapes." The new Sand Beach Entrance Station, built in 2002, demonstrates how effective the new rule is. The old glaring halo of light is gone. Today light is thoughtfully directed down to the ground where it is needed.

Alarming, the current administration has proposed revisions to the 2001 General Management Plan, explicitly removing the mandate to protect our dark skies. This would be a tragic mistake. Starlight is a resource for wonder and inspiration. It has fallen to this generation to protect or lose a visible measure of our planet's astronomical



*This composite image from the U.S. Air Force's Defense Meteorological Satellites Program (DMSP) documents a changed planet. Image by Craig Mayhew and Robert Simmon, NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.*



Heavy levels of light pollution in the skies over North America calculated from DMSP data. Image by P. Cinzano, F. Falchi (University of Padova), C.D. Elvidge (NOAA National Geophysical Data Center, Boulder); copyright Royal Astronomical Society. Reproduced from the "Monthly Notices" of the RAS by permission of Blackwell Science.

heritage. The Island Astronomy Institute advocates patient, consistent demonstration of the economic benefits of protecting our starlit skies. The International Dark Sky Association conservatively estimates that the United States sends \$1.5 billion in electricity directly into space each year.

The Institute works with volunteers to measure the darkness of MDI's night skies. COA's Geographic Information Systems Lab is eager to transform our collected data into simple light pollution maps. This fall Chad Moore, project manager for the National Park Service Night Sky Team, will be at Acadia to generate a high fidelity map of the night sky from Cadillac Summit. Chad has developed a robotic camera system that the NPS uses to establish resource maps of the nightscapes over our national parks. With funding, the Institute has the opportunity to work with Chad to develop our own NPS sky-monitoring system next year. Acquiring this system would permit us to measure, promote, and protect the dark skies of each community, with maps revealing their own unique issues.

At the end of this past school year, I shared a special image with Anne Wells and her 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class. It was a bittersweet moment—the last slide of the last presentation funded by our first grant. As we paused in wonder at the galaxies strewn across the universe, one student asked, "Are there other people out there?" It was one of those big questions the universe inspires. In that quiet voice I heard the echo of Anne's first question to me, "how will we fill the hole, if we lose this island of curiosity and starlight?"

Night Sky Programs are given by park rangers at Sand Beach on Tuesday nights throughout August, starting at 9:00 p.m. Visitors can learn about all of Acadia's programs at the Hulls Cove Visitor Center or at [www.nps.gov/acad](http://www.nps.gov/acad). The Island Astronomy Institute's summer lecture series and public events are posted in local papers and on its website [www.islandastro.org](http://www.islandastro.org).

PETER LORD is Director of the Island Astronomy Institute ([www.islandastro.org](http://www.islandastro.org)) in Bernard, Maine.

## THE PRINCIPLES OF DARK SKY LIGHTING

- \* Full cutoff light fixtures direct all their light below a horizontal line; shielded lights do not cause glare and are more appealing at night.
- \* Dark sky designs are economical to install and consume less power.
- \* Municipalities dedicated to fully implementing International Dark Sky Association principles can receive recognition as dark sky communities.
- \* Traditional security lights create shadows and glare; they do not reduce crime better than dark sky designs. The lighting industry now offers dark sky security lighting to replace the old "wall packs" that glare at us from the sides of buildings.
- \* Light crossing property lines, is called light trespass.
- \* Loss of natural darkness breaks the 24-hour cycle of light and dark as old as the planet. There is growing evidence that this can adversely affect the health of humans as well as the breeding and migratory patterns of animals.
- \* Light pollution costs the United States over \$1.5 billion dollars every year.

## WOMEN CONSERVATIONISTS: ACROSS THE U.S. AND AT ACADIA

Caroline M. Pryor

In thinking about the people who have indelibly shaped Acadia National Park, many would conjure up an image of a trio or quartet of visionary men who were leaders in the Park's creation and protection. Those who know Acadia's story well may remember a dozen others who have made outstanding contributions during the Park's 100 years of history, perhaps including a woman or two.

History reveals, however, that women have played a major role as conservators of Acadia, adding greatly to its size, configuration, and character. Though their work is of comparable stature to men's, their names and many of their contributions are largely unrecognized. This article considers the origins of conservation, then highlights the work of fourteen Acadian women conservationists over the past 125 years.

### GENESIS OF AN AMERICAN MOVEMENT

Native Americans were the original conservationists. During their tenure, there was no need to "protect" land or create a national park. Their traditional ways embodied stewardship—of the land, wildlife, the waters, and their culture. Forests were not clear-cut, entire populations of beaver were not trapped, mountain tops were not subdivided and developed.

The need for a conservation movement arose after centuries of voracious exploitation of the American landscape by the settlers and later industrialists. Conservation began humbly, with an awareness instilled by the early naturalists in the mid- to late-1600s who catalogued the plants, birds, and geology of the New World.

In the years 1836-1871, nature writing as an art, craft, and expression of personal philosophy evolved rapidly and set the stage for the national movement that followed. This compact 35-year period saw the publication of several great works by American nature writers: *Nature* by Ralph Waldo Emerson, *Wake-Robin* by John Burroughs, and Thoreau's *Walden*. In 1864, Yosemite received its first protected status, as a California state park. In 1872, Yellowstone National Park became the first such reserve in the world. The U.S. conservation movement was underway, and in less than thirty years the protection initiative for Mount Desert Island's unique landscape would be launched.

### 125 YEARS OF CONSERVATION ON MDI

Of the countless women who have made contributions to Acadia and MDI, the following fourteen stand out for their significant or unique efforts toward the protection of this place—as journalist, botanist, philanthropist, visionary, naturalist, land conservator, teacher, activist, and landscape designer. For some, their contributions are a single action that shaped the Park; the work of others spanned decades or a lifetime.

#### Mrs. Mary Gray Ward Dorr

A founding incorporator of the Bar Harbor Village Improvement Society (1881), Mrs. Dorr was active in tree



Mrs. Mary Gray Ward Dorr

planting and beautification of public places. She was mother, educator, and source of great inspiration for her son, George, one of Acadia's founders and its first superintendent.

#### Elizabeth (Mrs. John D.) Homans

Her 1908 gift of Champlain Mountain's Bowl and Beehive was the first major land donation to the Hancock County Trustees of Reservations, for ultimate transfer to the park.

#### Mrs. John S. Kennedy

In the early 1900s, Mrs. Kennedy honored her husband's wishes and gave the Hancock County Trustees the money to purchase bold Huguenot Head. The Homans and Kennedy gifts comprised significant portions of the park's first 5,000 acres, which helped persuade President Woodrow Wilson to accept these lands on behalf of the United States as part of Sieur de Monts National Monument (the name first given to Acadia National Park in 1916).

#### Miss Faith Moore and Lady Lee of England

These sisters donated the park's only mainland property, on the Schoodic peninsula. They were influential in the renaming of Lafayette National Park (the name given to Sieur de Monts NM when national park status was granted in 1919) to Acadia National Park (1929).

#### Beatrice Farrand

In addition to her renown as a garden designer, Farrand deserves recognition for her visionary work in the 1920s-30s to restore the carriage road landscapes primarily with native species. By emphasizing native plants and a natural planting style, she helped restore the park's ecology and scenic beauty in the post-construction period.

ANP's William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center

### Margaret McGrath Rockefeller

Co-founder of Maine Coast Heritage Trust (1970), one of the country's most respected land trusts. MCHT and the Park have protected more than 12,500 privately-owned acres in the Acadian archipelago through conservation easements. Together with her husband, David, she also protected several thousand privately-owned acres here with easements.

### Anna Mae Pictou Aquash

A young Micmac with a conservation ethic, Aquash distinguished herself as a teacher and advocate for Native American culture in Bar Harbor in the 1970s.

### Larue Spiker

Journalist and activist, Spiker was indefatigable in the decades-long effort to scientifically understand and clean up pollution in Bass Harbor Marsh from the 1970s-1995.

### Marianne Edwards and Lois Winter

Edwards, a retiree and park volunteer, and Winter, a park naturalist, together conceptualized and created the organizational structure for Friends of Acadia (1986). Edwards' \$50 start-up gift to FOA has since been leveraged into more than \$21 million in endowments and grants that benefit Acadia today.

### Mrs. Elizabeth Cram

Cram was the lead landowner in granting the Park's largest donated conservation easement on 800-acre Ironbound Island in Frenchman Bay (1986).

### Ruth Gortner Grierson

Lifelong naturalist and writer, Grierson writes weekly nature columns in local papers that have instilled a broad love and understanding of Acadia's wildlife and plants, and created a conservation-minded public (1970s-present).

### Judy Hazen Connery

The first woman in Acadia's science program, Connery identified the looming ecological threat to park resources from invasive species, a critical but still poorly-understood conservation issue (1990s-present).



Peter Travers

Judy Hazen Connery (left) and Marianne Edwards

Individually and collectively, these women have made very significant contributions to the protection of Mount Desert Island and Acadia National Park. No doubt there are many others whose work is yet to be celebrated. May their work inspire the next generation of conservationists—young and old, men and women—who will address the environmental challenges the Park and island face today. 🌲

CAROLINE M. PRYOR and her family live on MDI. Over the last 24 years, her professional work has centered around land conservation and nonprofit management, including 14 years on the staff of Maine Coast Heritage Trust. She now works as a consultant to community organizations and landowners. This article is adapted from a longer piece published in the 2005 *Chebacco*, the journal of the MDI Historical Society.



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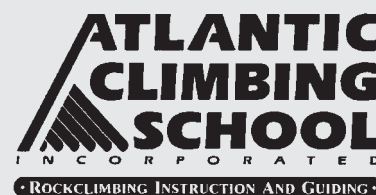
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## PETER BLANCHARD, LAND STEWARD

Acadia National Park was founded thanks to the conservation ethic and generosity of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations and people like George B. Dorr, Charles W. Eliot, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. who donated land and worked tirelessly to create and preserve the park for future generations. Numerous Mount Desert Island residents, seasonal and year-round, are carrying on this legacy. Peter Blanchard, a resident of Mount Desert and New York City, is one of the individuals who continues the conservation tradition as a donor, land steward, and volunteer to Acadia.

Because Acadia was essentially created through land donations, it is a patchwork of preserved lands intertwined with private lands. More than 150 privately-held parcels remain inside Acadia's Congressionally-established boundaries. The Park Service is authorized to accept donations of these lands or conservation easements on these parcels. They are also authorized to purchase these properties from willing sellers as they become available. In 1988, Acadia prepared its first land protection plan that, among other things, established land acquisition guidelines and priorities for the park.

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### “Peter continues the conservation tradition as a land steward and volunteer....”

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Over time, as Acadia has received land and conservation easement donations from private individuals and transfers from other government agencies, the *Land Protection Plan* needed to be updated to reflect the parcels that remained on the acquisition list. Michael Blaney, land resource specialist at Acadia, credits Peter Blanchard with bringing this plan into the modern age. “Not only did Peter update the ownership records of the acquisition priorities,” said Blaney, “but he put the plan into usable computer format and reorganized the presentation according to towns for quick reference.”

While Peter's work on the *Revised Land Protection Plan* (issued in June 2004) progressed over a period of several years on a part-time basis, Peter is quick to point out that the final document is very much the product of a team effort. Numerous members of the Acadia National Park staff had a role in providing technical information, fact-checking, and mapping. Primary contributors and advisors for the project included Michael Blaney and Karen Anderson from Acadia National Park and Rachel McManus from the National Park Service Lands, Concessions, and Leasing Center in Lowell, MA.

Peter's dedication to Acadia's lands program resulted from a firmly rooted desire to conserve open space on Mount Desert Island. This personal commitment has led him to place conservation easements on three properties that he and his wife, Sofia, own in the region, including several offshore islands with important scenic, ecological, and archeological resources.

Peter's experience with land protection extends beyond Mount Desert Island. He worked with the Trust for Public Land on several long range conservation planning initiatives in Jamaica Bay, Barnegat Bay, and western Staten Island—areas of encroaching development in the New York City region. He also is dedicated to the preservation of Greenwood Gardens, a 28-acre turn-of-the-century garden set within 22 miles of New York City. Greenwood Gardens is operated by a non-profit organization with the three-fold mission of promoting historic garden restoration, horticulture, and open space conservation.

Peter's love of natural areas is fully allied with a further pursuit—landscape painting and drawing. The Impressionist Alfred Sisley once said that each of his landscapes represented an act of falling in love with a particular place. Whether working in oil, pastel, or pen and ink, Peter has found in landscape studies a vital avenue to a sense of place and a deeper awareness of the vulnerability of natural areas, given that what was the subject of a picture yesterday may not be here tomorrow.



Blanchard Family photo

Peter Blanchard on Mount Desert Island

row. Laughing, he said, “My three-year-old son, Theo, has a great fondness for bulldozers and other construction machinery. I hope that he will eventually get the present obsession out of his system and take up a paint brush instead.”

Michael Blaney acknowledges that without Peter's dedicated volunteer work, Acadia's *Land Protection Plan* would not have been updated in as timely a manner. “Because of Peter's efforts,” said Blaney, “the park will be better able to respond to willing donors and sellers offering their properties.” According to Peter, increasing development pressures on Mount Desert Island drive the importance of a strong lands program at Acadia. He stressed that ultimately Congress and the federal government are responsible for ensuring that Acadia has a continuous stream of land acquisition dollars to permanently protect all the lands inside Acadia's boundaries. “It's vital for the Park Service to continue monitoring conservation easements, as well,” said Peter, “so that landowners who conserve their properties can be assured that the wild and scenic characteristics of these lands will be maintained.”

Friends of Acadia salutes Peter Blanchard's personal contributions, dedication, and gifts to Acadia. 🌲

— Stephanie Clement

## MANAGING ACADIA'S VISITATION: THE LEARNING PHASE

**H**ow do you feel about crowding at Acadia National Park? Are there too many people, or is the number just right? Do you avoid certain areas during July and August, or will you go anywhere, anytime? Are you concerned about the loss of soil and vegetation due to use of popular sites and trails in the park? Park managers are working to discover opinions on these and similar issues so they can provide a quality visitor experience for the more than two million people who enter the park each year.

In 2001, Acadia National Park hosted a visitor management workshop that looked at crowding issues. The primary discovery was that park management needs more information about visitor opinions and preferences and the physical impacts of visitor use in order to manage that use. In 2004 and 2005, researchers from the University of Vermont traveled to the park to ask visitors about their experiences.

Researchers found a number of interesting discoveries about visitor attitudes:

- More visitors named crowding as the thing they enjoyed *least* about their visit.
- The majority of visitors felt that the park was not overcrowded, but twenty-one percent felt that it was.
- Twenty-two percent believed there should be a limit on the number of people allowed in the park, while sixty-three percent believed there should be no limit.
- Visitors overwhelmingly support parking in the right lane of the Park Loop Road and also strongly support enforcement of parking regulations.
- Visitors felt that conditions at Thunder Hole were approaching their level of acceptability for crowding.
- Some returning visitors felt that the park was more crowded, parking places were harder to find, and roads were more congested. Nearly half, however, noticed no change.

These results, collected over two summers at many sites in the park, provide a preliminary picture of visitor perceptions and attitudes toward crowding and resource impacts in certain areas of the park. Future studies



National Park Service

*Observing the behavior of visitors on Cadillac Mountain was part of recent studies.*

will focus on hiking trail users to help determine the standards for crowding on trails, and a similar analysis for crowding standards on Cadillac Mountain.

Park managers also wanted to learn which management techniques visitors prefer. In 2005, atop Cadillac Mountain, researchers performed a stated choice analysis—visitors were asked to choose between management scenarios using different combinations of resource, social, and management conditions. For example, visitors might be asked to choose between these two scenarios:

Many visitors are turned away from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain during busy times, but the people that do visit are permitted to roam freely on the summit. There is little or no visitor-caused damage to vegetation on the summit.

– OR –

No visitors are turned away from visiting the summit of Cadillac Mountain, and visitors are permitted to roam freely on the summit. There is extensive visitor-caused damage to the vegetation on the summit.

The results of the stated choice analysis showed that visitors are very concerned about resource damage, even if they don't always

recognize the damage, and believe that park managers should do something about it. Visitors are less concerned about the presence of management techniques like signs or ropes. These results seem to indicate that visitors accept such means, even if it reduces freedom of access to certain parts of the summit, as long as resources are protected and generous public access is maintained.

The research to date has addressed the social science side of crowding. Now park managers must learn what the physical impacts of use are: How is the resource changing, and by how much? In 2007 and 2008, researchers will study these impacts throughout the park, with special emphasis on Cadillac Mountain.

Armed with information about visitor attitudes, along with data about the physical impacts of use, park management will be able to create strategies that will ensure protection of both a quality visitor experience and park resources.

Stay tuned for more... 🐾

GINNY REAMS is the writer-editor at Acadia National Park.

## Poetry Prizes

### FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY PRIZE 2006 Awards

*"Lived once, the events we experience come and go, in disorder and confusion.  
But poets have the luck of living twice, the second time when they recall through their work  
what happened to them, learning in this way the event's true meaning."*

—Wesley McNair

Established in 1998, the Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize is presented biannually to encourage the artistic expression and appreciation of nature through poetry.

We are pleased to announce the winners of the 2006 Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize:

#### FIRST PRIZE

*Kelli Russell Agodon*  
Kingston, Washington for  
"Underfoot"

#### SECOND PRIZE

*Douglas Woodsum*  
Smithfield, Maine for  
"Misplaced Landscape with Sandhill Cranes"

#### THIRD PRIZE

*Polly Brody*  
Southbury, Connecticut for  
"Apis Mellifera"

Wesley McNair judged the competition. McNair has twice served on the jury for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. He has received fellowships from the Rockefeller, Fulbright, and Guggenheim foundations, an NEH Fellowship in literature, and two NEA fellowships in creative writing. He has published eight books of poetry, including his latest collection, *The Ghosts of You and Me* (Godine, 2006). McNair lives in Mercer, Maine.

#### HONORABLE MENTIONS

Christine Chronis  
Cincinnati, Ohio  
"Bass Harbor, Maine:  
Before Dawn"

Jane Herschlag  
Danbury, Connecticut  
"Alien"

Stephen Lewandowski  
Canandaigua, New York  
"Makers"

Elizabeth Potter  
Round Pond, Maine  
"Primitive Runes"

Winter D. Prosapio  
Canyon Lake, Texas  
"Now"

Susan Richardson  
Cardiff, Wales  
"Migrant"

Ralph Stevens  
Islesford, Maine  
"Marsh Road"

Maxine Susman  
Highland Park, New Jersey  
"Owl at the Historical Society"

Jade Walker  
Brooklyn, New York  
"Rainy Release"

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## Poem

### FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD 1st Prize

#### Underfoot

False violet  
becomes a fallen star,  
the broken belt of Orion.

We should look down  
and wish. More often  
we gaze to the stars,  
to what we can't see  
beyond years of dark  
matter. Below us, earth  
improvises, considers  
flowering sun dew,  
trailing arbutus, a constant  
touch on our soles  
—we are here.  
And here, we can touch  
fireweed bursting  
like a dying star,  
or snowberry,  
a green milky way  
across an overgrown trail.  
Even if galaxies shatter  
and spark across the sky  
or the moon tries to  
steer our eyes upward,  
we can walk  
into our own universe  
expanding beneath us,  
our own solar system  
of berries and vines  
connecting one world  
to another, the cosmos  
overflowing into  
a dew-dripped morning.

— Kelli Russell Agodon

KELLI RUSSELL AGODON is the author of two books of poems, *Small Knots* and *Geography*. She finds poetry in her boots, outdoors under ferns, and in between wildflowers. She lives in Kingston, Washington.

## IN MEMORIAM

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April 1–June 30, 2006



Ed Mommally

### Kids in Acadia

L.L.Bean, Friends of Acadia, Acadia National Park, and Acadia Partners for Science and Learning embarked on a new initiative this year—the L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia program. The program was established as part of L.L.Bean's \$1.25 million gift to Friends of Acadia announced last year. The L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia program provides scholarships and transportation funding to selected middle schools attending the park's Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA), an overnight education program offered to 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades at the Schoodic Education and Research Center. The funding also enables Acadia to hire two additional program interns and provide teacher training workshops to help educators incorporate SEA into their curricula.

The first year's L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia grant recipients were schools from diverse regions of Maine. The Quimby School in Bingham, Dr. Lewis S. Libby School in Milford, the Leonard Middle School in Old Town, the Rangeley Lakes Regional School, the Ella Lewis School in Steuben, and the Trenton Elementary School will receive scholarship and transportation assistance. The schools chosen for the L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia program were selected based on applications submitted to the park that included information on how they might incorporate

the Schoodic Education Adventure into their educational objectives.

Recognizing the important role of L.L.Bean's support, Friends of Acadia President John Courtin said, "In an era of rising transportation costs and decreasing youth interest in outdoor activities, we're fortunate that L.L.Bean responded to the need for investing in youth educational programs at Acadia." L.L.Bean's \$1.25 million gift to Friends of Acadia continues to provide operational support for the Island Explorer bus system through 2011, and established a small grants program, the L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowships, for scientists doing field research at Acadia.

Schools interested in participating in the Schoodic Education Adventure and/or applying for the 2007 L.L.Bean Kids in Acadia Program should contact Cynthia Ocel in the Education Office at Acadia National Park at (207) 288-8822. Scientists and researchers interested in pursuing field research at Acadia and/or applying for the 2007 L.L.Bean Acadia Research Fellowships should contact Dr. Jim McKenna at Acadia's Schoodic Education and Research Center at (207) 288-1328.

### The Middle East Visits Acadia

This past June, Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia hosted a group of fellows from the Middle East on an exchange pro-



Pictured here are the Middle Eastern fellows, several Acadia National Park staff members, associated Mount Desert Island community members, and representatives of QLF.

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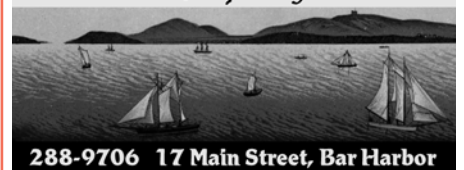
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gram run by the Quebec Labrador Foundation (QLF). The fellows represented Israeli, Palestinian, Jordanian, and Egyptian conservation non-profit organizations. Friends' Conservation Director Stephanie Clement presented the Friends of Acadia/Acadia National Park relationship as a model for fundraising, stewardship, and advocacy for public lands.

### The Sandbar to Bar Island

This past summer, Friends of Acadia began a study to examine the types and amounts of visitor uses on the sandbar to Bar Island. When the Bar is exposed at low tide pedestrians, cars, kayakers, dog walkers, and many others use the area for recreation and to access the trails on Bar Island, wholly owned by Acadia National Park.

To get an idea of visitor use, volunteers have been recruited to fill out data sheets on 21 pre-selected days through September. Data such as the number of cars that park on the Bar, the number of dogs on and off leash, and the number of pedestrians/hikers at the Bar will be recorded. The data will be summarized and reported to Acadia National Park, interested citizens, and the Town of Bar Harbor, which is presently undergoing a comprehensive plan update. Friends hopes that the information will be used by all parties to gain a better understanding of visitor use at

the Bar, mitigate potential conflicts among users, and plan for the future of this important recreational resource.

Friends is still recruiting volunteers for this project. If you have two to four hours to contribute to the project sometime between now and the end of September, please contact Stephanie at (207) 288-3340 or stephanie@friendsofacadia.org. Two- to four-hour shifts are available from 6:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. (or sunset if earlier). Monitoring will be canceled on rainy days. Volunteers are asked to bring a chair or something comfortable to sit on, a book, sunscreen, water, snacks, and appropriate clothing for Maine's widely ranging temperatures. It's a low-impact, easy volunteer effort, AND at the Bar no less!

### National Trails Day

About a dozen hikers joined Friends of Acadia on a drizzly, windy Saturday morning in early June to celebrate National Trails Day and meet FOA's new president, John C. Courtin. After gathering over coffee and doughnuts, and looking through the trail displays of maps, signs, tools, and other paraphernalia, the group headed off for a hike of the Maple Spring and Hadlock Brook trails. The hike began at Rte. 198, taking the Hadlock Brook Trail to the Waterfall Bridge. There the group walked the new trail that passes under the bridge and the



National Trails Day hikers gather at the Waterfall Bridge overlook.

base of the waterfall, where an overlook has been created as well. A little further on they inspected the dry stone wall construction that recreates trail work done over a century ago to carry hikers along and over Hadlock Brook. The group returned on the Maple Spring Trail, ending the hike with the encouragement of increasing rain and wind. Look for an announcement of events next spring when planning will begin for the 2007 National Trails Day, June 7.

### An Old Trail's New Beginning

The Giant Slide Trail made its formal appearance on a 1903 path map as a two-mile summit path, starting at Route 198 and passing through the notch between Sargent and Parkman Mountains, where it intersects the Maple Spring Trail.

Until now, hikers have started their Giant Slide Trail hike with a half-mile walk up a (recently) paved private road, passing a few houses before reaching the old woods road that leads to the carriage roads and, finally, the "real trail" alongside Sargent Brook and over



Jonathan Gormley

*Bogwalks preserve the lush mosses along the new Giant Slide Trail connection.*

the boulders of the Giant Slide.

Now, thanks to the foresight and generosity of private landowners and Acadia Trails Forever—the \$13 million trails initiative of Friends of Acadia and Acadia National

Park—the Giant Slide Trail has a new trailhead on Rte. 198, just a hundred yards or so north of the former entrance. (With the opening of this new trail, the connection from the Giant Slide Road is officially closed. Bicyclists and hikers can no longer access the park off this private road.)

The new Giant Slide Trail segment is a rustic woods trail that winds through lush mossy habitat and lichens growing thick on granite ledges. Just over one-half mile long, it's a moderate hike to the carriage roads and the boulder-scrambling portion of the Giant Slide Trail. (Hikers only, bicycles not allowed.) The new trail segment crosses the private land of three adjacent owners before entering the park.

Many MDI trails cross both park and private lands, and this project is a fine example of landowners willing to permanently conserve their property and improve an important trail connection. In 1999, Maine Coast Heritage Trust worked with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hargraves to help them donate a conservation easement on the land. This voluntary legal agreement allowed the construction and public use of a walking trail to provide a more natural setting to begin the hike up the Giant Slide Trail. When the Hargraves later sold the land, the easement restrictions remained in effect.

Friends of Acadia then took the lead with the park in designing and building the trail during the past year. The trail was built by volunteers, with stone work and project

## Advocate's Corner

Two exciting developments have occurred in Washington within recent months.

First, a victory for conservation in national parks. In mid-June, Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne announced the release of the revised draft of the 2006 National Park Service management policies. Thankfully, we can report the draft returned to the intent of the National Park Service Organic Act and emphasized the importance of resource conservation to ensure that parks remain unimpaired for future generations to enjoy. More than 45,000 citizens provided comments on the earlier draft that was released for public review last fall containing provisions that could have allowed damaging uses in national parks. In February, Friends of Acadia and the National Parks Conservation Association teamed up to hold a public listening session about the policies. More than 40 people attended, many of whom provided comments to the National Park Service. Thanks to public outcry, the Park Service now has a much better guidance document.

Second, on June 28, the House National Parks, Public Lands and Recreation

Subcommittee finally held a hearing on the *Acadia National Park Improvement Act* (H.R. 2692). The bill had been introduced in the House by Congressman Michaud and co-sponsored by Congressman Allen last year. It passed the Senate in November 2005 thanks to the excellent stewardship of Senators Collins and Snowe. Friends sent comments to the House National Parks Subcommittee in support of the bill, which would extend the life of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, authorize up to \$28 million in Congressional funding for purchase of privately held lands from willing sellers inside Acadia's borders, and authorize the National Park Service to partner in the planning, design, construction, and operation of a regional transit and welcome center in Trenton. Since the hearing, conservative private lands activist groups have come out against the bill, and Friends has activated the Acadia Advocacy Network to weigh in with Congress in favor of the bill. For more information or to join the Advocacy Network, contact Stephanie Clement at [stephanie@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:stephanie@friendsofacadia.org).

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guidance provided by Acadia National Park trail crew.

This new route up the Giant Slide Trail has a unique place in trail history, recreating a historic trail route on private land and restoring a sense of quiet awe when hiking in the park.

## Winning Acadia Park Pass

Catherine Sharp, a Mount Desert Elementary School 7th-grader, won the annual Acadia National Park Art Contest with her colorful drawing of berries, mountains, and the sun. Her design appears on all \$40 Acadia National Park entrance passes (window decals) purchased in 2006. Ms. Sharp received a \$50 cash award from Friends of Acadia, a Certificate of Merit from the park, her own Acadia National Park annual pass, and a National Parks Monopoly game, courtesy of Eastern National.



The winning 2006 Acadia National Park Pass

## Acadia Adventure

On Sunday, July 23, the island's youngest residents and visitors were invited to try out traditional outdoor activities during FOA's first Acadia Adventure: Family Fun Day. At Little Long Pond kids had the opportunity to climb a rock wall; run through a maze (too often a familiar feeling when one reaches a carriage road or trail intersection without a map); and ride in a train, a horse drawn carriage, and on a pony. Nan Lincoln read *Cecily's Summer* and children learned about John D. Rockefeller Jr. and Acadia's carriage roads. Face painters decorated any and all who sat near them. In addition to a scavenger hunt (where are those squirrels when you want them?), park naturalists entertained the kids with hides, bones, shells, and other Acadia



Peter Travers

A young climber scales the climbing wall as part of Family Fun Day.

artifacts. The day was a roaring success thanks to the creative planning of the volunteer committee and to the generous sponsorship of the Acadia Corporation, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, The First, the Island Explorer, and the Greenrock Corporation and Rockefeller Family.

## More Island Explorers

With capital funds from the National Park Service, the Federal Transit Administration, and the Maine Department of Transportation, the Island Explorer recently added twelve new buses, making the Island Explorer the largest public transit fleet in Maine. The new buses hold 28 passengers, are wheelchair accessible, and can carry up to six bicycles on external racks. Because the arrival date of the new buses was uncertain, no new service was planned for this summer. Island Explorer planners are considering adjustments to the schedule next year based on the larger fleet.

## 20 Years and Going Strong

Friends of Acadia celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary and introduced the new president, John C. Courtin, at its Annual Meeting on July 14. Among the celebration highlights was the presentation of awards to the following outstanding members and colleagues:

*Dianna Brochendorff* received the only-occasionally-bestowed Chairman's Award for making the annual Benefit Gala a sig-



Awardees, from left: Ruth Sargent and Pauline Angione; Joe Murphy, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust; Lois Winter; Dianna Brochendorff; and Cary Swan, the Swan Agency.

nature event;

David Rockefeller received the Community Preservation Award for his family's role in the creation and ongoing protection of Acadia National Park;

The Acadia Corporation, Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, The First, Hannaford Supermarkets, Michael L. Ross, and the Swan Agency received the Conservation Colleagues Award for being FOA's first

and continuous sponsors;

Lois Winter received Friends of Acadia's top honor, the Marianne Edwards Award, for her role in helping to found Friends of Acadia; and

Pauline Angione and Ruth Sargent received the Excellence in Volunteerism Award for their work cataloguing the thousands of items in the former Navy Base's archives at Schoodic.

## FORESIGHT & GENEROSITY



### MEMBERSHIP

Join our 3,000 members from all over the world in funding necessary park projects and new initiatives. Member benefits include:

- A one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, published three times annually, highlighting the beauty of Acadia, issues facing the park, and Friends of Acadia programs, activities, and events
- A Friends of Acadia window decal
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Already a Friends of Acadia member? Give a gift membership and treat a friend or loved one to a one-year subscription to the *Friends of Acadia Journal*, along with other special benefits.

For more information, call the office at 1-800-625-0321, email the Director of Development at [lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org](mailto:lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org), or visit our website at [www.friendsofacadia.org](http://www.friendsofacadia.org).



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### ACADIA ADVENTURE: FAMILY FUN DAY

With the invaluable assistance of  
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Ben Mathews	



## SCHOODIC EDUCATION

Rosemary and I are always amazed at the stories our daughter, Jenny—a first-year teacher at Valley Horizon Elementary School in Yuma, Arizona—tells us about her students. Jenny teaches a class of 30 fifth-graders, 99% of whom are of Mexican heritage. Almost all of Jenny's students speak English as their second language, and many have parents who do not speak any English. Jenny's students were awed by the pieces of sea glass she gave them at the beginning of the year. Many were unable to understand where sea glass came from—one student kept asking if it grew at the bottom of the ocean. These same students were unable to identify the porcupine in a picture from the *Ellsworth American* we sent Jenny. Few have ever seen the ocean, a lobster, snow,

(SERC) and the conversation turned to the Junior Ranger Program and the Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA).

The Junior Ranger Program teaches third graders about the importance of our national parks and introduces them to the many different jobs that park rangers perform. Students in the Junior Ranger Program get a national park activity book to work with, to explore nature and the environment in all sorts of hands-on classes at school. They then take a field trip to the park for training by park rangers. At the Schoodic Junior Ranger Day this spring, SERC hosted more than 50 students from four area schools. The kids took a nature conservation walk, planted trees, and played a flora and wildlife identification game. They also participated in a search and rescue

math, language, and art. They assist research scientists at Schoodic with identifying and monitoring marine resources. They work with park rangers conducting biological inventories of the forest and resource mapping. They explore the beauty of nature with artists from the National Park Service Artist-in-Residence program.

The amazing experiences enjoyed by students in SERC youth programs juxtaposed against the circumstances of Jenny's students has been the subject of numerous discussions between Rosemary and me. We talk about how wonderful it would be to expand access to programs such as Junior Ranger and SEA. We consider ways to broaden educational opportunities at SERC and envision the establishment of a children's education center offering year-round residential, online, and outreach programs. We imagine the impact that such a center could have on kids across the nation, kids like Jenny's fifth-graders in Yuma.

Unfortunately, while we see the significant opportunities, we also recognize the tremendous challenges inherent in such a vision. We understand that realizing such a vision requires a great deal of time, imagination and, dedication, as well as significant financial resources. For now Rosemary and I find smaller ways to support the educational programs at Schoodic, as do the many other Friends of Schoodic volunteers, all of whom have an extraordinary level of energy and commitment. FOS welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas, and suggestions. We meet at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month on the SERC campus. All are welcome. To find out more about FOS, visit us on the web at [www.friendsofschoodic.org](http://www.friendsofschoodic.org) or contact us at P.O. Box 194, Prospect Harbor, Maine 04609. We invite you to join us—our only requirement is a love for Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic. 🐾

GARRY LEVIN is vice-chairman of Friends of Schoodic, a committee of Friends of Acadia.



National Park Service

Schoolchildren from Columbia Falls participate in Junior Ranger Day at Schoodic, April 2006

an eagle, or evergreen trees. Jenny says they have little awareness of their environment, understanding of the fragility of our natural resources, or appreciation of the importance of conservation. They are, however, fascinated when she talks about these topics or tells stories about Maine.

The stories that Jenny tells us about her students were brought into sharp focus by the discussion at a recent Friends of Schoodic meeting. We were talking about activities at the Schoodic Education and Research Center

demonstration and explored national park safety and rescue vehicles. Before returning home at the end of their day at Schoodic, the students took the Junior Ranger Pledge and received Junior Ranger patches.

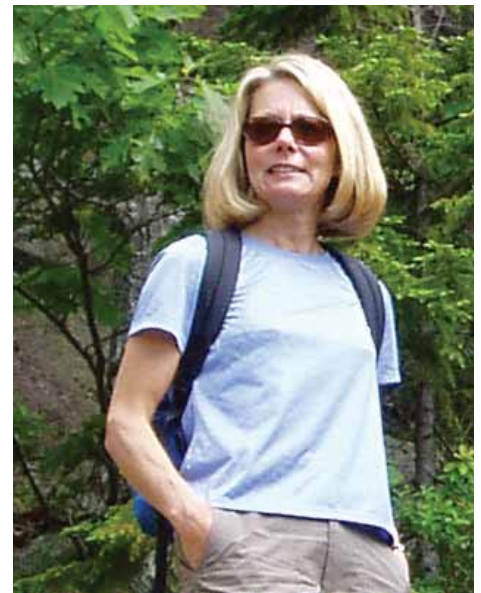
The Schoodic Education Adventure (SEA) is for fifth through eighth grade students. SEA students travel to Schoodic for a four-day sleepover program that promotes protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources. SEA students take part in classroom activities and hands-on field programs in science,

## APPROACHING ACADIA

The morning of July 4th came early for me in 2005. At Friends of Acadia we were navigating the waters of a national search for our new president and CEO, preparing for our annual benefit gala and auction, getting things lined up for our annual meeting, readying the agenda for our summer board meeting, approaching major donors for our land conservation bank and the off-island transit hub site, plus coping with the hundreds of other issues that are always in need of attention. Frankly, I needed a break. Climbing on my bike, I decided to play tourist.

Instead of heading for our beloved park, I chose busy Route 3. On MDI, the bike lanes

ward shove. The exhaust smelled, I wanted to be back on the carriage roads, and I was chagrined by the hoots from behind that transitioned into something else when the hooters turned to face me and realized I was almost sixty. The mountains of our island and the scent of the ocean lured me across the causeway to beautiful MDI and promised that, even if I were a biking tourist, it would be worth the trip. Flying along the shoulder toward Hulls Cove and the ANP Visitor Center, I lapsed into visions of gallops and bike rides around the mountain, climbs up the West Face, runs along Jordan Stream Trail, hikes over Penobscot, and skis up, down, and over this beautiful island.



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**“The mountains of our island and the scent of the ocean lured me across the causeway to beautiful MDI and promised that, even if I were a biking tourist, it would be worth the trip.”**

---

were adequate, but as I crossed the causeway to the mainland things became a little more tricky. With hundreds of July 4th celebrators, delivery trucks, and holiday floats whizzing past me, I began to realize just how hard it could be getting on and off MDI. I also wondered if I had a subliminal death wish. By the time I reached Route 204 in Trenton, it was a great relief to turn off onto the winding country roads that eventually lead to Route 1. Acres of floodplain fields and farmland that even ten years ago were pristine had sprouted numerous residences. Roads that were reputedly quiet teamed with the activity of the shortcut across the Mud Creek Road from Route 1 and the deliberate parade of commuters and vacationers to MDI. I rode the twenty miles planning to abort the trip at my daughter's house in Lamoine, but found only the goats and horses to greet me. Refilling my water bottles, I headed home for Salisbury Cove and began the approach to Acadia.

Back on Route 3, the traffic continued to race by with an occasional truck nearly forcing me off the road. A stiff headwind had built, giving the effect of a continual back-

Today I would go to the Visitor Center, renew my Park Pass, and then reward myself with more biking—this time in the park. Witch Hole and Eagle Lake were a grand step up from Route 3. I pumped my way up the access path, arrived on the lovely Witch Hole carriage road, and gazed toward the Schoodic Section of the park. The Route 3 journey blurred, the park beckoned, and I knew that for any traveler it would be worth it—even if you come by bike!

July 4, 2006: Our new president, John Courtin, is rowing his shell in our waters, we are heading toward more friend-raising events and meetings, and are immersed in transit hub and land issues. The heaviness of the air reminds us of our commitment to advocate for clean air and clean water and the federal government is short-changing its national parks. Would I still bike my butt off to get here to volunteer to work on behalf of Acadia and grab as much as I can of each day in the park? You bet!

*Dianna Emory*

—Dianna K. Emory

# FRIENDS OF ACADIA OPERATING PHILOSOPHY



To accomplish our mission,

1. **We advocate.** We advance park interests before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service and other federal, state or local bodies, and among the general public.
2. **We make grants.** We raise private funds for select capital projects in Acadia and for its enlightened stewardship, creating sustainable revenues through endowments where appropriate. We strive to supplement federal funds and services, not replace them.
3. **We nullify threats.** We mobilize people and forge nonprofit alliances to neutralize threats to park and community resources.
4. **We promote excellent management.** We speak for responsible users in the continual betterment of park operations.
5. **We operate independently.** We function as a free-standing nonprofit, supportive of the park but independent from it. We reserve the right to differ respectfully.
6. **We seek a broad membership.** We seek to maximize the number of park defenders, stewards, and donors. We encourage every visitor to join Friends of Acadia as a means of giving something back to the park for the privilege of experiencing it.
7. **We enhance communities.** We promote conservation in border communities through programs and grants that enhance their natural character and complement park values.
8. **We support volunteerism.** We supply a corps of motivated volunteers to meet designated park needs, including the upkeep of footpaths and carriage roads.
9. **We produce tangible results.** We achieve measurable results from programs and funds expended.
10. **We leverage donated funds.** We operate on a sound financial basis, leveraging member dues and other gifts to bring the highest conservation return per donated dollar.

## VISION

Friends of Acadia seeks an Acadia National Park that is the best funded, best managed, and best maintained national park for its size and volume of use. Mount Desert Island is distinguished by its intact natural character and the quality of village life. The air is clean, the water pure. Low-emissions public transit, funded primarily by park entry fees, contributes to conserving Acadia's special qualities. Park visitation conforms to sensible carrying capacities. People feel a powerful reverence for their great national park and its host island. They want to keep this place beautiful for all generations. They help protect its outstanding natural, cultural, and economic attributes by supporting Friends of Acadia.

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# Friends of Acadia



## Mission

The mission of Friends of Acadia is to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities, and thereby to ensure a high quality experience for visitors and residents.