



Friends of
ACADIA
Journal

Fall 2007
Volume 12 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



INDESTRUCTIBLE INFLUENCES

At our annual meeting this year, Friends of Acadia honored several volunteers and partners for their outstanding contributions. Our highest honor, the Marianne Edwards Award, was given to Dianna K. Emory, chairman of the Friends of Acadia board of directors from 2002–2007. Dianna's contributions to Friends and Acadia National Park define commitment and passion, and we are grateful to her. In passing the chair, she and the board selected another talented and dedicated leader in Lili Pew, as her first "Chairman's Letter" (p. 28) engagingly demonstrates.

Volunteers are notoriously dedicated to Friends and the park. This year Friends, and Acadia, lost a great volunteer. George Buck, a long time volunteer crew leader, died in February. He was admired and respected by his fellow crew leaders and all who worked with him. George and his wife, Anna, were two of the first volunteers I worked with when I joined the Friends staff. His pleasure in being outdoors, working in Acadia, and sharing the joy of the park with friends was infectious. George and Anna were original members of the Downeast Outing Club (DOC), which formed in 1982 and dedicated volunteer time to Acadia. Fellow DOC member Marianne Edwards was a Friends of Acadia founder. Obviously, Acadia inspires great work, given generously. Anna lives in Orono, but continued to make the trek down to Mount Desert Island this summer to volunteer in Acadia with friends.

Some day volunteers, among others, will have another way to get to Acadia. This year, Friends will purchase 369 acres at Crippens Creek in Trenton for the future Acadia Gateway Center, a project involving many partners including the Maine Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, Downeast Transportation, and others.

The Acadia Gateway Center is the third phase of the propane-powered Island Explorer bus system, and is needed to ensure the long-term effectiveness of this

popular system. At this writing the Island Explorer buses are still in operation, but already we know they have broken ridership records this summer. More than 300,000 riders took the Island Explorer this summer, a 7 percent increase over last year. You can learn more about the plans for the Acadia Gateway Center on page 11.

As we look to the future, Friends recognizes that we have unique opportunities to engage youth in the outdoors. We run successful programs that promote youth activities outdoors and benefit Acadia including the volunteer, Acadia Youth Conservation Corps, and Ridge Runner programs. This summer, our second annual Family Fun Day was held at at Sieur de Monts and brought more than 500 kids and adults into the park to just have fun climbing walls, riding ponies, kayaking, meeting Max the Horse, watching rocks move, and much more.

In addition, Friends hired a No Child Left Inside intern, Vassar Pierce, this summer to coordinate statewide efforts that provide opportunities to get kids outdoors. Our goal is to ensure that as many children as we and our partners can reach have an opportunity to experience the bounty of Maine's natural areas.

"...many of us remember the magic of our first camping trip, or the personal accomplishment of reaching a mountain summit, or the quiet moments—sometimes so necessary—sitting along the shore of a pond or the ocean."

Rachel Carson wrote: "If I had influence with the good fairy who is supposed to preside over the christening of all children, I should ask that her gift to each



Noreen Hogan

child in the world be a sense of wonder so indestructible that it would last throughout life."

We cannot preside over the christening, but we can nurture that sense of wonder in our children throughout their lives. We all want our children to be healthy and happy—and many of us remember the magic of our first camping trip, or the personal accomplishment of reaching a mountain summit, or the quiet moments—sometimes so necessary—sitting along the shore of a pond or the ocean. Our children need these experiences, too.

We are grateful to our members for supporting a brighter future for Acadia.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marla S. O'Byrne". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

—Marla S. O'Byrne

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TOP TEN REASONS WHY ACADIA IS UNIQUE

Acadia is truly a special place and it is unique for many reasons. I would like to offer my top ten:

10 The values preserved: a coastal and island landscape of rare scenic beauty; bold and rocky shores, granite mountains, clear lakes, verdant forests, scenic roads, dramatic views from the miles of historic carriage roads and hiking trails, and a rich tradition of individuals working for the benefit of many.

9 Acadia was the first national park east of the Mississippi River, established as Sieur de Monts National Monument in 1916 by President Wilson and renamed Lafayette National Park in 1919.

8 Acadia was the first national park created out of private lands rather than from the public domain, as was the case with the great national parks in the West.

7 The park was started with all private donations. George B. Dorr obtained donations of key lands and also used his personal fortune to buy others to assemble the 6,000 acres that he conveyed to the United States to become the National Monument. Mr. Dorr later became the first park superintendent but worked for just one dollar per year. So, perhaps he was the first official volunteer, as well!

6 The historic 55 miles of carriage roads built by John D. Rockefeller Jr. and 130 miles of hiking trails built by village improvement societies and volunteers make up some of the major attractions for visitors to Acadia National Park. Sixteen unique stone bridges on the carriage roads, grand scenic vistas, the Precipice and Beehive trails, and my personal favorite, the Jordan Cliffs and Penobscot Mountain loop, add to the special character of Acadia. I doubt the safety and environmental experts would support construction of those trails today.

5 Acadia is the most visited park per acre in the National Park System. Yellowstone is 60 times larger but has roughly the same number of visitors. At 35,000 acres, Acadia is



Peter Travers

“From Acadia’s earliest days, individuals have eagerly stepped forward to lead and to work toward a common purpose—to accomplish something special for the benefit of the American people.”

one of the smallest national parks and one of the most visited annually. This combination of small size and many visitors adds to the challenges of maintaining the high quality environment and visitor experience.

4 The blend of public and private lands. Most western national parks are large rectangular blocks of land with a few distinct entrances, while Acadia is a combination of small and large areas of park land interspersed with private lands, and even shares Mount Desert Island with many different towns. Furthermore, Acadia has a mainland piece on Schoodic Peninsula and parts of various islands, as well as Isle au Haut.

3 Two park boundaries. Acadia is the only national park that I know of with two different boundaries: one for fee acquisition and another for conservation easements. Acadia manages 35,000 acres of land owned outright, of which 82 percent was donated. The park manages an additional 12,000 acres of conservation easements (totaling more than 190) outside the primary park boundary. More than 95 percent of those easements were donated by generous, forward-thinking people. Conservation easements generally protect scenic values without providing public access.

2 The continuing role of private philanthropy. Acadia has benefited greatly from the early efforts of George B. Dorr and John D. Rockefeller Jr., as well as the donations of land and labor of many other individuals too numerous to name. Thankfully these benefits continue. Today, Acadia is a very special place thanks to the extraordinary support of more than 3,000 volunteers who donate nearly 40,000 hours annually and the thousands of donors who have contributed money for park improvements and the endowments that care for the carriage roads and hiking trails.

1 And the *number one* reason that Acadia is unique is DEDICATION. From Acadia’s earliest days, individuals have eagerly stepped forward to lead and to work toward a common purpose—to accomplish something special for the benefit of the American people. Individual efforts and the private contributions of land, money, and skill have made Acadia a true national treasure for all to enjoy. Partners like Friends of Acadia and people like YOU demonstrate a commitment to quality and purpose that makes it possible for us to protect the remainder of the land within the boundary and improve public facilities and services to complete the vision of Acadia’s founders and supporters alike.

—Sheridan Steele

Carriage Road Concern

We have enjoyed walking the carriage roads for many years. This year they seemed to need more help. Please accept our donation for their maintenance. Thank you for your work.

—N.J. and D.W. Bell
New Hampshire

Spreading the Word

I visited your office in mid October and was very pleased. Your friendly, enthusiastic staff answered all my questions about your goals and programs. I will continue to support Friends of Acadia and champion your name to all. By the way, I wear my Friends of Acadia hat whenever I go out. It draws a lot of attention and gives me a good excuse to talk about Friends of Acadia.

—Mickey Signorella
New Jersey

A Mountain of Bliss

My husband and I got married on Cadillac Mountain on June 8, 2002. We will always remember that day and that place as the most beautiful in all of our lives. Thank you for all of your hard-earned work!

—Julie and David Roy
New Hampshire

Wishful Volunteering

We come to Bar Harbor once a year to visit friends who live there and to hike. We always love it no matter the weather. We want to support your group by expanding your membership. We live, sadly, too far away to volunteer.

—Susan and Shirley



Rich Johnson

The Bubbles overlooking Jordan Pond.

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and Surrounding Communities

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.

The *Journal* is published three times a year. Submissions are welcome.

Opinions expressed are the authors'.

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Huckleberry and Pine at Wonderland
Cover photographs by Tom Blagden



This Journal is printed on chlorine-process free, recycled, and recyclable stock using soy-based ink.

Poem

FRIENDS OF ACADIA POETRY AWARD 2nd Prize

Apis mellifera

This chilled November morning,
the sun's light, wan and frosted,
finds her head-down
burrowing, legs in slow motion
pumping her tighter
against the lemon heart
of my Chrysanthemum.
Does she hope there to escape
stasis, awaiting her
with boreal patience?
Transparent wings
glued now to her fuzzed back,
will lift her no more into air
gelid with winter's breath.
Yet she has found
a golden resting-place.
May my last bed
be as bright.

— Polly Brody

POLLY BRODY is a biologist, ornithologist, and creator of seminars on animal behavior. She is the author of two books: *Other Nations*, a collection of poetry; and *The Burning Bush*, essays with poetry. Polly's third collection of poetry, *At The Flower's Lip*, was published in July 2007. Her poetry is widely published in literary reviews.

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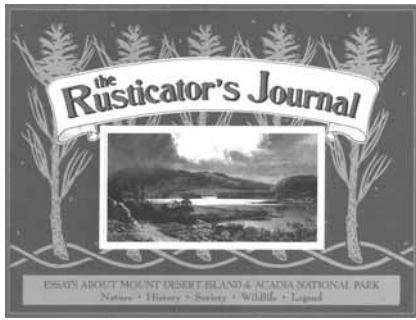
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Message you would like on the card:

* Gift package includes:

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- A Friends of Acadia window decal
- The satisfaction of knowing that membership in Friends of Acadia helps to preserve the remarkable beauty of Acadia National Park



To give a gift membership, simply mail the above form, along with a check made payable to Friends of Acadia, in the envelope provided or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

All contributions to Friends of Acadia are used to preserve and protect the outstanding natural beauty, ecological vitality, and cultural distinctiveness of Acadia National Park and the surrounding communities. All gifts are tax deductible.

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DIANNA K. EMORY, CHAMPION OF ACADIA

To regular readers of the *Friends of Acadia Journal* Dianna Emory is no stranger. For the past five years she has shared her tales and adventures as chairman of the board in her regular “Chairman’s Letter” in the *Journal*. From anecdotes of brave biking on Route 3 and lessons learned in the park, to reminders about the importance of giving back to Acadia and preserving all of its grand resources, Dianna shared her first-hand view of the park and this organization with passionate and thoughtful delivery.

With the same eloquence and grace Dianna stood before the nearly 250 attendees at the Friends of Acadia annual meeting on July 11 and announced that she was stepping down from her post as chairman after five years of unwavering leadership and dedication. Friends who know Dianna outside the pages of this *Journal* know that her passion for the park, land conservation, and leaving a legacy for the future makes her a champion of Acadia in many ways.

Dianna appreciates and uses the park as much as any Friend could. From biking and skiing to horseback riding and ice skating, Dianna, her husband, Ben, and their family enjoy connecting with nature. She fondly recalls some of her favorite spots in the park, such as the amphitheatre loop where she has run at dawn many times over the past 35 years, and Cadillac’s West Face, which she has scrambled up through sleet, snow, and ice. From the Emory sloop, “West Wind,” she sails along the shores of Acadia and enjoys the thought that the ocean connects her to her other beloved national park base in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Always leading by example, Dianna and Ben have championed Acadia by personally funding many Friends initiatives, including Acadia Trails Forever, the Acadia Winter Trails Association, the Benefit Gala, Conservation Easement Monitoring, the Land Conservation Bank, the Mounted Horse Patrol Program, Project Tranquility,



Friends saw the many talents of Dianna throughout her chairmanship.

the vascular plant guide, and Wild Gardens of Acadia. They have given to many of the programs that helped Friends grow and achieve new levels of success protecting the park over the years.

Dianna also champions Acadia by giving her time. Her chairmanship alone kept her off the trails and away from her family in countless hours of meetings, phone calls, and events. Dianna volunteered her time to Friends’ benefit gala, development, future leaders, natural resource protection, strategic planning and nominating committees, as well as the Acadia Gateway Center taskforce and other fundraising initiatives. Beyond Friends, Dianna works as a board member of Maine Coast Heritage Trust and the Garden Club of Mount Desert, as well as on various projects for the SPCA of Hancock County. Her colleagues and peers and the Friends staff often wonder where she finds the time, not to mention energy, to spend in the park.

As many Friends volunteers do, Dianna finds reward in dedicating her time to the organization. “The most satisfying part of

my work at Friends is the people part—helping build connections and relationships between so many who cherish this place,” says Dianna. “Building partnerships with other organizations, instituting committees that allow talented people to gain a sense of ownership of Friends, and working with so many wonderful volunteers, staff, and donors, has greatly enriched my own experience with Friends of Acadia.”

Perhaps the greatest way in which Dianna supports the park is her contagious energy and passion, which she shares with others. She and Ben have encouraged their five children and two grandchildren to use and give back to the park, and to leave a lasting stewardship legacy of their own. Dianna’s tireless effort to preserve and protect Acadia and its surrounding communities is simply inspiring.

Friends of Acadia salutes Dianna for her past and present leadership, and for the direction she and her legacy will continue to provide for years to come. 🐾

—Erin K. Hitchcock

A CAR-FREE VISIT TO ACADIA

Carey Kish

Let's think out of the box for a moment, shall we? Out of that shiny metal box with four tires and a steering wheel...your car. One of life's many necessities, yes, but all the time?

Consider this: You want to get out of Dodge for the weekend. Head on up to beautiful Acadia National Park for a visit. Camp in Blackwoods. Do some hiking. Bike the carriage roads. Kayak some maybe. Carouse the streets of Bar Harbor, for sure. You need your car for such a trip, right? Maybe not.

For years it was a no-brainer for me. Load the vehicle chock full of gear and hit the road, Bar Harbor-bound, 180 miles up the coast. But times have changed some, haven't they? Gas is \$3 a gallon. Ouch! Cars are more expensive to own and maintain. There is tons more traffic on the highway—and road rage. Plus, there's all the talk about global climate change, "going green," and all that good stuff.

You're right, you say, but what does that have to do with getting to Acadia? Well—hold on now—how about taking the bus? Hey, hey, hey...now get up off the floor and stop that laughing. It's possible. I know because I just did it and it was an awesome, eye-opening, and relaxing trip—all sans car. And I'd do it again now that I know it's not only possible, but downright practical.

You see, it was like this. I packed my backpack with the usual goods for a couple of days. Then I drove over to the Greyhound bus station in Portland, parked my car, bid

it a fond farewell, and jumped on the 3:15 p.m. Vermont Transit bus, northbound to Bar Harbor, with stops in beautiful downtown Brunswick and Bangor. Four hours later (not a whole lot longer than if I'd driven myself) I landed in Bar Harbor—just in time to catch the 7:15 p.m. #3 Island Explorer bus to Blackwoods Campground in Acadia National Park.



Carey Kish

Hopping off the Island Explorer, backpack and all, four hours later in Blackwoods Campground.

I must admit it was a bit weird checking in at the ranger kiosk on foot, but that's when it started to dawn on me: This was really cool. I'm in Acadia and I don't need no stinking car.

Next I set up camp, cooked a pot of beans and dogs, walked down to the coast and hung out on the rocks, and generally reveled in my car-free environment.

The following morning, bus route map in hand, I joined a crowd of other trail-bound hikers and took the #3 back into town. After breakfast at Jordan's I caught a transfer on the #7 shuttle. It was going to be a hot, hazy,



Carey Kish

My snug little campsite in Blackwoods. Notice anything missing? Yeah...my car!

humid day, so some hiking in and around Echo Lake on the west side of Acadia seemed like just the ticket.

And it was. The scramble up the ladders on Beech Cliffs was sweet, as were the loop



Carey Kish

Climbing the iron ladders of the steep and spectacular Beech Cliff trail.



Carey Kish

The 3:15 p.m. Vermont Transit bus in Portland, bound for Brunswick, Bangor, and on to Bar Harbor.

trails that wound for several miles on top. Beech Mountain and the firetower capped off the hike. Then it was back to Echo Lake for a late lunch, multiple swims in the cool water, and many pages of a good book in the shade.

The #6 bus whisked me back into town in late afternoon. Visits to the Thirsty Whale, Cadillac Mountain Sports, and Sherman's Bookstore were mandatory before moving on to the Fish House Grill for a good ol' Maine lobster dinnah. Fatigue and a full belly urged me back onto the #3 and I was in camp and into my book amid the sweet smell of Blackwoods balsam by sundown.

The following day dawned cool and clear—a fine day for a ridge walk. The #3 left me at the Village Green and I dropped my loaded backpack and cooler off at the Bangor-Bar Harbor Shuttle office. Then I took the #3 again to Sieur de Monts where I picked up the #4, which deposited me at the trailhead for Champlain Mountain. It was tremendous walking over pink granite through sparse Jack Pines. And with each step higher, wonderful views opened up to Bear Lake, The Jackson Laboratory, Bar Harbor, the islands, Schoodic, and beyond.

“...it was a bit weird checking in at the ranger kiosk on foot, but that’s when it started to dawn on me: This was really cool. I’m in Acadia and I don’t need no stinking car.”

Beyond the summit it was literally all downhill and I flew across the ridge, brilliant blue ocean to my left, the bulk of Dorr and Cadillac Mountains to my right. The Bowl, a lovely high mountain pond, loomed ahead. The trail navigated along its southern edge before rising to the Beehive.

Lunch was had with bare feet dangling over the cliff's edge, with Sand Beach many

hundreds of feet below. Post-sandwich I clambered down the impossible trail, complete with iron rungs, hand rails, and ladders, before making my way out to the cool winds blowing in over Sand Beach.

Right on schedule, the #3 got me back into town with plenty of time to spare. Because the Vermont Transit connection between Bar Harbor and Bangor for the return trip isn't so great (the bus returns south in the morning), I reserved a seat on the Bangor-Bar Harbor Shuttle, a new and well-run operation that got me connected with the Vermont Transit bus in Bangor.

I was back in Portland by 9:15 p.m. And there, looking rather lonely and forlorn, was my little car. I dumped the gear in the trunk and cranked her up for the first time in three days. I like that.

So there you have it. A round-trip hiking and camping trip to Acadia National Park—entirely by bus. I know it sounds like a novelty but it shouldn't be, and it isn't. It can be done. And I'll bet you, too, won't even miss your car.

Now, the cost? It was \$65 for the Vermont Transit tickets and \$25 for the Bangor-Bar Harbor Shuttle, so \$90 in all. When the math is said and done, taking into account gas and general wear and tear by using the federal mileage reimbursement rate, my \$90 bus fare is cheaper by \$19.50. And, I didn't let tons of them wicked bad auto e-missions spoil up the atmosphere neithah!

So, what do you think? Are you willing to give transit a try on your next Acadia visit? To have an out-of-auto-body outdoor adventure?? ♣

CAREY KISH lives in Portland. He is an avid hiker and freelance writer and he manages the GO MAINE commuter program for the Greater Portland Council of Governments.

A version of this article appeared on MaineToday.com on July 12, 2007, and is reprinted with the author's permission.

ACADIA BY THE NUMBERS



Peter Travers

Riding the Island Explorer

9

Seasons of Island Explorer operation

2,174,750

Total ridership since buses started running (6/23/99) through 2006 season

36

Number of buses running on MDI

1

Number of buses running at Schoodic

813,803

Number of automobile trips to MDI eliminated from 1999 to 2006

8

Number of ways to arrive in Bar Harbor without a car

\$2.25 million

The amount L.L.Bean has granted and pledged to Friends of Acadia for the Island Explorer and other park research and education needs.

\$0

Bus fare

108

Days of operation in 2007

57%

Increase in amount of green house gases reduced between 1999 and 2006.



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New Members

We are pleased to welcome our newest Friends:

Sam Alderstein	The Hall Family	Vassar Pierce
Edward and Cindy Allen	Michael Hamer	Lucy Pugh
Eric Aroesty	John Hanning	Paul Rau
Charles Barr	Jean Hillier	Lawrence and Susan Raymond
Linda Bears	Mary Hillier	Judy Read
D. W. and N. J. Bell	Peggy and William Hobbs	Randy and Jane Redden
Rania M. Benson	Nicholas Hodges	Kelly Reed
Peter and Joan Blair	Gary and Ruth Husel	Diana Riggie
Robert Blanchard	Suzanne Ilstad	Nancy Riker and Harry Roesch
Alice Bowman	Ron and Donna Indorf	Spence and Lori Ritchie
Ralph Bremigan	Kathy Jacobs	William Ryan and Jeanne Lightfoot
Beth Brenner and Andrew Josef	Sandra Jester	Bonnie Safran
Antoinette and Benjamin Brewster	Steven and Bonnie Jones	Eugene and Kathleen Samolewicz
Barbara Buck	Marilyn Jordan	Jason Schatz
Beth Bybee	Timothy Kacmar	Cyndi and Kent Schmidt
Barbara and Ronald Carper	Richard Katsanos	Sarah Schock
David Champagne	John Kellow	Larry Seibert
J.W. Charles	Donna Kiehl	Tarek and Elizabeth Selim
Sheri Coleman	John and Susan Klein	Greg Sesler
Gary and Abigail Conrad	Helen Koch	Kenneth and Lucie Shader
James and Jean Cook	Rodney and Mary Lake	Georgia Kirk Shallcross
Judy Corder and Pat Hayes	Lowell Larson	Greg and Susan Simpson
Peg Cruikshank	Suzanne Lavoie and David Ayers	Edward and Mary Sipple
Gregory Cuffey	Tom and Marybeth Linden	Barb Smith
Christina Damon	Susan Lloyd	Jay and Susan Smith
Louise Darlington	Jason Longo	Megan Smith
Diana Deane	Elizabeth Lundquist	Arthur and Linda Sommer
Leslie Demeire and Paul Norris	Megan Macauley	Reka Somodi
Gary Dennis	Pat MacKeen	Margaret Southworth
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Lisa and Mark Ehrhart	Brian and Melissa Matthews	William and Diane Steele
Monica Estes	Mike and Jean McGinn	Michael Stillwell
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Jay and Margene Fennell	Margaret McVey	Kathleen Swartz
Catherine Ferrell	Nick and Andrea Miller	Sandra and William Swinburne
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James and Diane Fritz	Josephine Murry	Alice Tufel
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Sajal and Ruma Ghosh	Ruth Nadelhaft	John Walsh
Harold Edward Gill	Mary Naftzger	Wei-hong Wang
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Sharon Greenfield and Mickey Lynn	Adrienne Paiewonsky and Paul Girdzis	Jo Yeagley
Koarolina and Nicholas Grib	Gerald Parks	Zoldessy Family
JoAnn Grigoli and David Harvey	Craig and Anne Patterson	
Pete J. Groh	John and Sheila Paulos	
	Karin Peabody	
	Daniel and Elaine Perry	

April 1, 2007 – July 31, 2007

PRESERVING PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IN THE MOUNT DESERT ISLAND REGION

Erin Hitchcock

Tom Cox, a longtime Friends of Acadia supporter, recalls driving from Ellsworth to Northeast Harbor in the early 1960s and encountering only a dozen or so cars. With his business centered in Manhattan, Tom reveled in the tranquility and quietness of Maine. He quickly fell in love with Maine and its rocky coasts and purchased property on Sutton Island.

Tom later moved to Seal Harbor and became a permanent resident in 2003. His close kinship with Mount Desert Island and commitment to conservation spurred Tom to support the Acadia Gateway Center project by generously donating a gift of \$100,000.

The Acadia Gateway Center is the third phase of the Island Explorer bus system and the objective of the project is to expand the system to allow visitors to access MDI and Acadia in an environmentally-friendly way. The center will serve as a welcome center for visitors and a hub for the propane-powered Island Explorer bus system.

The Island Explorer is Maine's largest and most successful public transportation system. The system currently operates out of a parking lot in Trenton and the Acadia Gateway Center would be its new home. In order to get the project underway, Friends of Acadia will act on its option to acquire the 369-acre Crippens Creek property in Trenton, the future site of the center.

Tom and other supporters view the Acadia Gateway Center as a means of reducing the impact of traffic on local roadways, reducing carbon emissions, and improving air quality—all while allowing more visitors to access the park by using the Island Explorer.

A supporter of the project since 2003, Tom graciously signed his gift in the Friends of Acadia office using his Esterbrook fountain pen—a pen he has used since high school to sign important personal documents throughout his life. Luckily for Maine, several of the important documents he has signed have preserved some of its beautiful coastline. While living on Sutton Island, Tom personally placed five conservation easements on his island properties and successfully encouraged neighbors to do the same—resulting in an island that is very well protected today.

With Tom's gift and other early support, Friends of Acadia is on its way to achieving its fundraising goal. However, additional donors are needed to make the property acquisition possible in October. With the help of many, the Acadia Gateway Center will help preserve and restore tranquility to the Mount Desert Island region for generations to come. ♣

ERIN HITCHCOCK is the communications coordinator at Friends of Acadia.

Announcing the Butler Challenge



Courtesy Maine DOT

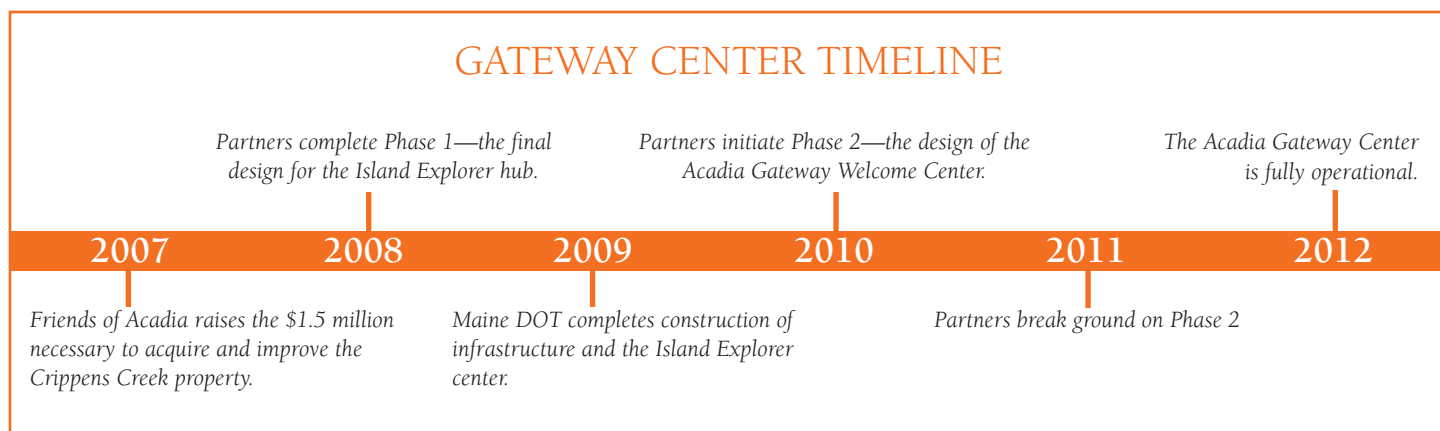
An architectural rendering of the proposed Acadia Gateway Center.

Longtime Friends of Acadia members Gilbert and Ildiko Butler have a passion for Acadia National Park and its surrounding communities. With their family Gilbert and Ildiko take pleasure in paddling, biking, hiking, and, most importantly, enjoying Acadia's clean air. They treasure the clean air so much that they have stepped forward to support the Acadia Gateway Center.

The Butlers challenge all who love Acadia and its tranquil nature and clean air to support the project financially. The Butler Conservation Fund will match all new gifts to the Acadia Gateway Center up to \$100,000.

To make a gift for the Acadia Gateway Center, contact Lisa Horsch, director of development, at 207-288-3340 or lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org.

GATEWAY CENTER TIMELINE



YOUTH INITIATIVES: BRINGING KIDS OUTSIDE

Vassar Pierce

Throughout the country newspapers, magazines, and internet bloggers are covering the trend that many parents, educators, and health professionals have been noticing throughout the last decade: Kids love to spend time indoors playing video games, surfing the internet, or listening to their iPods. The increase in media coverage has brought the issue to the forefront of the agendas of politicians and organizations, from state governors to national representatives, and including Friends of Acadia. While getting children outdoors has always been a priority for Friends, it is now, more than ever, doing its part to offer programs that encourage children young and old to get outside.

On Sunday, July 22, Friends of Acadia hosted its second annual Acadia Adventures: Family Fun Day, held at Sieur de Monts in Acadia National Park. The goal of the event was to introduce children and their families to the outdoor activities that Acadia has to offer and to kindle within the participants a life-long love for the outdoors, especially Acadia National Park.

By all accounts the day was a rousing success. Under the brilliant blue sky directly over Acadia, 424 guests (224 of them children) attended the event, which offered something for everyone. The variety of activities at Family Fun Day included a junior botanist scavenger hunt, a Leave No Trace challenge course, rock climbing, and the very popular kayaking. A total of 25 different activities were run by 16 park staff, 12 Friends of Acadia employees, and 53 volunteers that were coordinated through Friends.

At age five, Marina Vanoff most enjoyed her experience at the dip-netting station. She reported, "My favorite part was the frogs. I stood on a log and tried to catch frogs but all I caught was dirt!" It is experiences like this, sticking dip-nets into the Tarn, that stay with kids. Despite not catching a frog Marina's favorite part was the anticipation of what might be in the net each time she pulled it out of the water.

Family Fun Day is one of the many different programs that Friends of Acadia sponsors to encourage children to experience the

great outdoors. Friends sponsors three other days that encourage people to get outside: Earth Day, Take Pride in Acadia Day, and National Trails Day. The three events drew a combined 800 volunteers, young and old, to work in Acadia and provided the opportunity for kids to experience nature.

Offering programs for children to attend with their families is just one of the ways in which Friends of Acadia is able to get children outdoors. Friends also sponsors the Acadia Youth Conservation Corps (AYCC), a program in which teens aged 14-17 are employed for eight weeks during the summer by working with park trail crew leaders to make improvements on trails and carriage roads.

Additionally Friends of Acadia's Ridge Runner and Recreation Intern program employs five young adults. While this group is traditionally composed of college-aged students, the ridge runners represent the age group that is spending an average of 44 hours per week using electronic media.

These programs give children and young adults the opportunity to spend time outdoors, and the service they provide is valuable to children using the park. Without the AYCC's work, children would not have as smooth a hike or bike ride. The personal contact that ridge runners have with kids on the trails makes a lasting impression. As three-time Ridge Runner Catie Carter said, "It's so rewarding when I impart a Leave No Trace message to a child when I'm working out on the trails. I get to see the wonder on their face because they understand why it is important to step on rocks rather than moss."

Additionally, Friends of Acadia Crew Leaders Mike Alley and Cliff Olson lead teams of volunteers of all ages throughout the park. These teams conduct trail and carriage road maintenance, as well as act as a friendly face to those who pass by while enjoying the park. Camp VIDA, a group of 12 inner-city youth from Chicago spent two weeks in July working with Mike and Cliff in Acadia. Prior to their visit to Acadia, many of the kids had



Peter Travers

Children and parents alike found nature to be jaw-dropping at the second annual Family Fun Day held in Acadia National Park. Participants pictured here enjoyed Teacher-Ranger Connie Shaw's dip-netting activity.



No Child Left Inside Intern Vassar Pierce shown in his ridge runner role last summer offering a friendly Leave No Trace message to park visitors.

never seen the ocean, gone camping, or used a shovel. This is just one of many examples of experiences children are able to have outdoors that they would not be able to have without Acadia National Park or Friends of Acadia.

The challenge to get children outdoors is a difficult one, but it is not impossible. As the national momentum to get children to spend more time outside is growing, organizations like Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park are essential to the success of the movement. By offering opportunities that encourage youth to get outdoors, as well as helping to make sure Acadia is as clean and maintained as possible, Friends of Acadia is doing its part in getting kids outside. 🌲

VASSAR PIERCE is the No Child Left Inside intern at Friends of Acadia and a former ridge runner.

Take it Outside—Acadia and State of Maine Formalize Efforts

Early this past spring, more than 50 educators, park managers, state government officials, business leaders, academic experts and concerned parents met at the Schoodic Education and Research Center for the first No Child Left Inside conference. The conference initiated a region-wide discussion about ways in which a network of interested organizations could collaborate to address the mounting concern that kids are spending less and less time outside.

Five subcommittees were created to span the critical areas of activity that are essential in creating more engagement between young people and the outdoors. Friends of Acadia hired Vassar Pierce to work through the summer as the No Child Left Inside intern, coordinating a network of participating organizations and facilitating the subcommittees' work. Vassar's work and subcommittee reports will be posted on www.kidsoutside.org, a website developed following the conference. Participants reunited in September to discuss progress and future plans.

The State of Maine is taking notice of the issue, too. On July 31, Governor John Baldacci joined two Olympic gold medalists from Maine to announce "Take it Outside," a program intended to motivate adults to show Maine's youth how much activity and fun can be had in the Maine outdoors. Fresh from a hike up Mount Katahdin with his son, Jack, Governor Baldacci announced that a Blaine House Conference on Youth and the Natural World will be held next spring with a goal of working with organizations that are already working to get kids outside and connected to nature.

For more information about the efforts taking place in Maine, visit www.kidsoutside.org or www.maine.gov.

CHARLES W. ELIOT

Lisa Horsch

The United States have but this one short stretch of Atlantic seacoast where a pleasant summer climate and real picturesqueness of scenery are to be found together; can nothing be done to preserve for the use and enjoyment of the great body of people in the centuries to come some fine parts at least of the seaside wilderness in Maine?

—Charles Eliot in “The Coast of Maine”

In 1897 Charles W. Eliot, president of Harvard and one of the first summer residents of Northeast Harbor, organized the notes, letters, and other papers of his son, noted landscape architect Charles Eliot,* after his death. It was in these papers that he rediscovered an article written by Charles and published in 1889 in *Garden and Forest* describing “the wild charm of the coast of Maine.” Charles pointed out how the increase of private ownership might deprive the public access to the many mountains, ponds, and waterways of Mount Desert. Charles suggested that public access could be secured and traditional landscapes maintained by establishing reservations, a common name for parks at the time, for public use.

Charles’ article, coupled with the invention of the portable saw mill and increased development of Mount Desert Island, served as the inspiration for the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. In the summer of 1901, Eliot modeled the new preservation organization after the Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations, which was successfully established ten years earlier. He chose George B. Dorr, a wealthy, single, and energetic summer resident of Bar Harbor, as vice president of the organization, charging him to “rescue and promulgate the monumental beauty of Mount Desert.”

According to the 1939 history of the Trustees, Eliot and Dorr were joined by Edward S. Dana, Lea McI. Luquer, George L. Stebbins, Luere B. Deasy, Edward B. Mears, Loren E. Kimball, and John S.



Charles W. Eliot as a young Harvard president.

Kennedy as the first officers, executive committee, and incorporators of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations. It was the first conservation group to preserve land in Maine for future generations.

Throughout the years, President Eliot was often mistakenly credited with developing the idea for the Trustees. In fact, at a celebration of the establishment of Sieur de Monts National Monument, President Eliot corrected speaker L. B. Deasy, crediting his son with the idea for preserving land on Mount Desert Island for future public use.

Though modest in his credit for establishing the Trustees, Eliot did, in a roundabout way, create the foundation for Charles’ future conservation work. Eliot introduced his family to the coast of Maine and fostered in his sons a love, respect, and intellectual curiosity for the outdoors in. In 1871 Eliot, Charles, and younger son Samuel Atkins Eliot began cruising in the summer along the coast of New England in *Jessie*, a 33’ sloop. For seven years, a favorite destination was Calf Island in Frenchman’s Bay,

where they would camp in tents on the seashore. According to an introduction from *Charles William Eliot Family Cruising Logs of the New England Coast*, Eliot attributes these adventures as one method of withstanding the rigors of the Harvard presidency.

After many years of sailing the waters of Maine, Eliot built a family home in 1881. By this time, Charles had led a group of Harvard classmates, named the Champlain Society after the French explorer Samuel de Champlain, for several years in scientific explorations of the island. Through his studies, Charles became intimately familiar with the lands and coast of the Mount Desert. At the recommendation of Charles, Eliot selected a tract of land on the east side of the harbor, “a site with beautiful views of sea and hills, good anchorage, fine rocks and beach, and no flats.”

It was one of the first summer cottages in Northeast Harbor. Other summer cottages quickly followed along the harbor’s edge, forever changing the landscape of the coast. While the new development changed the landscape, there was a much greater threat to the land—the portable saw mill.

Eliot recognized the ease with which lumber companies could transport the portable mills to mountain tops and strip bare the hill-sides of the island. Once the forests were gone and the traditional landscape was destroyed, the beautiful land of Mount Desert would no longer be as desirable to visitors and residents and would be most appropriate for further commercial, not residential, development.

With many threats looming, the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations incorporated. In 1908, Eliza Homan gave to the Trustees its first significant gift—the Beehive and the Bowl. The Trustees made gifts of land and money to help acquire other properties but, more importantly, they influenced others to make gifts to preserve the mountain tops and green space of the island. Mr. Kennedy enabled the Trustees to secure the top of Green (Cadillac) Mountain,

preserving the summit of the highest point on the Atlantic coast for public enjoyment.

In 1919, John D. Rockefeller Jr. joined in the preservation effort by donating Beech Hill and the cliffs on the western shore of Echo Lake. Over the years, he generously donated other lands and money to acquire lands, built carriage roads and bridle paths, and constructed the “Mountain Road.”

The Trustees decided to accomplish their preservation goals in perpetuity by converting their accumulated protected land into a national monument. In July 1916, Sieur de Monts National Monument came into existence. It became Lafayette National Park in 1919 and was renamed Acadia National Park in 1929.

At the celebration of Sieur de Monts in 1916, Eliot said, “One of the greatest satisfactions in doing any sound work for an institution, a town, or a city, or for the nation is that good work done for the public lasts, endures through the generations; and the little bit of work that any individual of the passing generation is enabled to do gains the association with such collective activities an immortality of its own.”

As Acadia approaches its centennial in 2016, admirers of Acadia and its surrounding communities should all be inspired by Eliot’s words and actions and each, in their own way, strive to leave a legacy for future generations. It is then that the dreams and wishes of Acadia’s founders will be realized. 🍂

* *Writer’s note: There is often confusion between the father, Charles W. Eliot, and the son, Charles Eliot. The former, often referred to as President Eliot or Charles W. Eliot, was the longest serving president of Harvard (1869-1909) and was instrumental in formation of the Hancock County Trustees of Public Reservations in 1901. The latter, known simply as Charles Eliot with no middle initial, was a noted landscape architect in Boston who organized in 1890 the Massachusetts Trustees of Public Reservations, a preservation group that served as a model for the Hancock Country Trustees.*

LISA HORSCH is the director of development at Friends of Acadia.

What if...

It is not widely known that President Eliot’s first choice for a homesite was not Northeast Harbor but Calf Island of Sorrento in Frenchman’s Bay. According to Samuel Eliot Morison’s *A Story of Mount Desert*, Eliot made an offer to buy Calf Island after many years of camping there with his sons and other travel companions. At the time, Sorrento was experiencing a false gold rush and upon learning that President Eliot had a background in chemistry, the landowner refused to sell the property to him, sure that Eliot had discovered gold on his island.

What would our island look like today if Eliot had settled on Calf Island instead of Mount Desert? Would he have had the same resolve to preserve and protect it for future generations? Three principals, Charles W. Eliot, George B. Dorr, and John D. Rockefeller Jr., were instrumental in the founding of Acadia National Park. Each played vital roles—inspiration, advocacy, and financial support—in preserving the land that ultimately became Acadia. If any one of these generous men had been missing from the equation, the landscape of Mount Desert Island would be dramatically different today and we would likely not have Acadia National Park as we love it.



Courtesy Daniel Pierce

The Ancestral, Eliot’s family home, was one of the first summer cottages in Northeast Harbor.

KEEPING ACADIA'S WATERS SAFE

Helen Hess

Summer vacation and swimming go hand in hand. The millions of summertime visitors to Acadia National Park have a variety of choices should they decide to take the plunge. At Lake Wood the water is warm and shallow, and abundant bullfrog tadpoles delight our youngest budding naturalists. The deeper, cooler water of Echo Lake may tempt some to dive in for a long, refreshing swim. The exceptionally hardy may even brave a dip in the achingly cold ocean water at Sand Beach. But this is the only bravery that should be required. All swimmers should feel confident that they are not risking illness when entering the water. Monitoring programs within the park and around Mount Desert Island assess water quality at swimming beaches and inform the public if unsafe levels of bacteria are discovered.

Much of this monitoring is undertaken in partnership with Acadia National Park by the Mount Desert Island Water Quality Coalition (MDIWQC), a local non-profit organization whose mission is engaging citizens of all ages in preserving and improving the quality of water on MDI through meaningful environmental research and community education. Executive Director Dr. Jane Disney is the heart, soul, and brains behind the organization. Dr. Disney and her talented MDIWQC staff members, Ariel Durrant, Americorps environmental educator, and Rich MacDonald, associate director, keep the Coalition going with support from a very inspired board of directors.

Though MDIWQC was not officially founded until 2000, its roots and partnership with Acadia National Park extend back more than a decade to when Dr. Disney was a teacher at MDI High School. Even at this stage, personnel at Acadia were involved in her work, making presentations to her students, sharing advice and expertise about methods of data collection, or comparing their swim beach monitoring results.

The Coalition eventually grew out of the



Training of MDI Water Quality Coalition staff and Acadia National Park personnel at the MDI Biological Laboratory beach by representatives of the Maine Healthy Beaches program.

activities that Dr. Disney developed with her biology classes. Today, students of all ages are integrally involved and help make the work of the Coalition possible. For example, monitoring of swim beaches around the island occurs through the spring, summer, and fall and involves MDIWQC staff and interns. Local middle school and high school students have also taken part in beach monitoring in the past, but more recently they have been involved instead in other Coalition projects, such as phytoplankton monitoring. Swim beach and phytoplankton monitoring are two of the major projects on which MDIWQC is focusing in 2007.

Swim beach monitoring at the ocean beaches on MDI is part of the Maine Healthy Beaches Program, which disseminates water quality information about public beaches throughout the state and has been integral to the successful partnership between MDIWQC and the park. Water sampling efforts throughout the 2007 summer season have been focused at Town Beach in Bar Harbor, Hulls Cove, and Hadley Point. In addition, park personnel have collected water samples

from swimming areas at Lake Wood, Echo Lake, and Sand Beach.

In the past, water samples collected in Acadia were analyzed at the state lab in Augusta. This year, MDIWQC has done the analysis, providing results much more quickly—within 24 hours. Park Biologist Bill Gawley is enthusiastic about this new partnership and sees the faster results as a big improvement over past practices.

Water samples that are collected once a week during the summer at the swim beaches in the park are analyzed by staff and interns at MDIWQC. They do lab analyses at the Community Environmental Health Laboratory (CEHL), an outreach and education collaborative between MDIWQC and the MDI Biological Laboratory (MDIBL). MDIWQC oversees the day-to-day operations at CEHL and MDIBL provides the research space and funding for student and teacher interns.

This alphabet soup of collaborators monitors the water for *Enterococcus*, a bacterium that lives harmlessly in human intestines. The presence of high levels of *Enterococcus* in the

water indicates that intestinal, disease-causing bacteria may also be present at dangerous levels that threaten public health. If a high level of *Enterococcus* is detected, the first step is to resample and repeat the test. Should that test confirm initial results, and depending on the bacterial level, either a posted sign would advise people not to swim at the beach, or the beach would be closed entirely until bacterial levels fall again. Since monitoring in the park began in 1993, beaches in the park have never been forced to close due to high bacterial counts.

During the summer months much of MDIWQC's work centers on monitoring water quality at the swim beaches of MDI, but during other seasons the Coalition also conducts phytoplankton monitoring.

“...local middle school students become adept at handling the plankton net and peering through their field microscopes...with names like *Chaetoceros* and *Eucampia* tripping lightly from their lips.”

Phytoplankton, the microscopic drifting algae that make up the base of the food chain in the ocean, are virtually all harmless. However, a few species are toxic and, when they occur at high levels during red tide events, are

responsible for several diseases, including paralytic shellfish poisoning.

Clams and mussels, which feed on the phytoplankton, are able to sequester the toxins in their tissues with minimal ill effects, but this process of bioaccumulation results in high concentrations of toxin in the clams and mussels, which can be harmful or fatal to animals and people that eat the affected shellfish. The toxins will eventually break down and occur only intermittently within the shellfish during local outbreaks or blooms of the toxic phytoplankton, so the clams are unsafe only during and immediately following a red tide event.

To detect whether a harmful algal bloom is occurring, the MDIWQC conducts regular plankton tows and examines the phytoplankton species collected. Of the dozens of local species, only four are harmful, and they can be identified after brief training. Should harmful species be detected, the MDIWQC contacts the Department of Marine Resources for confirmation and follow-up. Monthly monitoring of phytoplankton takes place throughout the school year and is conducted by local middle school students, who become adept at handling the plankton net and peering through their field microscopes at their samples, with names like *Chaetoceros* and *Eucampia* tripping lightly from their lips.

MDIWQC's partnerships continue to develop and now involve federal, state, non-governmental organizations, and educational and research institutions, as well as home-schooled children. These partnerships provide a vibrant way to raise environmental awareness, protect public health, and promote environmental protection and stewardship. For more information on the MDIWQC, its various projects and partnerships, please visit www.mdiwqc.org.

HELEN HESS is on the faculty at College of the Atlantic and is a board member of Mount Desert Island Water Quality Coalition.



Courtesy MDIWQC

MDIWQC Intern Zephyr McDonnell collects a water sample at Hulls Cove.

EXPLORING THE PAST

Ginny Reams

Are you looking for traces of your family's past or searching for historical records about this area? If you are interested in Mount Desert Island or the Cranberry Isles, start your search in the William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center at Acadia National Park. Six collections, featuring items from as early



Ginny Reams/Courtesy NPS

The collections contain many items that preserve a lifestyle dependent on the sea, such as this compass used by early 19th-century Baker Island settler William Gilley.

as 1596, are now available to the public. Each collection has a finding aid that can help you locate what you need. The collections contain photographs; town, genealogical, and vessel and trade records; correspondence; books, maps, and pamphlets; artwork; newspapers; and more.

Over a four-year period, National Park Service staff and volunteers completed a project to catalog more than 120,000 historic items. Funded by the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, which directs 80 percent of all fees paid in Acadia to stay in the park, this project processed the following collections:

— *The Cranberry Isles Collection* contains original documents from 1596 to 1939 (primarily 1800–1900) relating to the maritime and genealogical history of the Cranberry Isles.

— *The William Otis Sawtelle Collection* (1692–1941) features the personal papers of William Otis Sawtelle, who founded the Islesford Historical Museum. Items include his research notes on local genealogy, Maine, and New France, as well as his scientific research.

— *The Carroll Farm Collection* (1840–1966) documents the lives of the Carroll Family of Southwest Harbor.

— *The Islesford Wharf Company, Islesford Collection Inc., and the U.S. Life Saving Station Collections* document the history of these organizations on Islesford.



Ginny Reams/Courtesy NPS

Books and documents in the collection date back as far as the 17th century.

—An additional improvement to the collections and research center—the upcoming installation of new storage cabinetry—will expand the capacity to store and manage collections in a state-of-the-art facility.

Located at the park's headquarters, the collections at the William Otis Sawtelle Collections and Research Center are available to the public by appointment only from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. To make an appointment, contact Museum Technician John McDade at 207-288-8729 or john_mcdade@nps.gov. 📖

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



Ginny Reams/Courtesy NPS

Photos preserve the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps, which had two camps on Mount Desert Island—one on McFarland Hill and the other on Long Pond.

REVIVING THE SCHOONER HEAD PATH

Growing up in Bar Harbor on the edge of Acadia National Park, the one thing Kate Davis Quesada loved more than the ocean was the walking. She, like many others of her time, enjoyed walking the paths that connected the villages of Mount Desert Island, and she especially enjoyed walking with her father.

Thanks to the generosity of her children and the Fore River Foundation, an organization started by the Quesada family, one of the paths from Kate's past is being revived. With approval from The Jackson Laboratory and Town of Bar Harbor, Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park will begin reconstruction of the century-old Schooner Head Path this fall.

“When completed, modern-day rusticators will once again be able to walk from Bar Harbor to Schooner Head, with trail connections to three trails up Champlain Mountain and to Sand Beach.”

The construction is fully funded through grants from the Fore River Foundation, which donated \$50,000 towards construction and maintenance, and through Friends' Acadia Trails Forever initiative. The Jackson Laboratory generously provided a renewing agreement for public access to the trail segments on its property.

The Schooner Head Path is 3.5 miles long, runs parallel to the Schooner Head Road, and leads from the village of Bar Harbor to



Kate Davis Quesada in 2000 as she prepared to summit Pemetic. Today her family is honoring her through a \$50,000 donation towards the reconstruction and maintenance of the Schooner Head Path.

Schooner Head. Built in 1901, the path was not maintained but remained visible in many places along the west side of the Schooner Head Road.

The trail will have two entrances from Bar Harbor. One entrance begins at the end of the new sidewalk along Schooner Head Road. Another entrance stems off Old Farm Road, following what is believed to be a

section of trail built by George Dorr for his mother, from Old Farm at Compass Harbor to Bear Brook.

In addition to Mary Ward Dorr, many of the island's early rusticators, including members of the Pulitzer family, enjoyed walking on the path. When completed, modern-day rusticators will once again be able to walk from Bar Harbor to Schooner Head, with trail connections to three trails up Champlain Mountain and to Sand Beach.

Reconstruction of the Schooner Head Path is part of the Acadia Trails Forever Village Connector Trails program, and is based on Acadia's *Hiking Trails Management Plan*. Village connector trails are designed to revive the tradition of walking into the park, into town, and around local neighborhoods. The program also encourages walking to the park as a way to reduce the impact of cars on the island, park roads, and at trail heads. The Schooner Head Path will be the second Village Connector Trail project in Bar Harbor and one of four projects island-wide.

The Schooner Head Path and similar connector trails complement the Island Explorer buses, providing another option to get into the park, out into quiet landscapes, or to in-town destinations. The trail can be a destination itself, or built into a longer, one-way hike with a return on the bus, or provide longer loop hikes from Bar Harbor without needing a vehicle at all.

Today Kate Davis Quesada's children, Kate, Hope, Peter, and Ric, enjoy walking the paths of Mount Desert Island as much as she did. They, too, are passing the tradition of walking on to their own children and look forward to enjoying the revived Schooner Head Path. 🍂

—Erin Hitchcock

Heart of the Matter

“We have fallen heirs to the most glorious heritage a people ever received, and each one must do his part if we wish to show that the nation is worthy of its good fortune.”

—Theodore Roosevelt

Bar Harbor Bank & Trust salutes *Friends of Acadia* for helping preserve the Park for future generations.



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As you plan your year-end giving for 2007, please consider these options for providing essential financial support to Friends of Acadia:

Gift of Cash or Marketable Securities.

Mail a check, payable to Friends of Acadia, to PO Box 45, Bar Harbor, Maine 04609, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org/annualfund to make a secure gift using your credit card. Call or visit the website for instructions on giving appreciated securities, which can offer income tax benefits as well as savings on capital gains.

Gift of Retirement Assets

Designate Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other retirement asset, and pass funds to Friends of Acadia free of taxes.

Gift of Real Property

Give real estate, boats, artwork, or other real property to Friends and you may avoid capital gains in addition to providing much needed funds for the park.

Gift Through a Bequest in Your Will

Add Friends of Acadia as a beneficiary in your will.

For more information, contact Lisa Horsch at 800-625-0321, email lisahorsch@friendsofacadia.org, or visit www.friendsofacadia.org.

Friends Elects New Leadership

Friends of Acadia elected two new officers and five new members to its board of directors at its annual meeting on Wednesday, July 11. In a unanimous vote, the board of directors named Lili Pew chair of the board and Michael Siklosi secretary, and elected Emily Beck, Andrew Davis, Barbara McLeod, Joe Minutolo, and William Whitman as directors.

Lili Pew replaces Dianna Emory, who passed the gavel after five years of service as chairman. Lili resides in Ellsworth and Northeast Harbor and previously served as secretary of the board. She also serves on the board of directors of the Downeast YMCA and is the event manager and race coordinator for the Hospice Regatta, held each year in Southwest Harbor.

Michael Siklosi of Bar Harbor filled the vacant secretary position. He also serves on Bar Harbor's appeals board, chairs the public works sub-committee of the warrant committee, serves on the board of the Island Housing Trust, and is an active member of the Mount Desert Island Rotary International.

Though new to the board of directors, the five elected directors have been active participants in the organization and the community.

Emily Beck of Southwest Harbor is the partner and owner in her own general practice law firm with her husband, Geoffrey Young. Their practice concentrates in trusts and estate planning and administration, real estate, busi-



Peter Travers

From left, Barbara McLeod, Joe Minutolo, and Emily Beck were elected to the Friends of Acadia board of directors at the annual meeting on Wednesday, July 11, at the Bar Harbor Club. Also elected to the board but missing from photo were Andrew Davis and William Whitman.

ness and non-profit law, and land use and conservation.

Andrew Davis of Seal Harbor and Santa Fe, N.M., is currently the president of Davis Selected Advisers, L.P. and the portfolio manager of the Davis Real Estate Fund, the Davis Appreciation and Income Fund, and several private accounts with a focus on real estate.

Barbara McLeod is a lawyer by training and a lifelong environmentalist. Most recently, she was the director of the Environmental Protection Agency's office of international environmental policy. She moved from Washington, D.C. to Bar Harbor in 2006 with her husband, David Hales, president of the College of the Atlantic.

Joe Minutolo has co-owned the Bar Harbor Bicycle Shop since 1978. He was the founder of the MDI Bicycle Association and helped to form and train the Acadia National Park Bicycle Patrol. He also works with local and statewide groups to promote bike safety, training, and funding by sponsoring bike rodeos.

William Whitman has residences in Stonington, Maine, Hobe Sound, Florida, and Bluffton, S.C. He has seventeen years of investment banking business experience and is active in various conservation organizations. He has served on the board of Loblolly Pines Golf Club, Boys and Girls Club of Hobe Sound, and is active in the Young President's Organization.

The five newly-elected directors replace resigning board members Jeff Charland, Sheldon Goldthwait, Lee Judd, and Ann Waldron. Lee and Sheldon were named honorary trustees in recognition of their years of service to Friends of Acadia.

Dianna Emory Receives Marianne Edwards Award

Friends of Acadia bestowed its highest recognition, the Marianne Edwards Award, to outgoing chairman Dianna K. Emory at the annual meeting on Wednesday, July 11. Dianna received the award in honor and recognition of her outstanding leadership; her tremendous ability to motivate and inspire others; her high energy that has moved the organization forward so effectively; her concern for the well-being of the staff; and her extraordinary dedication to the cause of Friends of Acadia.

Dianna served as chairman of the board for five years. She will remain on the board of

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Peter Travers

Dianna K. Emory, outgoing chairman, received the Marianne Edwards Award, Friends' highest recognition, at the annual meeting.

directors and continue to provide integral leadership, including serving as chair of the Friends Natural Resource Protection Committee.

Friends of Acadia presented four additional awards at its annual meeting. The Award for Distinguished Public Service was presented to Michael Blaney; Maureen and Bucky Brooks received the Excellence in Volunteerism Award; the President's Damn Good Work Award was given to Sheldon Goldthwait and Lee Judd; and Sotheby's received the Conservation Colleague Award.

Ride of Silence Organized

On May 16, 2007, Friends of Acadia Board Chair Lili Pew and Conservation Director Stephanie Clement joined approximately 20 bicyclists in a memorial bicycle ride through Bar Harbor and Acadia National Park in honor of bicyclists who have been injured or killed in accidents with automobiles. The Mount Desert Island event was organized to honor the memory of Dino Tortu, who tragically lost his life in 2006 on the Pretty Marsh Road (Route 102) near the Mount Desert/Tremont town line, and Jina Haslam, a young woman who was killed in 2005 while bicycling in Lamoine.

The Ride of Silence is a nationwide event (www.rideofsilence.org) held on the same evening in a variety of locations. The Bar Harbor Bicycle Shop, Downeast Bicycle Club, and MDI Tomorrow Bicycle/Pedestrian Task Force organized the effort on Mount Desert Island.

The event was a solemn, but excellent, reminder to all who witnessed it that although Acadia is a natural draw for bicyclists, the region's roads are narrow and often without shoulders. For this reason, the safety of bicyclists is a growing concern on MDI. A 2003 MDI Tomorrow survey of local year-round and seasonal residents showed that almost 96 percent of respondents (n=877) strongly or somewhat supported widening road shoulders and adding sidewalks with external grant funding sources.

Bicyclists have a legal right to share the road with automobiles, and the Ride of Silence was an event to raise awareness about safe bicycle/vehicle interactions and to remember friends and family who have lost their lives in the area.

National Trails Day Reaches New Heights

Nearly 75 volunteers and hikers joined Friends of Acadia and Acadia National Park for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 2, setting a new participation record for the event. While some people worked on carriage roads and trails at Schoodic and Mount Desert Island, others ventured on a hike with park trail crew to observe the impact of last year's earthquakes on Acadia's trails. This was the first year that individuals could participate on both Schoodic and MDI. Friends of Acadia is most grateful to all of the community members who gave their time, and to Bar Harbor Bank & Trust, Machias Savings Bank, and Union Trust Company for their sponsorship of the event.



Led by Acadia trails crew, National Trails Day participants survey the impact of last year's earthquakes on Acadia's trails.

Winning Acadia Park Pass

Marina Gilpatrick, a Conners-Emerson School student, won the annual Acadia National Park Art Contest with her colorful drawing of a seagull, crab, starfish, and an Acadia landscape. Her design appears on all \$40 Acadia National Park entrance passes (window decals) purchased in 2007. Ms. Gilpatrick received a \$50 cash award from Friends of Acadia, a certificate of merit from the park, and her own Acadia National Park annual pass.



The winning 2007 Acadia National Park pass.

Important Legislation for Acadia Re-Introduced

On May 8, 2007, Senator Susan Collins introduced and Senator Olympia Snowe co-sponsored S. 1329, the "Acadia Improvement Act of 2007." The bill accomplishes four important objectives for Acadia National Park: 1) it extends the life of the Acadia National Park Advisory Commission, a group of citizen representatives appointed by towns surrounding the park, the governor, and the secretary of the interior to advise the park on management and policy issues; 2) it increases the amount of money that Acadia is authorized to receive from Congress for land acquisition from \$9.1 million to \$28 million; 3) it enables the park and towns to exchange lands under the condition that a town conveys its lands inside park boundaries before receiving lands outside park boundaries; and 4) it grants authority to the National Park Service to participate in the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of the Acadia Gateway

ADVOCACY CORNER

The Acadia Advocacy Network is expanding rapidly and actively working on a variety of issues of importance to the park. In June 2007, the network was informed about a state transportation bond coming up for vote that included more than \$3.6 million for replacement of aging Island Explorer buses and for the proposed purchase of land in Trenton for the Acadia Gateway Center. Thankfully, nearly 72 percent of voters passed the bond issue.

This spring, Acadia Advocacy Network members provided input at listening sessions in Washington, D.C., New York, Philadelphia, Boston, and Mount Desert Island regarding the Centennial Initiative, a proposal from Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne and the Bush Administration to increase funding for the national parks by \$300 million per year over the next ten years. As part of the Centennial Initiative, \$100 million extra would be requested from Congress each year to prepare parks for the next century. Another \$100 million would be requested from Congress to match \$100 million in private funding from friends organizations and other groups. The input from Friends of Acadia's members and other interested citizens was summarized in a report to the President titled, "The Future of America's National Parks" (www.nps.gov/2016).

Legislation is presently pending in Congress to enable the matching portion of the Centennial Initiative, and Friends of Acadia is working with appropriate congressional subcommittees and national partners to ensure that this legislation is revised to broaden philanthropic support of national parks. Similarly, Friends worked with Acadia National Park to identify cooperative projects that might fit the criteria of the Centennial Initiative. The Administration announced a list of projects that are deemed eligible for funding in 2008 in late August.

For more information or to receive future Acadia Advocacy Alerts, please contact Friends of Acadia Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

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Center, the transportation and welcome center that is being planned in Trenton.

The Improvement Act hearing before the Senate National Parks Subcommittee took place on September 11, 2007. A similar bill (H.R. 2251) was introduced in the House by Congressman Michael Michaud and co-sponsored by Congressman Tom Allen. No hearing has been scheduled in the House at this time.

In the 109th Congress, the bill passed the Senate thanks to the leadership of Senators Collins and Snowe. On the House side, the bill was heard by the Subcommittee on National Parks, but was never voted out of the Resources Committee, despite the best efforts of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

Please join Friends of Acadia in thanking Maine's Congressional Delegation for introducing this important legislation for the park. Any Friends of Acadia members outside Maine are also encouraged to contact their legislators in support of the bill. For more information, contact Friends Conservation Director Stephanie Clement at stephanie@friendsofacadia.org.

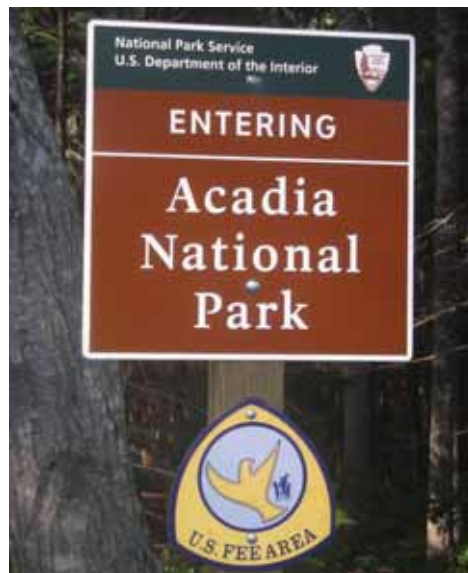
Volunteers Bring Spirit to Parade

There were few groups more spirited in the Bar Harbor annual July 4th parade than the crew of dedicated Friends of Acadia volunteers. With saws, rakes, and wheelbarrows in hand, the ranks of Friends volunteers made their way along the two-mile parade route that wound around and down the crowded streets of Bar Harbor. With marching orders in hand, the volunteers wove in and out among each other, keeping perfect time with the beat of a five-gallon-bucket drum. The enthused group even gave an encore presentation a week later at the Quiteside Festival Parade in Southwest Harbor. Friends of Acadia salutes its dedicated volunteers for their work in the park this season and for spreading the spirit of volunteerism throughout Mount Desert Island.



Friends of Acadia volunteers march their way down Main Street in Bar Harbor during the annual July 4th parade.

Acadia Encourages Purchase of Park Pass



Early this summer, Acadia National Park placed signs in 37 locations as a friendly cue to visitors that Acadia is a fee area and that they should have a park pass. This is a positive step to remind visitors using the west side of the park and places like Bar Island that they should purchase a pass when using any portion of the park, not just when passing through an entry station or visitor center.

Heart of the Matter

“Treat the earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children.”

—Ancient proverb

Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize



NATURE POETRY COMPETITION

*“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

Submissions are invited for the 2008 *Friends of Acadia Poetry Prize*.

The three top-ranked poems will be published in the
Friends of Acadia Journal (print and online),
and awarded cash prizes by category.

GUIDELINES

Nature-based poems of 30 lines or fewer will be accepted.

Include cover sheet stating author’s name and address and
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Author’s may submit only three poems for consideration.

Entries must be original, unpublished, and not submitted elsewhere.

There is no fee to enter.

Deadline: January 30, 2008

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Book Review

Acadia's Alphabet

*A is for Acadia: Mount Desert Island
from A to Z*

by Richard Johnson and

Ruth Gortner Grierson,

Islandport Press, New Gloucester, ME, 2007,
28 pp., \$15.95, hardcover.

Identifying a niche that had yet to be filled in the variety of books about Mount Desert Island, Rich Johnson combined his nature-inspired photographs with clever word-smithing by Ruth Gortner Grierson to create an eye-catching overview of MDI for children, from A to Z.

Starting with Acadia and ending with Zoophyte, this book challenges children to explore Mount Desert Island from all angles.

With letters like J is for Jordan Pond and R is for road, children learn about different places in the park that they can explore. Letters like P is for Painted Lady and X is for Xanthoria, encourage children to understand the beautiful species—from butterflies to lichen—that live on MDI. Children are also shown ways in which they can be active on MDI, especially with K is for kayak.

One of the features of this book is that the authors have shared more than one word for each letter; at the bottom of each page children are introduced briefly to other pieces of MDI. For example, D may be for white-tailed deer, but it is also for duck, dolphin, dragonfly, and George B. Dorr.

In addition to Johnson's beautiful images and Grierson's witty descriptions, the book features a timeline of Mount Desert Island, beginning in the 1520s and ending in 2007. Intricate maps of MDI and the surrounding islands grace the inside of the front and back covers, giving a child true perspective of this place called Mount Desert Island.

At a time when children are spending less and less time outdoors, this book is a timely reminder of all that there is to explore on Mount Desert Island, and it's a fun, colorful read, too!

—Elizabeth Spencer

Exploring Conservation Policy

The Future of the Wild:

Radical Conservation

for a

Crowded World

by Jonathan S. Adams,

Beacon Press,

Boston, 2006,

267 pp., \$27.95,

hardcover.



“The iron law of biogeography states that the number of species an area can support is directly proportional to its size,” writes Jonathan S. Adams in this book's opening pages. The iron law's implications are inescapable in an increasingly crowded world; even Yellowstone National Park is not large enough by itself to support the large, charismatic species such as the grizzly bear that live at the apex of its ecosystem.

If Yellowstone, with its 2,219,789 acres, is not large enough to sustain the different plants and animals in its ecosystem, consider Acadia, where the Park Service owns only 35,332 acres—less than two percent of the area in Yellowstone. The inescapable conclusion is that Acadia National Park depends on the lands surrounding the park for the continued health of the plants and animals that, taken together, comprise our experience of this place. The ecological region that sustains Acadia reaches up and down the coast, from Penobscot Bay to Calais, and reaches up into the North Woods to Baxter State Park, and beyond.

As most of this territory is, and must be, land in which we live and work, two questions emerge. The first is how to conserve this land, even as it supports the people who live on it and who use it, so that it continues to also support the larger ecosystem of which Acadia is a part. The second, equally important question is how Acadia, as a fully protected area, serves as a critical foundation element—as one important buttress—supporting the larger system.

These are the questions that Adams explores in *The Future of the Wild*, looking at leading-edge conservation science and policy across the United States. The book serves as an engaging, very readable survey of the best thinking and practice regarding landscape-scale conservation. If you want to think about the future of Acadia, *The Future of the Wild* is a good place to start.

—Bill Zoellick

PROTECTING THE SCHOODIC CORRIDOR

Earlier this summer, Rosemary, Jenny and her boyfriend Matt, Lucky, and I stood on the summit of Schoodic Head admiring the views across Little Moose Island and Schoodic Point to Frenchman Bay and the open waters of the Gulf of Maine. When we turned about and gazed inland, we were equally impressed with the beauty of the vast expanse of land stretching across the peninsula to the north. Awed by this amazing vista, we truly came to understand the idea behind the Schoodic to Schoodic Initiative, the plan to protect a corridor from the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park to Schoodic Mountain at Maine's Donnell Pond recreation area.

If the Schoodic to Schoodic Initiative is successful, the Schoodic District of Acadia National Park will never become an isolated ecosystem at the end of a peninsula, encroached upon by man, ailing from the impacts of construction and development. Instead Schoodic will remain one end of a magnificent natural corridor focused on protecting the environment, supporting the habitat of endangered and threatened species, and allowing Maine's native wildlife to travel freely from Schoodic Point to Schoodic Mountain and the North Woods beyond.

While the Corea Heath is not on the direct route from Schoodic Point to Schoodic Mountain, it is a critical natural habitat and wildlife corridor that links to the Schoodic to

Schoodic corridor at Forbes Pond. The Corea Heath consists of more than 1,000 acres of open land divided by Corea Road (Rte. 195) with a rare raised peatland to the south and an extensive salt marsh to the north. The 431-acre southern section has recently been protected as the Corea Heath Unit of the Maine Coastal Islands National Wildlife Refuge. Unfortunately, the Northern Corea Heath, 600 undeveloped acres that are an extension of the refuge and drain into Grand Marsh and Grand Marsh Bay, has been threatened by development and does not enjoy the same sort of protection.

The Frenchman Bay Conservancy, however, now has the opportunity to purchase the heath. Doing so will protect the Northern Corea Heath from the increasing pressure of development facing Corea, on the peninsula and throughout Maine. It will save a biologically productive natural ecosystem of abundant vegetation and shallow water, which provides a diverse habitat for fish and wildlife. It will enable inland and coastal waterfowl, wading birds, and migrating land birds, including wood ducks, spotted sandpipers, osprey, great horned owls, and myriad warblers, to thrive. It will allow rare plants such as the swaying Pickering's Bentgrass, the delicate Dragon's Mouth Orchid or the tiny Grass Pink Orchid to flourish. It will help the beaver that have created a pond on the edge of the land, as well as the moose, bear, fox, and other wildlife, survive. It will keep the mixed forest of hardwoods, spruce, fir, and Jack Pine prospering.

To be honest, Rosemary and I are partly interested in protecting the Northern Corea Heath because it is a beautiful, unspoiled natural area just down the road from our home and shop in Corea. More importantly, though, we understand that the Northern Corea Heath is an ecological system that complements and is essentially linked to the already-preserved southern section of the Corea Heath and, therefore, also needs to be protected. Finally, we recognize that protecting the heath is vital because it is a critical ecosystem that complements the Schoodic to



A Friends of Schoodic group explores the Northern Corea Heath.

Schoodic Initiative. Rosemary and I fully support the initiative, as do many residents of Corea and the volunteers who make up the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia, all of whom have an extraordinary level of energy and commitment to the park and the peninsula.

The Schoodic Committee welcomes new participants, helpers, ideas, and suggestions. To find out more about our committee, visit www.friendsofschoodic.org or contact us at PO Box 194, Prospect Harbor, Maine, 04609. We invite you to join us—our only requirement is a love of Acadia National Park and a special passion for the undeveloped splendor that is Schoodic.

For further information about the Frenchman Bay Conservancy or the Northern Corea Heath campaign, contact the Frenchman Bay Conservancy at PO Box 150, Hancock, Maine, 04640, 207-422-2328, or www.frenchmanbay.org.

GARRY LEVIN, Rosemary, and Lucky live in Corea, are active in the Schoodic Committee of Friends of Acadia, and enthusiastically support the Schoodic to Schoodic Initiative.



Looking east from within the Northern Corea Heath.

Dick Barton/Friends of Schoodic

Dick Barton/Friends of Schoodic

MEMORABLE TEAMWORK FOR ACADIA

It was a grand summer of amazing teamwork and accomplishments for Friends of Acadia. My words of praise for the tremendous leadership of our president Marla O'Byrne, the board and staff, and our community of Friends could easily fill pages. With the help of volunteers and donors we raised the bar of excellence for this organization and its mission. Let me share my memories of a few of these special days.

The 2nd Annual Family Fun Day, held at Sieur de Monts, celebrated youth in the outdoors with activities and education focused on Acadia National Park. This program started just last year as we began an initiative in concert with the park's effort to "leave no child inside." To see the more than 500 participants explore the "leave no trace" trails, squeal with joy at the sight of stream life, hear the cheers from the crowd below after climbing the rock wall, and paddle a kayak in the cool peace of the Tarn was inspiring. Best of all, every single participant came to Family Fun Day by Island Explorer buses!

Just following Family Fun Day, Eileen Rockefeller Growald hosted a luncheon on the terrace of the Eyrie, the original home of the Rockefeller family in Seal Harbor, in honor of her father, David Rockefeller Sr. Sitting next to Mr. Rockefeller, I was touched as he shared his earliest memories of the park and how his family's passion

and dedication brought Acadia National Park from a vision to a reality that all Americans can enjoy. The precious gift of land, the creation and preservation of the park, and our legacy to be good stewards for the future are reminders we all carried from this special day.

The next few weeks held a whirlwind of events and activities, a highlight of which was the final event to celebrate the founders of Acadia National Park. The event was hosted by Ham and Gail Clark and honored Charles W. Eliot. The Reverend Peter J. Gomes of Harvard University, brought his decades of Eliot family history to the shores of Somes Sound, and shared a personal perspective of Charles W. Eliot and his lifelong dedication to Acadia National Park. Reverend Gomes filled the Sound with humor, grace, and wise reflections that brought cheers of joy at the great accomplishments of our third celebrant. The loudest cheer of all came as the last light of the day touched the top of Acadia Mountain and guests heard news that a threatened piece of property on that mountain was under contract, and thus soon to be under the preservation and protection of Friends of Acadia.

Though our accomplishments this summer were many, I hold a quiet moment, in just my third day as chair, most precious. The picture shared herein is of a small



The students from Chicago out at sea for a view of their park.

group of students from Chicago who raised money for more than a year to come to our park and volunteer for ten days of trail work. I heard of their visit and ventured out to join them for a morning of work and to thank them for their contributions. None of these students had ever been to a national park or spent time in nature, as we know it. They camped in tents and faced the chill of rain and winds howling as a storm system blew in five days of fog. And yet they never wavered in their determination to meet their volunteer commitments. I carried logs with them, laughed at their jokes, but mostly I quietly observed these spirited youth in action.

This is the future for having youth embrace the legacy of our park and the vital role they play in caring for our environment. The lessons learned in ten days will be with each student for a lifetime. When asked what was left on their wish list to see or do while in our community, the students exclaimed, "We want to see the park from the ocean!" With great generosity, Sydney and Andrew Davis patiently waited four days for the pea-soup fog to lift and brought the students out to sea—to see *their* park. After all, their trail stewardship laid the foundation for a sense of belonging in the park.

These are just a few memories from my first two months as chair that will build our momentum for the future. Thank you, Friends, for a great start! 🍷

—Lili Pew



The team of volunteers from Chicago, pictured here with Lili (center), enjoyed their first experiences in nature and became stewards of the land.

FRIENDS OF ACADIA OPERATING PHILOSOPHY



Tom Blagden

To accomplish our mission,

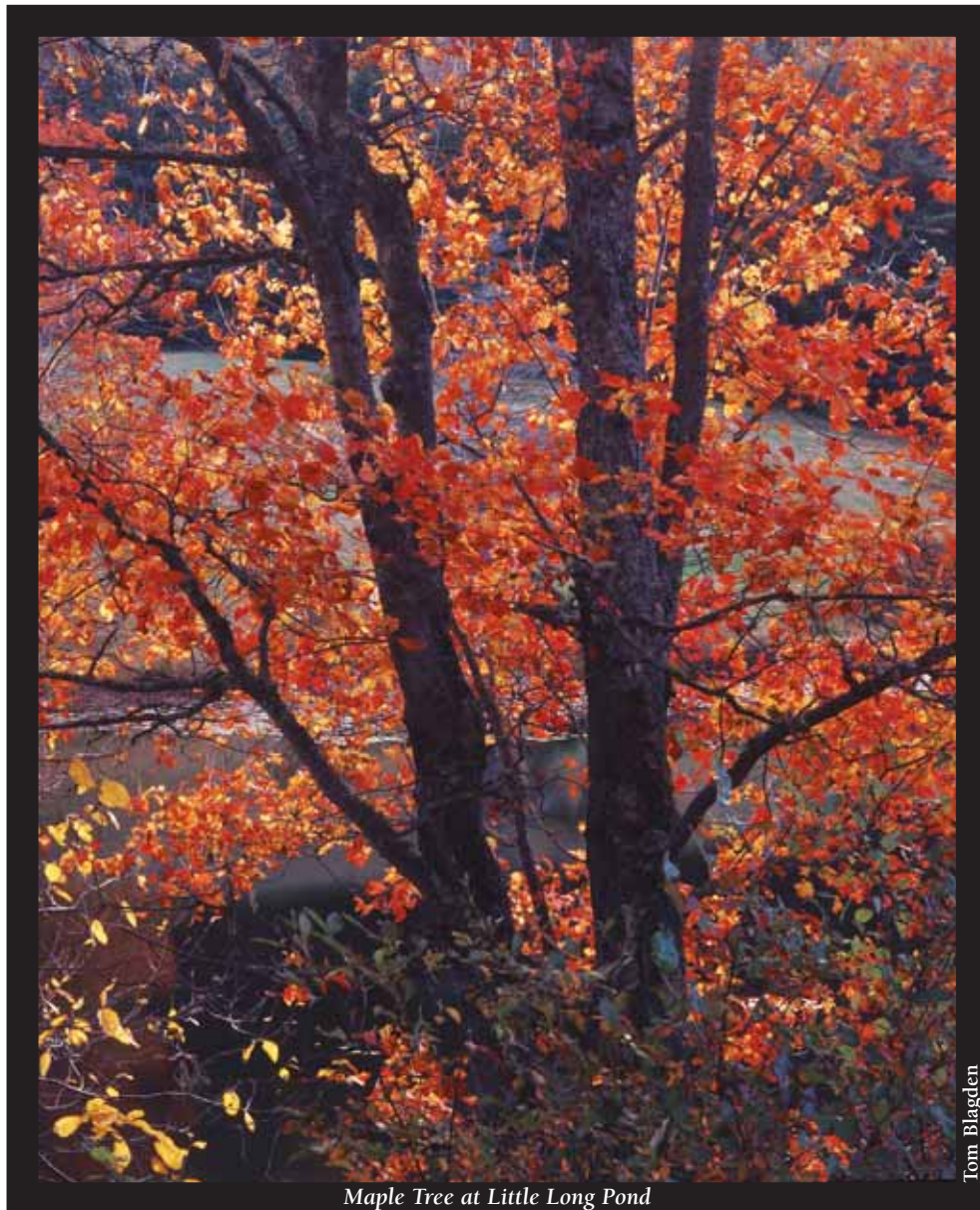
1. **We advocate.** We advance park interests before Congress and the Maine Legislature, within the National Park Service and other federal, state or local bodies, and among the general public.
2. **We make grants.** We raise private funds for select capital projects in Acadia and for its enlightened 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.